

# 2026 Census Test Webinar

Deputy director's remarks as prepared for delivery

July 22, 2024

- Thank you, Stacy.
- Hello, everyone, I'm Ron Jarmin, deputy director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Thank you all for joining us for this important update about our preparations for the 2030 Census.
- The planning and execution of every decennial census is informed by research, lessons learned, and stakeholder input, with a wide range of expertise from partners and Census Bureau professionals. And of course, extensive testing.
- Today, we'll be announcing the locations of where we'll conduct the first of two major on-the-ground tests in the run-up to 2030.
- That first test will take place in 2026.
- We carefully selected these sites, using a set of criteria determined by rigorous analysis and research.
- Today, you'll hear about the thorough, data-driven process we used to determine these sites, and, importantly, how each of these sites will help us better accomplish our goal to count every person living in the United States.
- Each decennial census is different, and they take over a decade of planning and preparation, and the 2026 Census Test is an important part of that preparation.
- For the 2020 Census, much of our testing was focused on proving new technologies and methods—like deploying iPhones rather than paper questionnaires for field data collection. The success of those new technologies and methods gives us the opportunity to focus on procedures and approaches that focus on ensuring we accurately enumerate hard-to-count households and historically undercounted populations.
- We look forward to working with the selected communities, and we appreciate their cooperation. By acting as a proving ground for the testing of our strategies, systems, and operations, they're performing a valuable service for our whole nation.
- We are excited to get started, but much work lies ahead to prepare for the 2026 Census Test.
- I hope you'll continue to join us throughout this process and participate in these webinars on our preparations; attend our 2030 Census Advisory Committee meetings starting this Friday, July 26th; and subscribe to receive updates on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). We very much need you to stay engaged with us and with each other.
- We need diverse voices and perspectives to make our work the best it can be. That's true of the 2030 Census, and it's true of the more than 130 surveys and programs the Census Bureau conducts each year.
- We're all in this together. Our efforts and our nation are stronger when we work together towards the common goal of a complete and accurate census.
- I appreciate your support and enthusiasm and look forward to sharing important new details about the 2026 test today.
- And now, I'll turn the presentation over to Tasha Boone, assistant director for Decennial Census Programs.