



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

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The Honorable Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State
148 State House Station
Office of the Sec. of State
Augusta, ME 04333

Office of the Secretary of State
Augusta, Maine

Dear Secretary Bellows:

On behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau Acting Director, Dr. Ron S. Jarmin, I am writing this letter regarding the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program is responsible for providing each state with the population and housing totals and geographic support products necessary for legislative redistricting following the decennial census, under the provisions of Public Law [P.L.] 94-171 (copy enclosed). In January and February of this year, we provided geographic support products from the 2020 Census to help your state prepare for receipt of the official 2020 Census State Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files. To access the geographic support products, go to <https://www.census.gov/rdo>, click on "Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data" and scroll down to "2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Geographic Support Products" under the "2020" tab.

The Census Bureau is currently processing the enumeration responses collected from the 2020 Census to tabulate the 2020 Census State Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File. We will release the Redistricting Data as Legacy Format Summary Files by August 16, 2021, on our public FTP site <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171/>. And by September 30, 2021, we will provide the Redistricting Data on removable media (DVDs and flash drives) with easier-to-use data extraction tools to the official state recipients and release the data on the Census Data Explorer platform (data.census.gov).

The Census Bureau has produced and released redistricting data in the legacy format for at least the past two decennial census cycles (2000 and 2010). The 2020 Census Legacy Format Summary Files will be comprised of four pipe-delimited text files (including a geoheader file and three data segment files featuring the six P.L. 94-171 tables). The files will have identical data to the files we deliver in September. They will have been fully reviewed and subject to the same quality assurance processes. The legacy format summary files require additional handling and software to properly extract the data of interest, whereas the release in September will include user-friendly tools to view and extract the data.

To prepare for the release of the official legacy format summary files we've created and released support materials, including the 2018 End-to-End Census Test prototype data for Providence County, RI in the 2020 style, header record fields and definitions, table shells, SAS and R data import scripts, and coming soon is a video tutorial on how to import and query the data. To access the support materials, go to <https://www.census.gov/rdo>, click on "Redistricting Data Program Management" and scroll down to "Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products" under the "2020 Census" tab.

Please direct questions on the redistricting data file tabulations and releases to the Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office at 301-763-4039 or rdo@census.gov.

Sincerely,

James Whitehorne – Chief, Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office

cc:

The Honorable Janet Mills, Governor of Maine

The Honorable Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, Chief State Elections Official

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate

The Honorable Eloise Vitelli, Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Jeff Timberlake, Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau, Speaker of the House

The Honorable Michelle Dunphy, House Majority Floor Leader

The Honorable Kathleen Dillingham, House Minority Floor Leader

Mr. William Thompson, Chief of Staff

Ms. Amanda Rector, State Economist, Governor's Liaison, State Data Center Contact

Mr. Sean Smith, Director