



NC COUNTS
COALITION

2020 CENSUS



From Census To Redistricting

Code Red

May 12, 2021

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WHAT IS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS?

The Census is a count of EVERYONE living in the United State, regardless of age, ethnicity or immigration status. It takes place every 10 years.

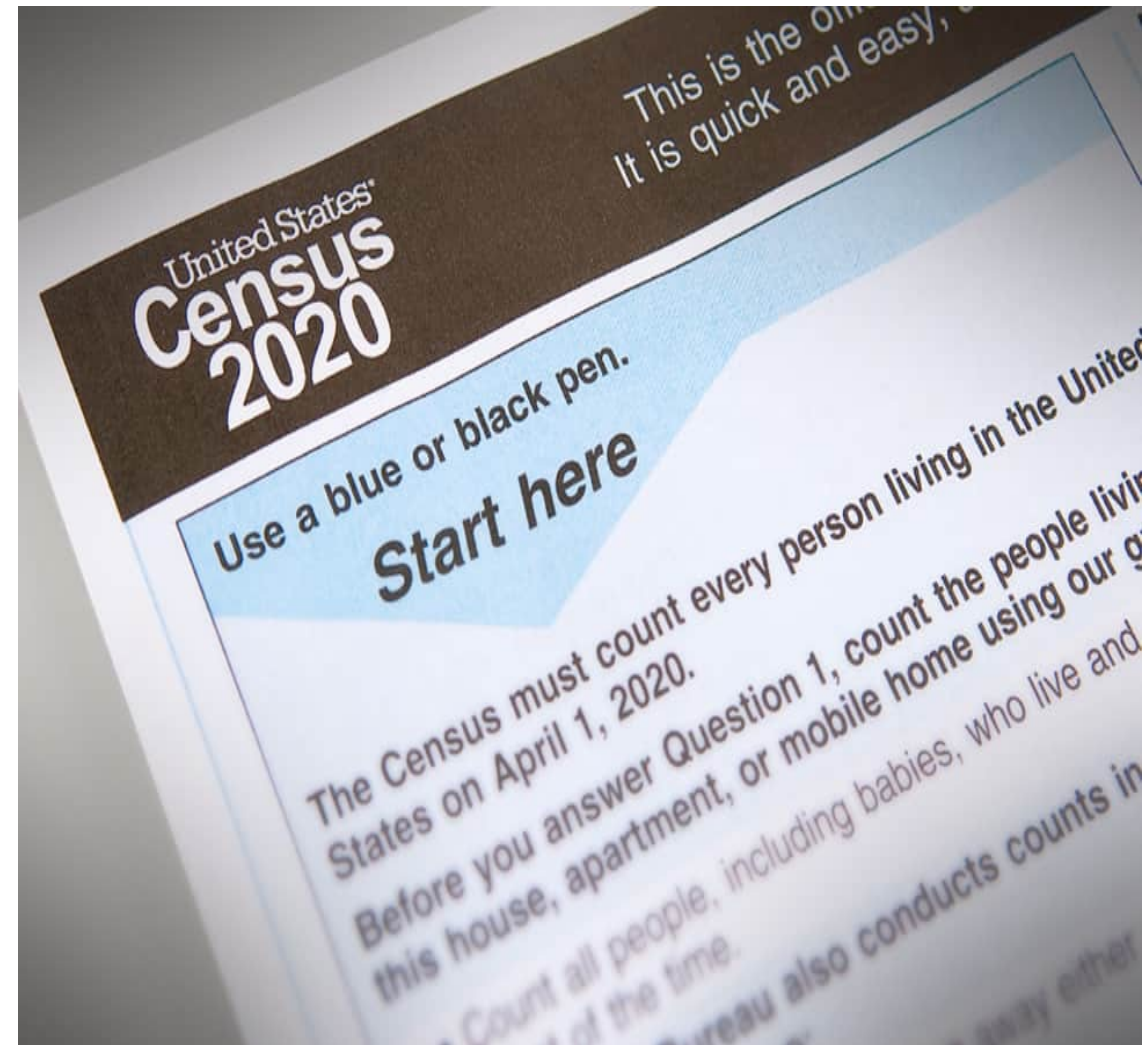


*Article I, Section II
US Constitution*

WHAT IS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS?

1. Address (Rent/Own home?)
2. Phone Number
3. Count of each person at that address
4. Name
5. Gender
6. Age and Date of Birth
7. Race
8. Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?
9. Whether someone lives somewhere else
10. Relationship to others in household

There was no citizenship question on the 2020 Census





WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE CENSUS?

WHY DO WE CARE

ABOUT THE 2020

CENSUS?

\$1.5 trillion

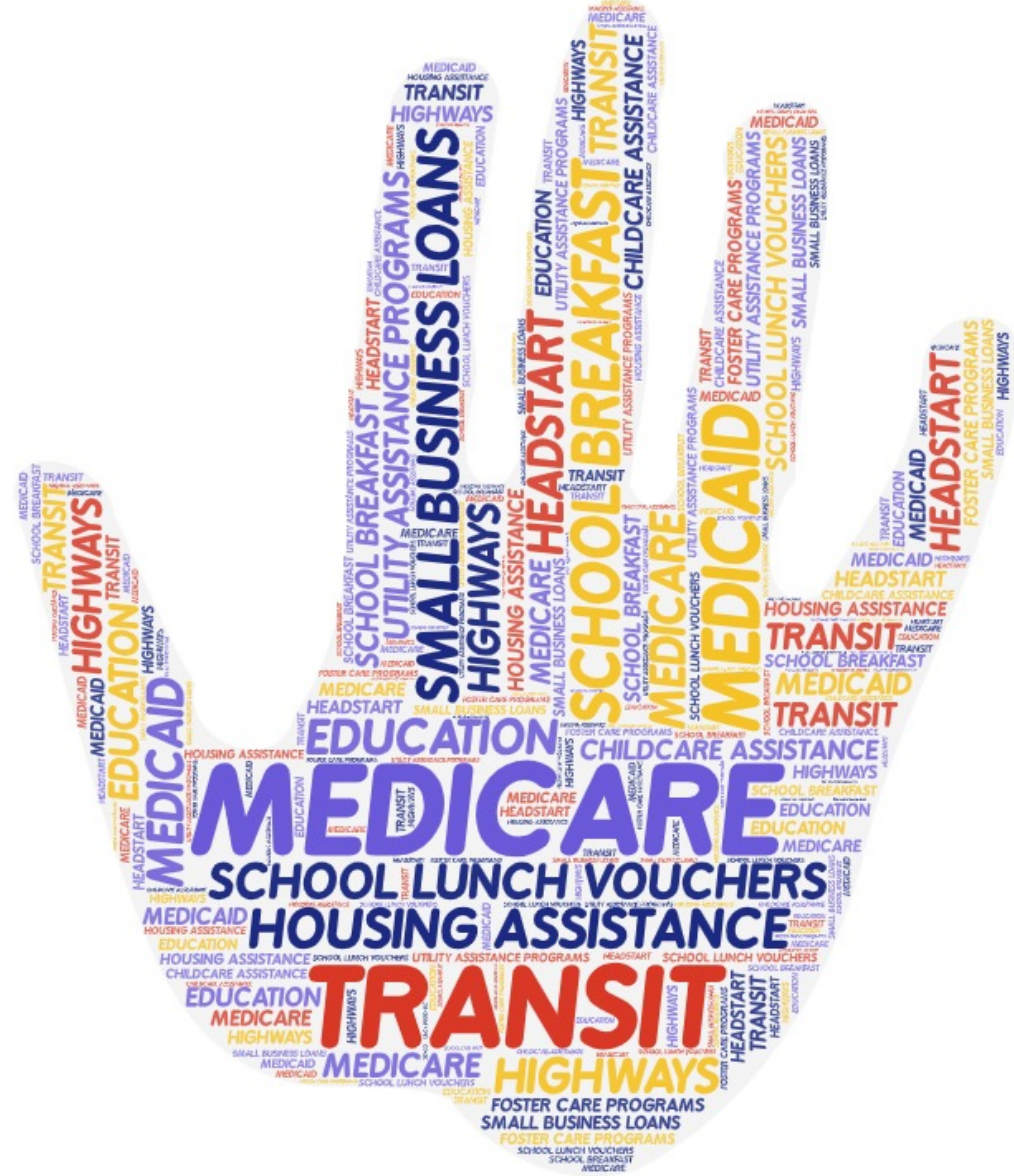
A year

* George Washington Institute of Public Policy

\$44 billion

Annual federal funding to NC linked to Decennial Census

* George Washington Institute of Public Policy





- Congressional Representation
- Electoral College Votes
- Redistricting



The Constitution calls for a head count of every person living in the U.S. once a decade.

The more residents included in your state's count, the more power it gets in the House of Representatives and the more of a say it has in who is in the White House. That's because:

 state population totals 
are used to reassign

the 435
House seats



435 of the 538
Electoral College
votes



This process is called
congressional apportionment!



2020 CENSUS RESULTS

How did NC do in
the 2020 Census?



PRE-COVID-19 CHALLENGES

- Late Census Funding
 - Inadequate and late federal funding
 - No census funding by NCGA
- Citizenship Question
 - New York v. United States Department of Commerce
 - (No citizenship question on the 2020 Census)
- Digital Divide
 - First Census with online option
- Historically Undercounted Communities
 - Children < 6, Black / African-American, Latinx, Native American, Foreign-Born, Renters

Required by statute:

- **State population totals for congressional apportionment**
 - *Statutory deadline of 12/31/2020 missed*
 - **Released: 4/26/2021**
 - *Apportionment counts include federally-affiliated overseas population*
 - *Population counts only; no demographic characteristics*
 - **Also released:** *resident population for nation, 50 States, DC, and Puerto Rico*



Census 2020 Updates – State Population Totals

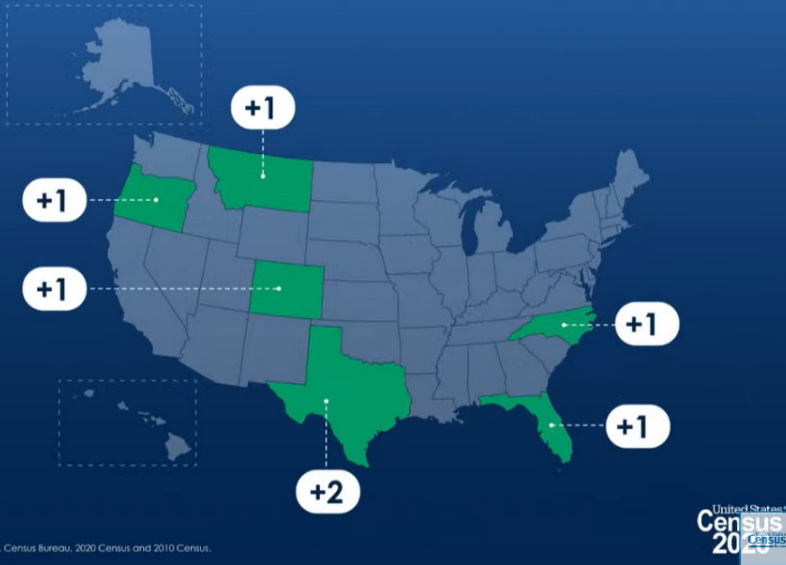
- North Carolina's official population in the 2020 Census was 10,439,388*
 - This is an increase of 903,905 or 9.5% since 2010
 - We expected a population somewhere between 10,550,000 and 10,580,000
- North Carolina had the 6th largest increase among the states and was the 15th fastest-growing state

Census 2020 Updates – State Population Totals

2020 CENSUS

6 States Will Gain Seats in U.S. House of Representatives

Texas
Colorado
Florida
Montana
North Carolina
Oregon

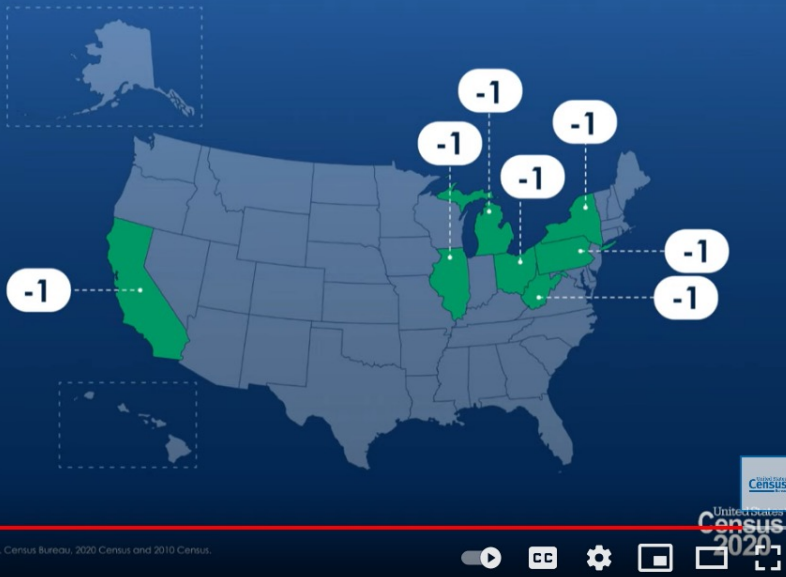


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census and 2010 Census.

2020 CENSUS

7 States Will Lose Seats in U.S. House of Representatives

California
Illinois
Michigan
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
West Virginia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census and 2010 Census.

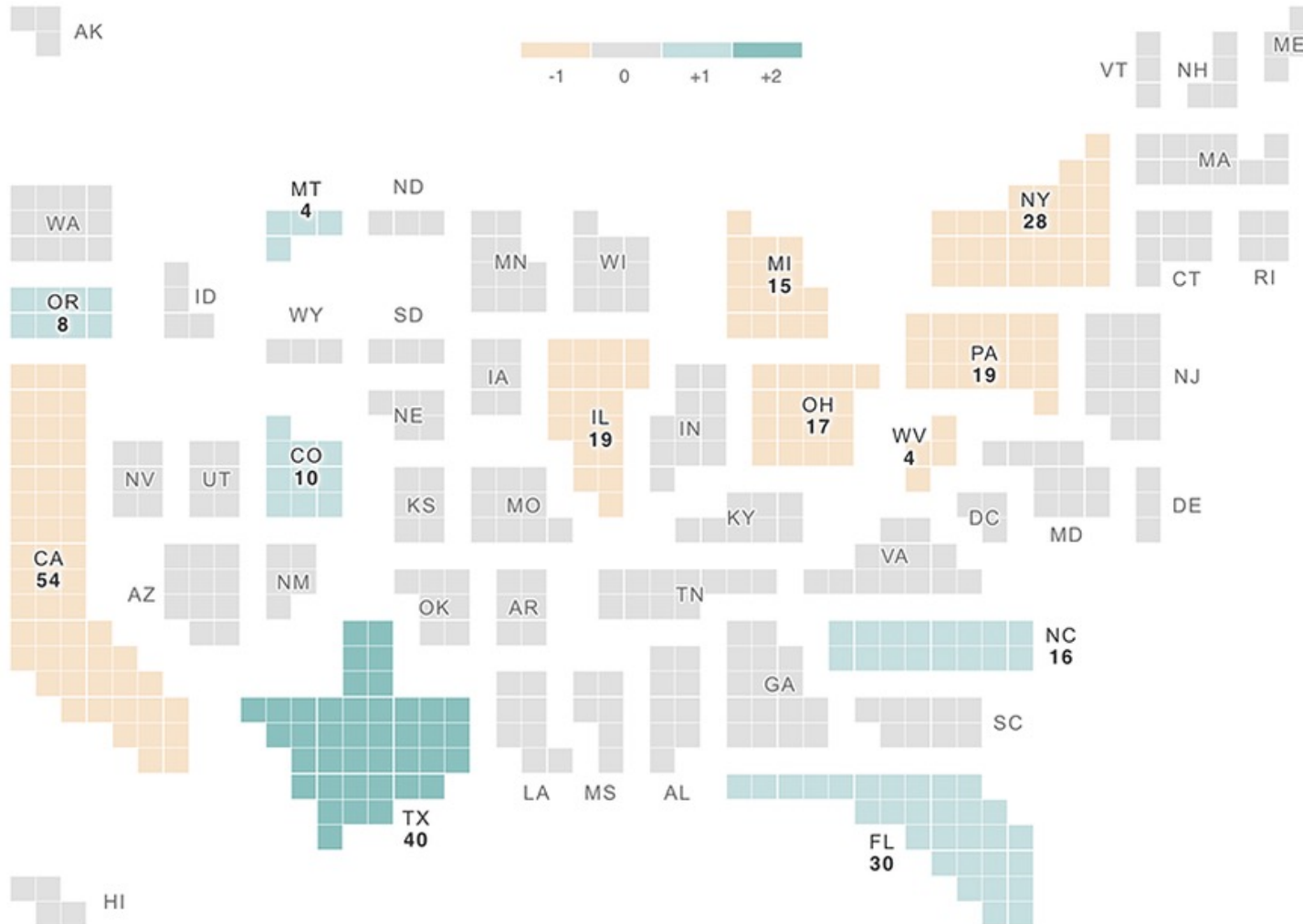
Six states gained seats in the House:

- Texas (+2)
- Colorado
- Florida
- Montana
- **North Carolina**
- Oregon

Seven states lost a seat in the House, including California, which lost a seat for the first time ever:

- California
- Illinois
- Michigan
- New York (NY lost a seat by 89 people)
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia

Source: Carolina Demography
<https://www.ncdemography.org/2021/04/26/census-2020-nc-gains-a-14th-seat-in-the-house-of-representatives/>



Electoral College

States Gaining:

Texas +2

Colorado +1

Florida +1

Montana +1

North Carolina +1

Oregon +1

States losing:

California -1

Illinois -1

Michigan -1

New York -1

Ohio -1

Pennsylvania -1

West Virginia -1

Source: WBUR News

<https://www.wbur.org/npr/983082132/census-to-release-1st-results-that-shift-electoral-college-house-seats>

What happens if a state doesn't like the results?

They sue!

- After the 1990 census, Massachusetts unsuccessfully sued, claiming it had lost a seat to Washington because overseas federal workers were improperly counted.
- After the 2000 census, Utah unsuccessfully challenged the results, arguing it had unfairly lost a seat by 856 people to North Carolina due to a methodology used by the Census Bureau and also because the state's Mormon missionaries working abroad weren't included in the count.

Required by statute:

• Redistricting data files

- *Statutory deadline of 4/1/2021 missed*
- ***New target date:** by 9/30/2021 ... all states, plus DC and Puerto Rico, released at once*
- *“Legacy format” files available mid- to late August 2021*
- *Population counts for counties, cities, census blocks + state-specified congressional, legislative, voting districts*
- *Demographic data: Race, Hispanic origin, & voting age (18+)*
- *Housing unit counts + occupancy status*
- *Group Quarters (GQ) counts by major GQ type (e.g. college dorms, prisons)*

Why the delay?

- **Displacement from COVID**
- **Unduplicating**
- **Double-checking records**
- **Time lost from prioritizing apportionment**
- **Calling 10,000 group quarters**
- **Non-ID responses**
- **Record level of incomplete answers**



Impact of COVID-19

Changed Operation Timeline

- March 12 - 20, 2020 Invitations to the 2020 Census mailed
- March 28, 2020 US Census Bureau suspends field operations for 2 weeks due to COVID-19
- April 1, 2020 Census Day (for reference only)
- April 13, 2020 US Census Bureau released a statement requesting extended deadlines (COVID-19 Plan):
 - (1) Field data collection (responding to the 2020 Census) July 31, 2020 → October 31, 2020
 - (2) Apportionment counts delivered to President Dec, 31, 2020 → April 30, 2021
 - (3) Redistricting data files to the states March 31, 2021 → July 31, 2021
- May 11, 2020 Some field operations resume in NC
- Aug. 3, 2020 With no explanation, US Census Bureau sped up 2020 Census operation (Rushed Plan)
 - (1) Field data collection (responding to the 2020 Census) July 31, 2020 → October 31, 2020 → September 30, 2020
 - (2) Apportionment counts delivered to President Dec, 31, 2020 → April 30, 2021
 - (3) Redistricting data files to the states March 31, 2021 → July 31, 2021

The Census Bureau stated that they could not produce acceptable data by December 31, 2020.

Impact of “Rushed Plan”

- Self-Response
 - Rushed Plan - Shortened time to self-respond
 - No responses accepted after September 30, 2020 (instead of October 31, 2020)
- Door-knocking
 - Pre-COVID-19 = 79 days
 - COVID-19 Plan = 81 days
 - Rushed Plan = 52 days
- Post-Collection Data Processing
 - Pre-COVID-19 = up to 5 months
 - COVID-19 Plan = up to 6 months
 - Rushed Plan = less than 3 months

Rushed plan ignores multiple-month pauses in operations, beginning in mid-March 2020, caused by the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States.



Advocates Respond to Rushed Plan - National Urban League v. Ross

Plaintiffs argue that the truncated timelines will lead to undercounts of communities of color and result in inaccurate census results in violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act.

- Sept. 24, 2020 CA federal judge issued a preliminary injunction requiring the US Census Bureau to continue its Decennial Census counting operation through Oct. 31, 2020.
 - The preliminary injunction also bars officials from delivering completed census information to the president on Dec. 31, 2020.
- Sept. 25, 2020 US Department of Justice filed a Notice of Appeal to 9th Circuit
- Sept. 28, 2020 Whistleblowers contact the federal court in CA, alleging the Administration was winding down operations, against court order.
 - Secretary of Commerce announced a new target date of Oct. 5, 2020 to conclude 2020 Census data collection operations
- Sept. 30, 2020 9th circuit denied the Trump administration's request to block the ruling from the California court.
 - Basically, the US Census Bureau must continue operations pursuant to California Court order
- October 1, 2020 CA federal court judge ordered the government to issue on Oct. 2, 2020 a text message to all Census Bureau employees notifying them of the Court's Injunction Order, stating that the Oct. 5, 2020 "target date" is not operative, and stating that data collection operations will continue through Oct. 31, 2020. 2020 Census data collection must continue through Oct. 31, 2020
- October 7, 2020 9th Circuit Appeals Court rejected government's appeal to end counting before Oct. 31st. However, the Court did set aside part of the CA Judge's Order that blocked the administration from trying to meet the legal deadline of Dec. 31 for delivering data to the president.
 - US Department of Justice filed application for a Stay with SCOTUS
- October 13, 2020 SCOTUS issued an order setting aside a lower court order that extended the 2020 Census through Oct. 31, 2020, allowing the Trump administration to end the 2020 Census before Oct. 31, 2020
- October 15, 2020 2020 CENSUS Self-Response and Nonresponse Followup ENDS

- In NC, redistricting deadlines are tied to receipt of census data
 - Adjustments to the deadline for completing redistricting will occur automatically if apportionment counts or the delivery of data is delayed
 - NC has no set deadlines for congressional redistricting
 - N.C. Const. art. II, Section 3, N.C. Const. art. II, Section 5
- The quality of the data will likely be questioned
 - Potential challenges and lawsuits

What happens if the data is horrible?

•Every Census Has Its Challenges...

- 1850 - California's questionnaires from Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties were lost, likely at sea, and those from San Francisco County were destroyed by fire.
- 1870 - Unsettled conditions in the South after Civil War produced a population count that was ~1.26M people short
- 1980 - A fire of "suspicious origin" destroyed tens of thousands of documents in a Brooklyn Census office.

Answer....We have to wait and see!



Thank You!

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