

Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

BAS Overview

Every year, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the BAS to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. The BAS provides tribal, state, and local governments an opportunity to review the Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct legal boundary, name, and status information.

During the BAS, governments can report legal boundary changes, such as incorporations, disincorporations, annexations, and deannexations. Governments can also update boundaries, features, and landmarks for:

- Cities, towns, boroughs, and villages (incorporated places).
- Townships and towns (minor civil divisions).
- Counties (or county equivalents).
- Consolidated cities.
- Roads and other applicable features.



Benefits of BAS Participation

The Census Bureau uses legal boundaries collected through the BAS to tabulate data for the decennial census.

Responding to the BAS ensures that tribal, state, and local governments have the most accurate boundary data available for the tabulation of decennial census housing and population counts. This data is the base for ongoing programs such as the American Community Survey and Population Estimates Program. Government agencies and other groups use this tabulated data to allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funding to communities across the country. Legal boundary data is also made publicly available and is used by federal agencies, researchers, and the public. Participation in the BAS ensures that governments receive the funds for which they are entitled and have the best data available for decision-making processes.

Accurate boundary records directly affect the quality of life in your community.

Accurate boundaries allow us to count your community's residents accurately.

Your participation in the BAS helps the Census Bureau continue to produce accurate data, which directly affects the quality of life in your community.

An accurate count helps the federal government allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually for programs and services—including education, housing, health care services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



Find BAS information and materials online at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html.

Complete the Annual Response Form at www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html.

Contact us at geo.bas@census.gov or 1-800-972-5651.



The Boundary Validation Program (BVP) and Its Relation to the BAS

The Census Bureau is conducting the BVP in parallel with the 2020 BAS. For the BVP, highest elected officials (HEOs) are asked to review and confirm their government's boundary, legal name, and status information. The HEOs are instructed to work with their BAS contact to report any corrections through the 2020 BAS. Visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/information/bvp.html for more information on the BVP.

Responding to the BAS is easy.

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for the BAS contact to report boundary corrections through participation in the BAS.

Paper option

Participants can request free paper maps and annotation materials from the BAS Web site.

Basic digital option

The Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) is a free, customized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool. It was specifically developed for people who do not have geographic training or are not experienced GIS users.

Advanced digital option

Experienced GIS users have the opportunity to download shapefiles from the BAS Web site and make updates using their own GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS).



To make responding to the BAS as easy as possible, we've created a YouTube channel with videos to walk you through the survey.

Visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/library/videos.html.

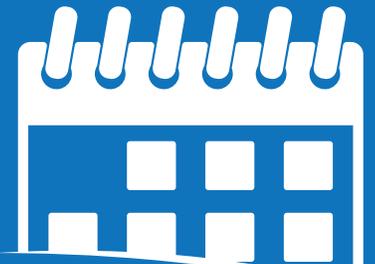
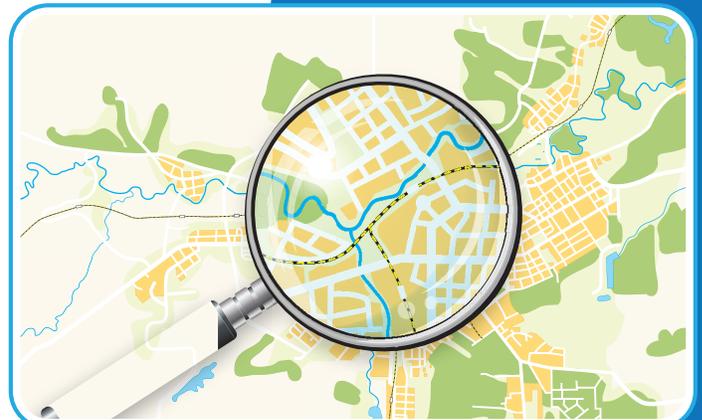
To see the existing boundaries that the Census Bureau has on file for your community, visit our online map application. TIGERweb is available at https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_main.html.



Will the Census Bureau contact my government for the BAS program?

The Census Bureau will send the BAS Annual Response e-mail to key contacts for each government every year. This includes:

- The government's HEO, such as the mayor or county executive.
- A GIS staff, planner, clerk, or other contact.
- Relevant state-level official.



BAS Schedule

January 2020

The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to BAS contacts with instructions on how to participate in the survey.

January 1, 2020

Legal boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before this date to be included in the 2020 Census.

March 1, 2020

Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the 2020 Census, in Final BVP materials, and in next year's BAS materials.

May 31, 2020

Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the 2020 Census and in next year's BAS materials.