

The Elections & Redistricting Program

Census News

Hello,

With 2020 being a census year, NCSL will be sharing a monthly compilation of census-related activities and news. Below are four categories we plan to highlight: NCSL's census activities, general census news, news from the Census Bureau and news in the states.

If you want more information on the 2020 census, visit NCSL's [census](#) webpage. Also, please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback.

Thanks,

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NCSL's activities

- ❖ Here is our [webpage](#) and [blog post](#) on differential privacy. These help explain how differential privacy is being used to protect privacy for census respondents' data.
- ❖ With census jobs still to fill, a new [webpage](#) highlights which states are offering exemptions or waivers to exclude temporary income for census workers when determining eligibility for public assistance benefits, such as Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- ❖ Check out your state's [profile](#)—it provides a snapshot of census facts for each state.
- ❖ The [2020 census has started!](#) For the last three censuses, the Census Bureau has selected a remote Alaska village to be the first community to be counted.
- ❖ The results of the 2020 census matter. [Read](#) how New Jersey's complete count committee is counting people and creating jobs.
- ❖ Upcoming [webinar](#): Differential Privacy and the 2020 census on March 5th at 2 p.m. ET/ 1 p.m. CT/ Noon MT / 11 a.m. PT

Census in the news

- ❖ The 2020 census will be the first census to have an online option. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a 21-page [report](#) on Feb. 12 that addressed some cybersecurity concerns about the bureau's systems and data. If you don't want to read the full report, here are the [highlights](#).
- ❖ Social media platforms have updated their policies on the census.
 - Pinterest: [Safeguarding civic participation and the U.S. 2020 census](#). Pinterest introduced a new civic policy on disinformation and misinformation on election integrity, voting and the census. Pinterest will remove any false or misleading content that impedes or misleads people on who can participate in the census and what

information is collected. Also, the new policy will remove content that falsely states where, when or how to vote. In addition, Pinterest will prohibit any ads that include any false or misleading content about elections and the 2020 census.

- Facebook: [Ads about social issues, elections or politics](#). In an effort to increase ad transparency and election integrity on Facebook and Instagram, Facebook has updated its advertising policies. Any ads targeting the U.S. that portray voting or census participation as useless or meaningless and/or advise users not to vote or participate in a census are not allowed.
- Google: [Advertising policies](#). Google has updated its advertising policies on misleading content regarding the census. Information about public voting procedures, political candidate eligibility based on age or birthplace, election results or census participation that contradicts official government records will not be allowed.

News from the Census Bureau

- ❖ [Census Bureau still hiring!](#) The Census Bureau is offering [competitive wages](#) that are paid weekly.
- ❖ [“Census Protections Evolve Continuously to Address Emerging Threats”](#) is an article about how the Census Bureau has protected your privacy through the decades.
- ❖ [Census Bureau Releases Economic Census Data for Island Areas](#) describes the island and local area statistics from the 2017 Economic Census for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The data for Puerto Rico will be released in December 2020.
- ❖ [Census Bureau Releases 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge Toolkit](#) is a downloadable toolkit encouraging elected officials and other leaders in every town, city and state to improve on their 2010 census response rates in the 2020 census.
- ❖ The Census Bureau has released the latest version of the annual Citizenship by Voting Age by Race and Ethnicity (CVAP) tabulated from the most current, 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. These files are available for download in .csv and .sas formats. You can access these files from: [FTP style download](#) or [webpage](#).

News from the states

- ❖ The California Complete Count Committee (CCC) has introduced four [“census ambassadors”](#) to help educate and empower the hardest-to-count Californians to take part in the upcoming 2020 census.
- ❖ The Louisiana governor signed [Executive Order 19-22](#), which created the Louisiana Complete Count Committee. In doing so, Louisiana became the 47th state to have a state-level CCC.
- ❖ Mississippi and West Virginia became the 27th and 28th states, respectively, to put money toward the census.
 - The Mississippi Legislature approved an appropriation of \$400,000 for the 2020 census. [SB 2149](#) gives money for advertising, media, marketing and public relations services for the 2020 census.
 - In West Virginia, the governor [announced](#) that \$1 million from the Governor's Contingency Fund will go to support the 2020 census and outreach.
- ❖ [Oklahoma](#) has demonstrated how the political parties can work together for substantive bipartisan cooperation to benefit the state. Senate leaders from both parties formed a Senate-specific 2020 CCC.
- ❖ The New York Assembly has issued a [2020 Census Myths vs. Facts](#) sheet.
- ❖ [Montana](#) and [Oregon](#) have launched new census webpages.