
Proposed Census Changes Comment Template Letter

Read the proposed census changes:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/USBC-2026-0628-0001>

Learn more from our advocacy partner “Hands Off Our Census”:

<https://handsoffourcens.us/>

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Use the below template as a starting point for your comment letter. Please edit the draft to reflect your experiences, concerns, or remove things that do not feel as relevant to you.
- **Step 2:** Submit your final comment here by October 13:
<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/USBC-2026-0628-0001>

FDMS Docket number USBC-2026-0628

On behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME], a [TYPE OF ORGANIZATION] based in [CITY/REGION], Massachusetts, we write to express our concerns about the proposed changes in Docket No. 260903-0005, as well as the limited comment period provided for these significant changes.

We respectfully request that the U.S. Census Bureau extend the comment period by an additional 60 days, through December 10, 2026, to provide communities, organizations, local governments, businesses, and members of the public with adequate time to review and respond to the proposed changes. Significant changes to the decennial census and apportionment process warrant meaningful public engagement.

In addition, we urge the Census Bureau to withdraw the proposed rule as written. The proposed changes to the apportionment count could result in significant undercounts of Massachusetts residents, with consequences for the federal resources available to our communities and potentially for Congressional representation.

We are particularly concerned that the proposed changes to residence criteria could artificially reduce Massachusetts' population count by excluding or treating differently people who live in the Commonwealth for substantial portions of the year, including immigrants, students, and seasonal residents.

Massachusetts is home to a large and diverse population whose contributions to our communities and economy should be reflected accurately. Under the proposed criteria, significant numbers of people who live, work, study, attend school, raise families, and contribute to Massachusetts communities could be excluded from the population used for apportionment.

[INSERT ORGANIZATION-SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OR DATA, for example, describe how an undercount could impact your community, region, members, clients, or constituents]

We also oppose proposals to count only citizens and permanent residents for purposes of redistricting and apportionment. Massachusetts has an estimated more than 150,000 residents who are not U.S. citizens, including people with work or student visas, refugees, and undocumented residents. These residents live in our communities, contribute to our economy, and participate in civic and community life. Their presence should be accurately reflected in population data used to inform representation and public policy.

We are also concerned about the proposed changes to stop collecting information about race and ethnicity as well as future bans on questions about sexual orientation. Race has been included on the census since its first collection and is now used to help us implement policies and programs that effectively serve residents while ensuring that foundational civil rights laws are being upheld.

[DESCRIBE HOW ANY PROGRAMS OR POLICIES YOU WORK ON WILL BE IMPACTED BY LESS DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION]

Changes to the data collected in the 2030 Census could have long-term consequences for our ability to understand and serve Massachusetts communities and we urge that you extend the comment period for Docket No. 260903-0005 and to withdraw the proposed rule as written.

¹ <https://www.fwd.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Massachusetts.pdf>