

Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

What is the Boundary and Annexation Survey?

The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is the primary way that local, county, and tribal governments ensure that their legal boundaries—and consequently, their official population counts—are correctly recorded with the federal government. Every year, governments use the BAS to update their legal boundaries and official names.

In the BAS, governments report official name changes, (dis)incorporations, and (de)annexations. 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 linear features



How does the BAS benefit you?

Legal boundaries determine your government's population count every year in the American Community Survey and the Population Estimates Program. Many government agencies and other groups use population counts to determine the allocation of funds. Responding to the BAS ensures that your local government has the best data available for its decision-making processes, and that it receives all of the funds for which it is entitled.

In addition, our boundary records are publicly available and used by many other federal agencies, researchers, and the public. Because the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for tracking America's legal boundaries and population data, geographic updates that you provide to us ripple out in numerous important ways.

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.

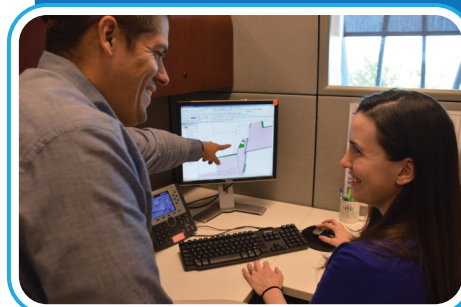
An *accurate count* helps the federal government allocate more than *\$400 billion in federal funds annually* for *programs and services*—including education, housing, health care services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



Find forms, information, and materials about the BAS online at

www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html.

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



Responding to the BAS is easy.

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for responding to the BAS.

Paper option

BAS participants can request free paper maps from the BAS Web site.

Basic digital option

The Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) is a free, customized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool that will be available during the 2016 BAS. It was specifically developed for people who do not have geographic training or are not experienced GIS users.

Advanced digital option

Experienced GIS users can update boundaries in their own GIS. The Census Bureau provides free GIS files in shapefile format on its Web site, along with digital update guidelines. Governments can update those shapefiles in their GIS and use them to respond to the BAS.



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 <http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_videos.html>

To see the existing boundaries that we have on file for your community, visit the Census Bureau's online map application at

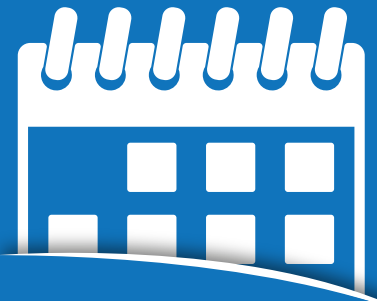
<http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/tigerweb_main.html>.



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

Every year, the Census Bureau will send the BAS to key contacts for every government affected by the survey:

- The government's highest-elected official, such as the mayor or county executive.
- A GIS staff, planner, clerk, or other contact that the government instructs us to contact.
- The relevant state-level official.



BAS Schedule

December: The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to BAS contacts with instructions for participation.

March 1 (first deadline): Legal boundary updates (not including nonlegal boundary corrections) sent by this date are included in the next Population Estimates Program and American Community Survey shapefiles and population estimates.

May 31 (final deadline): Boundary updates sent by this date will appear in the next year's BAS shapefiles.