



A Message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau:

The U.S. Census Bureau is now conducting the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). Do not miss your opportunity to participate in the BAS to ensure that the Census Bureau has current and accurate boundary, legal name, and status information for your government.

The BAS is a voluntary survey. We strongly encourage your participation in the BAS for the following reasons:

- Boundary updates complete the Census Bureau's geographic framework for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination, and are vital to the success of the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, 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.
- Responding to the BAS ensures that your tribal government receives the funds for which it is entitled and has the best data available for its decision-making processes.

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) will also notify its members about the BAS.

Action Step:

Respond to the BAS using one of these three options:

- Visit the "How to Get Started" page on the BAS website located at this link <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/information/get-started.html>> to find step-by-step instructions on how to start the boundary updating process and complete the online Annual Response Form.
- Respond through email to <[geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov)>. Please include the following information in your email:
  1. Are there boundary changes to report to the BAS? (Yes or No)
  2. Are there updates to the Tribal Chair (TC) or BAS contact information? If so, please provide the updated contact information.
  3. Please include the 11-digit BAS ID number listed at the top of this letter in the subject line of your message.

- Complete the Annual Response and Contact Update Form (BAS-ARF) and return the form using the postage-paid return envelope.

*NOTE: Please respond to the BAS with a “No Changes” response if you have no boundary changes, annexations, or contact updates to report for your government. If you do not respond, we will contact your government to confirm your boundary change status.*

## **2020 BOUNDARY VALIDATION PROGRAM (BVP)**

The Census Bureau is conducting the BVP in parallel with the 2020 BAS. For the BVP, TCs are asked to review and confirm their tribal government’s boundary, legal name, and status information. The TCs are instructed to work with their BAS contact to report any corrections through the 2020 BAS. Submit updates to the BAS by March 1, 2020 to provide the TCs a final opportunity to verify any boundary updates made.

### **KEY DATES**

- January 1, 2020** Boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before this date to be reported in the current survey year and to be used for the 2020 Census data tabulations. Boundary updates effective after this date will be held until the following BAS cycle.
- March 1, 2020** Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the 2020 Census, in the Final BVP materials, and in next year’s BAS materials.
- May 31, 2020** Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the 2020 Census and in next year’s BAS materials.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: <geo.bas@census.gov>

Phone: 1-800-972-5651

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

Thank you for your participation in the BAS.

Enclosures