

Joint Hearing regarding delays in the 2020 Census

Pennsylvania House State Government Committee
and Senate State Government Committee

February 24, 2021



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Presentation Overview

- Introduction to the Pennsylvania State Data Center (PaSDC)
- The 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program in Pennsylvania
 - Phase 2 The Voting District Project
 - Preparing for Phase 3 Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products



Pennsylvania State Data Center

Who

- We are the Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Socio-Economic Statistics

What

- Liaison to U.S. Census Bureau

When

- Established in 1981 by Executive Order of the Governor

Where

- Located at Penn State Harrisburg within the Institute of State and Regional Affairs



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Phase 2 The Voting District Project

- Provided states the opportunity to submit their voting district boundaries (ex. wards, precincts, etc.), codes and names
- Voting Districts submitted will be included in the 2020 Census Redistricting Data tabulations (P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data)



Phase 2 In Pennsylvania

- PaSDC chosen by LDPC to provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support
 - Initial Identification of Updates -- December 2017 through May 31, 2018
 - Verification of Updates -- December 2018 through May 31, 2019
 - Verification of Updates II -- December 2019 through March 31, 2020



Common Activities for Phase 2

- Collected current voting district boundaries from each county – requested shapefiles (geographic file)
- Compared county boundaries to Census boundaries
- Compared county attributes to State (DOS and LDPC) attributes
- Created shapefiles if needed
- Submitted final county files to Census



Phase 2: Task 1

Initial Identification of Updates --
December 2017 through
May 31, 2018



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

- Requested voting district boundary files from counties (shapefiles)
- PaSDC worked with the Department of State (DOS) and LDPC to verify boundary changes, codes and naming conventions
- Created shapefiles if needed
- PaSDC uploaded county boundary files to Census



Phase 2: Task 2

Verification of Updates --
December 2018 through
May 31, 2019



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Additional Activities in Task 2

- Verification materials were posted by the Census Bureau on January 2, 2019
- Comparison of county changes to the Verification file provided by Census
- Review of the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) changes
- Review of legislative and congressional district boundaries



County Updates Accomplished in Task 2

- 4 counties submitted boundary changes through BAS
- 3 counties confirmed no changes since the initial submission
- 52 counties provided a new file for this phase
- PaSDC worked with the Department of State (DOS) and LDPC to verify boundary changes, codes and naming conventions
- All 67 updated county files were provided to Census during this verification phase



Interim between Task 2 and Task 3

- Provided shapefiles back to counties for verification or questions
- Contacted counties about anticipated changes and developed a timeline for processing during the shorter (3 month) final verification phase



Phase 2: Task 3

Verification of Updates II --
December 2019 through
March 31, 2020



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

- The PaSDC received the Census Verification packet for this phase on January 7, 2020
- 16 counties submitted boundary changes through the BAS
- 38 counties provided a new file for this phase.
- 29 counties confirmed no changes since the previous submission
- The 38 updated county files were provided to Census and notified them of the 29 with no changes during this verification phase



Interim between Phase 2 and Phase 3

- Monitored delays in Census timelines
- Contacted counties about anticipated changes
 - Prioritize work
 - Determine the frequency of contact needed in preparation for the receipt of data.



Updated Census Release Timeline

U.S. Census Bureau will deliver the state population counts for apportionment to the President April 30, 2021

U.S. Census Bureau will deliver the redistricting data to the states and the public by September 30, 2021



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Preparing for Phase 3

- PaSDC is reviewing the Geographic Data products for Pennsylvania provided by the Census Bureau
- Contacting counties and DOS to identify/verify potential changes



Questions?

Jennifer Shultz

Data Services Manager,
PA State Data Center

jjb131@psu.edu or
pasdc@psu.edu

717-519-9547

Tim Schock

Data Analyst,
PA State Data Center

trs69@psu.edu or
pasdc@psu.edu



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center