

NCSL Redistricting Update – March 25, 2021

A U.S. District Court has [dismissed](#) the Ohio lawsuit that [challenged](#) the delayed release of redistricting data and asked that the Census Bureau comply with the April 1 [statutory](#) deadline. The court held that the state of Ohio lacked standing, and the court didn't have jurisdiction to address the questions presented in the suit. We'll keep you posted on any new litigation action as it comes along.

Here's a [blog](#) about the Census Bureau, differential privacy and the courts. It explains a bit more about the Alabama [lawsuit](#) challenging the Bureau's use of [differential privacy](#) (a mathematical method that would inject noise to the data) because it could skew the population tabulations.

[Census data coming in August](#) (and September). During the Ohio lawsuit, the Census Bureau made the determination that it will provide a legacy format summary of the P.L. 94-171 datasets, with all geographic units and all substantive data tabulations, by mid to late August. The legacy format summary is the same format that was released for the 2010 cycle. A more user-friendly dataset (with same data) will be released by Sept. 30.

The [2020 Census National Redistricting Data Summary File](#) technical document is available to help understand the summary statistics on population counts and housing (occupancy status) for the August datasets. It serves as a guide for data users.

Also, the Bureau launched a new interactive tool that allows users to view more than 10 decades of apportionment and population data. The [Historical Apportionment Data Map](#) currently displays apportionment results for each census from 1910 to 2010. The 2020 Census apportionment data, expected by April 30, will be added to the map as they become available.