

# Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

## BAS Overview

Every year, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the BAS to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. The BAS provides tribal, state, and local governments an opportunity to review the Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct legal boundary, name, and status information.

During the BAS, governments can report legal boundary changes, such as incorporations, disincorporations, annexations, and deannexations. Governments can also update boundaries, features, and landmarks for:

- Cities, towns, boroughs, and villages (incorporated places).
- Townships and towns (minor civil divisions).
- Counties (or county equivalents).
- Consolidated cities.
- Roads and other applicable features.



## Benefits of BAS Participation

The Census Bureau uses legal boundaries collected through the BAS to complete the Census Bureau's geographic framework for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination for the decennial census, the American Community Survey, Population Estimates Program, and many other censuses and surveys.

Government agencies and other groups use this tabulated data to allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funding to communities across the country. Legal boundary data is also made publicly available and is used by federal agencies, researchers, and the public. Participation in the BAS ensures that governments receive the funds for which they are entitled and have the best data available for decision-making processes.

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

**Accurate boundaries** allow us to count your community's residents accurately.

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

An **accurate count** helps the federal government allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually for programs and services—including education, housing, health care services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



Find BAS information and materials online at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html).

Complete the Annual Response Form at [www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas\\_ar\\_form.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html).

Contact us at [geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov) or 1-800-972-5651.



## Responding to the BAS is easy!

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for the BAS contact to report boundary corrections through participation in the BAS.

### **Digital—Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)**

GUPS is a free, customized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool. It was specifically developed for people who do not have geographic training or are not experienced GIS users.

### **Digital—Own GIS**

Experienced GIS users have the opportunity to download shapefiles and BAS partnership tools from the BAS Web site and make updates using their own GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS).

### **Paper Maps**

Participants can request free paper maps and annotation materials from the BAS Web site.



To make responding to the BAS as easy as possible, we've created a YouTube channel with videos to walk you through the survey.

Visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/library/bas-videos.html>.

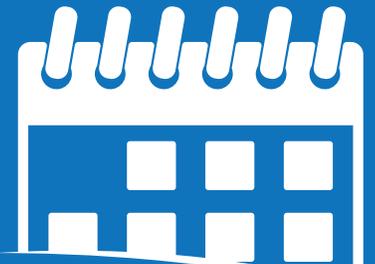
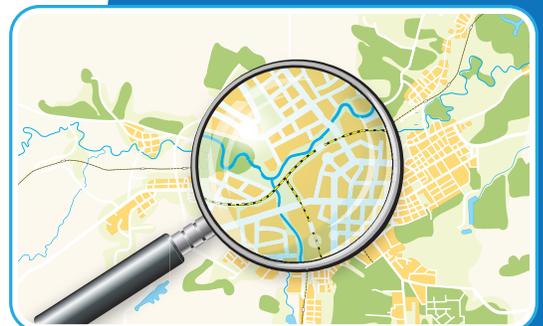
To see the existing boundaries that the Census Bureau has on file for your community, visit our online map application. TIGERweb is available at [https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb\\_main.html](https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_main.html).



## 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 HEO, such as the mayor or county executive.
- A GIS staff member, planner, clerk, or other contact.
- Relevant state-level official.



## Important BAS Dates

### **Early January**

The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to BAS contacts 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**

Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the American Community Survey and Population Estimates Program data and in next year's BAS materials.

### **May 31**

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