BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY (BAS)



What is BAS?

BAS is an annual opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review the U.S. Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure that the Census Bureau has current and accurate legal boundary, name, and status information.

Through BAS, governments can report legal boundary changes, such as annexations and deannexations; legal status changes, such as incorporations and disincorporations; and small corrections to spatially incorrect boundaries. Governments can update boundaries, features, and landmarks for:

- Federally recognized tribes with a reservation or off-reservation trust land.
- States.
- Counties or county equivalents, such as boroughs or parishes.
- Incorporated places, such as cities, towns, boroughs, and villages.
- Minor civil divisions, such as towns and townships.
- Consolidated cities.
- Census Designated Places (CDPs).

Why should my government participate in BAS?

The Census Bureau uses the boundary information collected through BAS for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination for the decennial census, American Community Survey (ACS), Population Estimates Program (PEP), and many other censuses and surveys.

The federal government allocates more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually for health, welfare, infrastructure, education, and other federal programs and services. Correct boundaries ensure governments receive funds appropriately and have the best data available for decision-making.

How do I get started?

- 1. Review the Census Bureau's existing boundary data.
- Complete the Annual Response Form at <www.census.gov/geo/ partnerships/bas/>.
- 3. Submit boundary updates.



Contact information

Email: <geo.bas@census.gov> Phone: 1-800-972-5651

Website: <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>

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



Accurate boundaries allow us to accurately tabulate data for your community.

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



Accurate data tabulation helps the federal government allocate billions of dollars in federal funds annually for programs and services, including education, housing, healthcare, services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



Responding to BAS is easy!

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for BAS participants to submit updates.

BAS Partnership Toolbox

Experienced geographic information systems (GIS) users can download and update partnership shapefiles using the BAS Partnership Toolbox within ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Pro.

Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)

GUPS is a free, customized GIS tool that contains all the functionality participants need to create their BAS submission. GUPS is intended for participants with a basic understanding of or limited experience with GIS software but is great for participants of all skill levels.

Paper Maps

Participants without GIS experience can request free paper maps and annotation materials from the BAS website.

The Census Bureau created training videos to give BAS participants detailed instructions and information on how to report and submit BAS changes. These videos are available on the BAS website at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/library/bas-videos.html>.



To review the Census Bureau's existing boundary data, visit our online mapping application TIGERweb at https://tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_main.html.



Will the Census Bureau contact my government for the BAS?

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

- The government's highest elected official (HEO).
- A GIS staff member, planner, clerk, or other relevant contact.
- Relevant state-level official.

State and County Consolidated BAS Agreements

The Census Bureau maintains agreements with eligible state and county governments interested in submitting updates to BAS on behalf of governments within their jurisdiction. Visit the BAS website for more information.



Important BAS Dates

Early January

The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to the tribal chair or highest elected official and the BAS contact of all eligible governments with instructions on how to participate in the survey.

January 1

Boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before this date to be reported in the current survey year.

March 1

First BAS deadline—Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the ACS and PEP data and in next year's BAS materials.

May 31

Final BAS deadline—Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in next year's BAS materials.

