

The Elections & Redistricting Program

Census News

Hello,

Given the gravity of coronavirus, this month's newsletter will focus on the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau is continuously monitoring the situation closely and will follow the guidance of federal, state and local authorities. While adjustments may still be made, here are some of the bureau's current operational changes:

1. All field operations, including hiring and onboarding census workers, have been suspended until April 1.
2. Service base enumerations, such as soup kitchens, shelters, has been pushed back a month to April 29- May 1.
3. Nonresponse followup operation has changed from April 9 to:
 - May 13 for colleges/universities.
 - May 28 for most of the country.
4. The self-response and nonresponse deadlines have been extended from July 31 until August 14.

Right now, the bureau is still on schedule and plans to deliver apportionment counts to the president by Dec. 31. Therefore, the bureau is on track to deliver the redistricting counts to the states by April 1, 2021.

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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News from the Census Bureau

- ❖ Census Bureau's key message about how COVID-19 will affect the 2020 Census: "It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker."
- ❖ Census Bureau's press releases on COVID-19 and census operations:
 - [U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham on Operational Updates](#)—all 2020 Census field operations will be suspended for two weeks until April 1, 2020.
 - [Census Bureau Statement on Modifying 2020 Census Operations to Make Sure College Students are Counted](#)—The bureau is adjusting operations to ensure that college students are counted and delaying "nonresponse follow-up" operations.
 - [Census Bureau Statement on Coronavirus and the 2020 Census](#)—The Census Bureau COVID-19 Internal Task Force has been created to continuously monitor public health risks and update the bureau's Pandemic Addendum to the Census Bureau Continuity of Operations Plan as needed.
- ❖ The bureau has created a blog series on differential privacy:
 - [Modernizing Disclosure Avoidance: What We've Learned, Where We Are Now](#)

- [Census Bureau Works With Data Users to Protect 2020 Census Data Products](#)
- ❖ The bureau has launched a [new online map](#) to allow users to track their state or community's progress in responding to the 2020 Census. The current map displays 2010 Census self-response rates as a reference point.

NCSL's activities

- ❖ A new section has been added to our [2020 census](#) webpage regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) and census operations. You will be able to view all press releases and any other appropriate census news on this page.
- ❖ Listen to NCSL's newest podcast [Ready, Set, Count: Kicking Off the Census](#). Kathleen Styles, chief of decennial communications and stakeholder relations at the U.S. Census Bureau, and Wendy Underhill discuss the 2020 Census and what is at stake.
- ❖ You can view our March 5 [webinar](#) on differential privacy and the 2020 census. Also, our [webpage](#) and [blog post](#) help to explain how differential privacy is being used to protect privacy for census respondents' data.
- ❖ Learn how New Mexico is using [trusted voices to count](#) New Mexicans in hard to count areas around the state.
- ❖ Check out NCSL's blogs on [deceptive mailers](#) and [census waivers](#).

Census in the news

- ❖ As New York coronavirus cases rise, 13 members of Congress have sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Wilbur Ross calling for an extension to the 2020 Census.
- ❖ The New Mexico legislature has passed a [bipartisan bill](#) which appropriated \$8 million for 2020 Census outreach. In doing so, the land of enchantment state has committed \$11.5 million to ensure an accurate count.
- ❖ In Michigan, a collaboration between the state, nonprofits and local census count committees, has launched a [\\$16 million outreach campaign](#). Michigan is one of 28 states that has put state funds towards the 2020 Census.
- ❖ Thirty-one members of Congress have submitted a request to the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee to restore \$9.135 million, which was cut, in funding for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The members argue that SIPP information is essential to Congress' legislative work.
- ❖ If you would like a refresher course on the census, the Pew Research Center has a [five-part email mini-course](#).

News from the states

- ❖ In Minnesota, Representative Fue Lee (D) introduced [HB 2059](#) to help give census workers access to multi-unit dwellings. Apartment residents and renters are at risk of being undercounted in the census because apartment buildings provide numerous barriers to census workers.
- ❖ In Wisconsin, the governor [announced](#) the appointments to the state's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. The committee, created by an [executive order](#), is tasked to educate Wisconsinites on the importance of the census.
- ❖ In Michigan, the state's complete count committee kicked off a [statewide town hall tour](#) with the message that participation for the 2020 census is safe and easy.
- ❖ Both [Louisiana](#) and [Indiana](#) have released resources for teachers and parents to use when communicating with their students and children about the census.
- ❖ To help with census outreach, Virginia held a week full of [events](#) to encourage Virginians to learn more about what's at stake in the 2020 Census.
- ❖ In Nevada, the complete count committee has created a [Census 2020 Fact vs. Fiction](#) sheet.