

Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

- The Census Bureau conducts the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) annually to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas.
- The Census Bureau uses the boundary information collected in the BAS to tabulate data for the decennial and economic censuses, annual population estimates, and the American Community Survey (ACS).
- The Census Bureau surveys all federally recognized American Indian areas, governmental counties (and equivalent areas), incorporated places, and governmental minor civil divisions (MCDs) through BAS.
- This survey includes approximately 40,000 entities and is conducted every year to provide the geographic support needed for the ACS.
- All BAS participants should return their responses by March 1 in order to have their updates reflected in next year's data from the ACS and Population Estimates Program.
- SDCs help perform a follow-up with local entities that have not returned their BAS materials.
- In March, the Census Bureau's Geography Division (GEO) will send an e-mail to SDC Leads asking if they will participate in the BAS follow-up. It is important to respond to this e-mail indicating that the SDC will participate. GEO will then e-mail a file with a list of the non-responding entities. The SDCs have until May to contact non-responding local governments and encourage them to return their BAS materials. Follow-up can include e-mails and phone calls.
- Areas including Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Alaska, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, and Utah do not participate in the follow-up due to BAS State Agreements with Census Bureau or they are entities not in the BAS Universe.
- As a part of the follow-up, the SDCs should also update local government contacts. This ensures that future BAS materials are delivered to the appropriate person.
- BAS e-mail: geo.bas@census.gov
- BAS website, <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/bas/bashome.html>

2012 BAS Schedule

For the 2012 BAS, the Census Bureau can only process legal boundary changes (annexations and de-annexations) that went into effect on or before **January 1, 2012**. Any annexations/de-annexations that went into effect after this date should be reported to the 2013 BAS next year.

November - December 2011: The U.S. Census Bureau will send the Advance Response forms to the designated BAS contact or Highest Elected Officials (HEO) representing the governments for the following geographic areas: incorporated places, MCDs, counties, as well as the Tribal Chair or HEO for tribal governments. The advance response form gives governments the opportunity to verify the contact information for their BAS contact and their government's Highest Elected Official, as well as to request survey materials if their government has boundary changes to report to the BAS.

February 1, 2012: This is the last day for governments to request BAS materials to be mailed to them by the Census Bureau.

March 1, 2012: This is the first deadline for reporting boundary updates to the Census Bureau. Information received by this date is guaranteed to be processed in time for the upcoming ACS and the Population Estimates Program. Information received after this date is not guaranteed to be processed in time for the ACS and Population Estimates, but will show up on the maps and shapefiles next fall in time for the 2013 BAS.

March-May 2012: SDCs that have elected to participate in the BAS follow-up on non-responding entities will receive a list of non-responding BAS entities for their state via e-mail sometime in March and will have until a date in May to perform the follow-up.

May 31, 2012: This is the second and final deadline for reporting boundary updates to the Census Bureau. Information received by this date will be shown on next fall's maps and shapefiles for the 2013 BAS.