2020 Census Redistricting Data Program

James Whitehorne
Chief, Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office
U.S. Census Bureau

National Conference of State Legislatures
Fall Forum
December 9th, 2015
Census Redistricting Data Program History

1975 – Passage of P.L. 94-171

1980 – Blocks created for all incorporated places of 10,000 or more population
5 States (GA, MI, NY, RI, VA) contracted for statewide block coverage resulting in 78% of population and 7% of land area

1990 – Nationwide Block Coverage
Block Boundary Suggestion Project
Census Redistricting Data Program History

2000 – Paper submissions and equivalency files for digitizing into Census’s “TIGER” geographic database
New race categorizations based on OMB Directive 15

2010 – Enhanced precision of Census TIGER geography
Digital submission using required Census supplied software

2020 – Digital with no software restrictions but with a supplied software option
Phase 1 – The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)

• **Schedule**
  – Initial Delineation, December 2015 through May 2016
  – Verification, December 2016 through May 2017

• **Activities**
  – States can influence the 2020 tabulation blocks
    • Must Hold/ Do Not Hold
    • Missing Features
    • Misaligned Features
  – Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries
  – Block size review / Prototype Blocks - **NEW for 2020**
  – Suggest updates to legal boundaries – **NEW for 2020**
Phase 2 – The Voting District Project (VTDP)

• Schedule
  – Initial Delineation, December 2017 through May 2018
  – Verification, December 2018 through May 2019

• Activities
  – States provide their Election Districts/Precincts/Wards
  – States can influence the 2020 tabulation blocks
    • Missing Features
    • Misaligned Features
  – Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries
  – Suggest updates to legal boundaries – NEW for 2020
Phase 3 – Data Delivery

• **Schedule**
  - Geographic support products – November 2020 to February 2021
  - P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data – February 2021 to March 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2021

• **Content**
  - P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File
    - Race and Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
    - Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race and Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
    - Occupancy Status (Housing)
    - Group Quarters – **NEW for 2020**
  - Geographic Support Products
    - Shapefiles
    - Maps (PDF only)
    - Block Assignment Files
    - Block to Block Relationship Files – **NEW (timing) for 2020**
2020 Census Redistricting Data Program

Phase 4 – Collection of the New Plans

– Collect 118th Congressional and new State Legislative District Plans – November 2021 to May 2022
  • Continuous collection of Congressional plans on a 2-year cycle
  • Continuous collection of State Legislative District Plans on a 2-year cycle
  • Two versions collected - official and tabulation

Phase 5 – The View From the States

– Generate, from the States’ point of view, a report detailing:
  • Successes of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program
  • Areas for improvement from the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program
  • Recommendations for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program
  • Publication date in 2025
The Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office (CRVRDO) is the point of contact for the state designated non-partisan liaison regarding the Redistricting Data Program

Liaisons have the option to parcel work out to others and then review

Liaisons must certify all work being submitted to Census for processing

The CRVRDO will facilitate legal boundary updates with the Boundary and Annexation Survey team and the area’s highest elected official

The CRVRDO will continue outreach and education on Census related issues of interest to the redistricting community
Voting Rights Data

Citizen Voting Age Population by Race and Ethnicity

• Annual Tabulation
• Calculated using the American Community Survey 5-year estimates
• Researching the addition of other geographies
• Researching availability of 2020 geography in the 2021 release.
• Released in the 1st week of February each year

Section 203 Language Determinations

• New determinations conducted every 5 years
• Identifies counties or townships where language assistance is needed for voting
• Calculated using the American Community Survey 5-year estimates
• Expected publication in the Federal Register – December 2016
Questions

Contact:
James Whitehorne
Chief - Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office
(301)763-4039
james.whitehorne@census.gov