

**OMB Information Collection Request**  
**Supporting Statement A**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
**Voting and Registration Supplement**  
**OMB Control Number 0607-0466**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct the Voting and Registration supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Voting and Registration supplement continues the biennial collection of data concerning voting and registration that has been asked periodically since 1964. The supplement is sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau, and is conducted in conjunction with the November CPS. The proposed questions are shown in Attachment A. Title 13 United States Code (U.S.C.), Sections 8(b), 141, and 182, and Title 29 U.S.C, Sections 1-9 authorize the collection of information in the CPS. See Attachment F for the full text of these statutes. The CPS advance letter presently in use (Attachment B) is generic for all CPS collections, and cites the legal authorities stated above.

- 2. Purpose and Use of Information Collection**

The primary purpose of collecting the voting data from the November CPS supplement is to relate demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, education, occupation, and income) to voting and nonvoting behavior. Federal, state, and local election officials; college institutions; political party committees; research groups; and other private organizations will use the voting and registration data collected in the November CPS supplement. Election officials use these data to formulate policies relating to the voting and registration process. Data obtained on duration of residence will allow policymakers and researchers to better determine the relationships between other demographic characteristics and voting behavior. Previous studies have shown that the voting and registration characteristics of recent movers differ greatly from those of nonmovers. By collecting and presenting data at the state level, we will also obtain information on the effectiveness of increased voter registration drives in different regions.

Discontinuance of the Voting and Registration supplement would disrupt a data series that has been in existence for the past 60 years. Since 1964, these data have provided statistical

information for tracking historical trends of voter and nonvoter characteristics in each presidential and congressional election.

Information quality is an integral part of the pre-dissemination review of information disseminated by the Census Bureau (fully described in the Census Bureau's Information Quality Guidelines). Information quality is also integral to information collections conducted by the Census Bureau and is incorporated into the clearance process required by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

### **3. Use of Information Technology**

We deem the use of personal visits and telephone interviews, using computer-assisted telephone interviewing and computer-assisted personal interviewing, the most appropriate collection methodology given existing available information technology. We are currently examining the use of the Internet as a response mode, to improve both the respondent experience during the survey and the response rate. The CPS program leadership from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics have agreed that modernization is needed to ensure the sustainability of the CPS. The Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics are in the early stages of a multi-year effort to improve and modernize the operations of CPS. One of the largest efforts of this process is the introduction of an Internet self-response mode by 2027.

### **4. Efforts to Identify Duplication**

The Voting and Registration supplement's comprehensive set of questions does not duplicate any other single information collection with respect to scope, timeliness, or population of interest. There are no comparable data that can be replicated, substituted, or modified for use as described in section A2 above.

### **5. Minimizing Burden**

The collection of voting and registration information does not involve small businesses or other small entities. We designed the supplemental questions to obtain the required information with minimal respondent burden. Further, there are no legal issues that influence respondent burden.

### **6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection**

1We must collect voting and registration data at the time of presidential and congressional elections, which are conducted biennially. These are the only elections that are held on the same date throughout the country. Less frequent collection would reduce the ability to track changes over time and lessen the quality of the voting data time series.

### **7. Consistency with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines**

The data will be collected in a manner consistent with the OMB guidelines.

## **8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice/Outside Consultation**

The Census Bureau published a notice of our intent to ask the voting and registration questions in the April 15, 2024, edition of the Federal Register (see 89 FR 26123). We received no comments in response to the notice.

The following people have been in frequent consultation concerning the development of this supplement:

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The result of these consultations is the final set of questions. In addition, a statement soliciting comments for improving the CPS data is prominently placed in all the Census Bureau publications that cite the CPS data.

We include a similar statement in the technical documentation that accompanies the microdata files. Finally, the CPS advance letter (see attachment B) provides respondents with an address at the Census Bureau to which they can submit general comments on the survey and specifically those comments regarding respondent burden.

## **9. Explanation of any Payment or Gift to Respondents**

We do not make any payments or provide any gifts to individuals participating in the CPS.

## **10. Assurance of Confidentiality Given to Respondents**

The Census Bureau will collect data in compliance with OMB Circular A-130. Each sample household receives an advance letter approximately one week before the start of CPS interviewing (see Attachment B). The letter includes the information required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, explains the voluntary nature of the survey, and states the estimated time required for participating in the survey. Interviewers must ask if the respondent received the letter and, if not, provide a copy and allow the respondent sufficient time to read the contents. Also, interviewers provide households with the pamphlet, *The U.S. Census Bureau Respects Your Privacy and Protects Your Personal Information* (see Attachment C).

All information given by respondents to Census Bureau employees is held in strict confidence under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. Disclosure of the information provided to us is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a) and may be shared with other Census Bureau staff for work-related purposes identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/Census-COMMERCE/Census-3, Demographic Survey Collection (Census Bureau Sampling Frame).

## 11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no sensitive questions in the demographic portion of the CPS.

## 12. Estimates of Annualized Hour and Cost Burden

The estimated respondent burden is 1,100 hours. Due to age and citizenship requirements for the voting questions, approximately 44,000 households are actually interviewed for the supplement. With each household interview, on average, being one and a half minutes long, this amounts to an hour burden of 1,100 hours for these questions.

The estimated total annual respondent cost burden based on these hours is \$34,518. For individuals, the wage rate is \$31.38 per hour based on hourly earnings for employees as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### 12A. Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondent	Expected Number of Respondents <sup>1</sup>	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
CPS Household Respondent	44,000	1	.025	1,100

### 12B. Estimated Annualized Burden Costs

Type of Respondent	Total Burden Hours	Hourly Wage Rate	Total Respondent Costs (rounded to nearest dollar)
Household Respondent	1,100	\$31.38	\$34,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,100</b>		<b>\$34,518</b>

## 13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents

There are no direct costs to the respondent other than that of their time to respond.

#### **14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government**

The estimated cost of the Voting and Registration supplement, borne by the U.S. Census Bureau, is \$275,000. This cost includes development of the computer instrument, procedures, and training. This also includes the time spent for data collection and all editing and weighting of the data in post processing.

#### **15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

The burden represents an increase of 1,100 hours in respondent burden. The reason for the change in burden is due to this request being a reinstatement of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

#### **16. Plans for Tabulation, Publication, and Project Time Schedule**

We will conduct the CPS, of which this supplement is a part, during the week of November 17-26, 2024. Processing of this supplement will commence in December 2024. The public use file will be released approximately twelve months later, with voting and registration tabulations released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

#### **17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

The Voting and Registration supplement is administered as part of the CPS monthly interview in November every two years. However, the supplement (as well as all the CPS supplements) bears an OMB control number and expiration date different from the basic CPS interview. The OMB control number for the CPS basic interview is included in the advance letter we give respondents (see Attachment B). Because of these complexities and the anticipated respondent confusion involved with expressing a separate control number and expiration date to respondents for the supplement questions, we request a waiver of the requirement to display the OMB control number and expiration date for the CPS Voting and Registration supplement.

#### **18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

There are no exceptions to the certification.