2020 CENSUS REDISTRICTING DATA PROGRAM

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REDISTRICTING PHASES

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program is divided into the following five phases:

- **Phase 1:** Block Boundary Suggestion Project
- **Phase 2:** Voting District Project
- **Phase 3:** Delivery of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data
- **Phase 4:** Collection of the Post-2020 Census Redistricting Plans
- **Phase 5:** Evaluation and Recommendations for 2030

ISSUE

Provide an overview and timeline of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program.

OLR Report 2016-R-0268 summarizes the redistricting procedures and deadlines under Connecticut's constitution.

SUMMARY

Passed by Congress in 1975, Public Law (P.L.) 94-171 requires the U.S. Census Bureau to administer a decennial redistricting program and provide the states with the population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. It allows states that participate in the program to help define the geographic areas for which they would like the tabulations (e.g., census blocks or voting districts). The Census Bureau must provide the tabulations to the states by April 1 of the year after the census.

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program, like the 2010 program, is divided into five phases (see sidebox). Phase 1 began in the summer of 2015 when the Census Bureau announced it in the Federal Register. Phase 5 will likely conclude in 2024 after states provide recommendations for the 2030 program and the Census Bureau publishes a summary report.

2020 CENSUS REDISTRICTING DATA PROGRAM

Table 1 provides an overview of the five phases in the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program. The dates in the table reflect the Census Bureau's current estimates, as well as the 2010 program's timeline, but are subject to change. (We will update this report if they change significantly.)

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Based on feedback from the 2010 program, the Census Bureau modified Phases 1 and 2 to allow states to work on the Block Boundary Suggestion Project and Voting District Project separately (the 2010 program had both projects in Phase 2). Phases 3 to 5 are substantially similar to those phases in the 2010 program.

Table 1: Census 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phases

Phase	Expected Dates	Overview
Phase 1	June 2015 – May 2017	▪ States designate a redistricting liaison and indicate whether they will participate in Phase I ▪ Census Bureau provides updated geographic products (e.g., TIGER/Line Shapefiles and software) and training to participating states ▪ Participating states indicate the census blocks they want retained or removed for the 2020 Census and identify non-standard features they want to use as block boundaries (e.g., streams or powerlines, rather than street centerlines that divide voters into two districts) ▪ Participating states submit these suggestions as part of the 2020 Census tabulation block inventory ▪ Census Bureau returns materials to liaisons for review and correction, if needed ▪ Census Bureau introduces a Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) for Phases 1 and 2 (under the BAS program, Census Bureau accepts boundary updates and documentation from redistricting liaisons, and coordinates updates with local governments)
Phase 2	December 2017 – May 2019	▪ States participating in Phase 2 receive geographic products and other resources to update their voting district (VTD) boundaries, as well as the VTDs' names and codes, for inclusion in the 2020 Census tabulation geography ▪ Participating states compare the 2017 BAS results against their VTD plans ▪ Census Bureau reduces census tabulation blocks caused by VTD and boundary misalignment in the 2020 tabulation block inventory ▪ Participating states verify VTD boundaries
Phase 3	Early 2021	▪ By April 1, Census Bureau delivers population counts for standard census tabulation areas (e.g., districts and census blocks) to all states, as required by P.L. 94-171 ▪ Phase 2 participating states also receive VTD population counts ▪ States begin redistricting process using this data (see OLR Report 2016-R-0268 for a summary of Connecticut's process)

Table 1 (continued)

Phase	Expected Dates	Overview
Phase 4	2021 – 2023	▪ States send Census Bureau the new Congressional and state legislative district plans ▪ Census Bureau produces new geographic and data products based on the new districts (e.g., through its American Community Survey, Census Bureau releases legislative district data with its annual 5-year estimates)
Phase 5	2023 – 2024	▪ States review the successes and failures of the 2020 Census and make recommendations for the next redistricting program ▪ Census Bureau produces a report, incorporating the states' views, for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program

HYPERLINK

Federal Register: [2020 Census Redistricting Data Program Commencement of Phase 1: The Block Boundary Suggestion Project, Census Bureau notice](). June 26, 2015.

U.S. Census Bureau: [2020 Census Program Phases]().

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