



About the Program

Public Law (P.L.) 94-171, enacted by Congress in December 1975, requires the U.S. Census Bureau to provide state legislatures with the small area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. The law also specifies:

- The Census Bureau will issue technical criteria for definition of these small areas to the state participants by April 1, 2006.
- The states choosing to participate in this voluntary program will define the small areas for which specific data tabulations are desired and submit these areas following timelines established by the Census Bureau. These small areas include census block boundaries, voting districts, and state legislative districts.
- The Census Bureau must transmit the total population tabulations to the states by April 1, 2011.

The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program will provide states the opportunity to delineate voting and state legislative districts and to suggest census block boundaries for use in the 2010 Census redistricting data tabulations (P.L. 94-171 data file).

The program also will ensure continued dialogue with the states in regard to 2010 Census planning, thereby allowing states ample time for planning, response, and participation.

The Five Phases of the Program

Phase 1: State Legislative District Project (SLDP)—2005-2006

Participating states will provide their legislative district plans, codes, and names to the Census Bureau. A verification phase will follow resulting in data products for the post-2000 Census legislative districts.

Phase 2: Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP)—2007-2009

Participating states will provide their voting district plans, codes, and names to the Census Bureau. They may also submit suggested features as census tabulation blocks for the 2010 Census. A verification phase will follow.

Phase 3: Data Delivery for the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program—2010-2011

The Census Bureau will deliver geographic products and population totals for the small areas defined in Phases 1 and 2 to the governor and majority and minority leaders of each state, no later than April 1, 2011, as mandated by P.L. 94-171.

Phase 4: Collection of the Post-2010 Census Redistricting Plans—2012-2013

The Census Bureau will collect state legislative and congressional district plans using Phase 3 materials as the geographic base. The Census Bureau will provide geographic and data products, as required by law, to the U.S. Postal Service, Department of Justice, and Congress.

Phase 5: Evaluation and Recommendation for Census 2020—2012-2014

States will conduct a review documenting the successes and failures of the Census Bureau to meet P.L. 94-171 requirements. A final publication will summarize the view of the states.

Program Participation

In early 2005, the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Office will invite the governor's office and legislative leadership in each state to designate a nonpartisan liaison to represent the state's needs. That liaison will act as the primary point of contact for the program and will help to organize a kickoff meeting in each state.

Beginning in Spring 2005, staff from the Census Redistricting Data Office will visit with state officials to discuss how participation in the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program will benefit each state.

For nearly 30 years, the Census Bureau has partnered with states in efforts to comply with P.L. 94-171. It is now time to strengthen this partnership even further and to begin planning for the 2010 Census!

The deadline for states to accept participation in Phase 1 of the program is August 1, 2005.



Why Should States Participate?

As states develop budgets and operational plans, decision makers will weigh the advantages of working closely with the Census Bureau to ensure a complete and accurate census against other competing concerns. Why should your state participate in the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program?

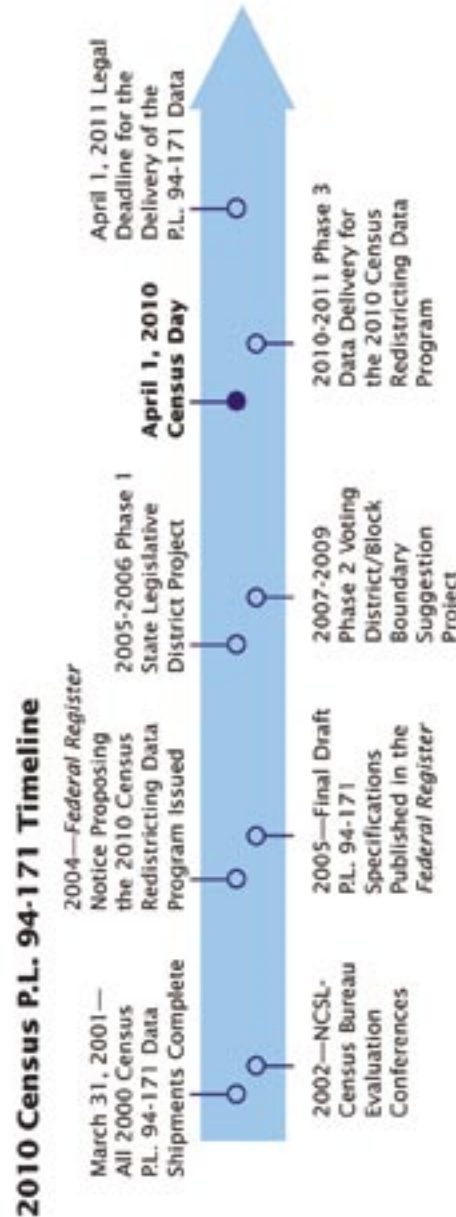
- Receive up-to-date information from the Redistricting Data Office about 2010 Census timelines, planning, and partnership opportunities.
- Meet your state's redistricting needs by defining the geographic areas that will be used for 2010 Census data tabulation, including:
 - census block boundaries
 - voting districts
 - state legislative districts
 - congressional districts
- Receive 2010 Census population counts of total persons by race, Hispanic origin, and voting age for each state-defined legislative district and voting district.
- New for the 2010 Census is the maintenance of state legislative districts! Receive ongoing geographic area and data tabulation updates to state legislative districts following the 2010 Census.
- Participate in the evaluation of the program and make recommendations for improving operations for the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Program.

For More Information

Publications

"Designing P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data for the Year 2010 Census—The View From the States" is available in PDF format at <www.census.gov/rdo/www>. For a copy of this publication call the Census Redistricting Data Office at 301-763-4039.

Go to <www.census.gov> for additional information on the U.S. Census Bureau.



The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program

