

Template Comment Letter for Organizations

Deadline to Submit: October 13, 2026

How to use this template

- Replace each bracketed prompt with information specific to your organization.
- Delete the bold guidance lines before submitting.
- Add at least one concrete example, local number, or firsthand observation.

Where to submit. Go to Regulations.gov, search for docket USBC-2026-0628, and select “Comment.” You can paste your letter into the form or upload it as a file.

[Your Full Name]

[Job Title]

[Organization/Affiliation]

[City, State]

[Email or phone]

Re: Docket No. 260903-0005, RIN 0607-AA75, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed residence criteria and demographic question regulations for the 2030 Census, Docket No. 260903-0005, RIN 0607-AA75.

Introduce yourself and your organization.

My name is [Your Name], and I am [Title] at [Organization]. [Briefly describe what your organization does, who you serve, and the Virginia communities you reach.] A complete and accurate census count matters to our work because [explain how census data affect funding, services, planning, representation, research, or your ability to document community need].

Explain how the proposed changes could affect your organization or community.

The proposed changes to the 2030 Census would affect our organization and the communities we serve by [describe the practical impact. Include a local example, number, or firsthand observation if possible].

Choose the provisions that connect to your work. Delete the ones that do not apply.

Our organization opposes the following proposed provisions because of the effects they could have on the children, families, and communities we serve:

- **Removal of specific residence guidance.** The proposed rule would change detailed guidance used in past censuses for counting children in foster care, children in non-correctional residential treatment, boarding school students, and families staying in domestic violence shelters. [Explain what you see in your work and what guidance should be retained.]
- **Exclusion of some residents from apportionment.** [Explain how this could affect immigrant and mixed-status families in your community, including citizen children.]
- **Tax records as evidence of residence.** [Describe families you serve who do not file tax returns, move frequently, or use a mailing address that differs from where they live.]
- **January 3-April 1 enumeration period for determining usual residence.** [Explain how shared custody, frequent moves, temporary housing, or other changing living arrangements could lead to people being counted in the wrong place.]

- **Restrictions on race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation questions.** [Explain how your organization uses demographic data to identify disparities, understand community needs, or plan services.]

Final Thoughts

For these reasons, I urge the Department to withdraw the proposed rule. If it moves forward, the Bureau should at minimum retain April 1 as Census Day, preserve clear residence guidance for children and families in complex living arrangements, and ensure communities have a meaningful opportunity to respond.

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Title, Organization]