

2010 Census Count Question Resolution Program

Overview

The 2010 Count Question Resolution (CQR) program is a U.S. Census program for official units of government (counties) to challenge the 2010 Census count of housing units and group quarters. Any successful challenge to the 2010 Census will NOT affect apportionment, redistricting, or existing 2010 Census data products. If successfully challenged, the corrected data will be posted in the American FactFinder and used for future population estimates. At this time the Census Bureau does not have a mechanism to challenge population counts other than to challenge the number of housing units.

How would I know if I should challenge the 2010 Census Results?

Many counties have examined the population counts reported by the Census Bureau and compared that data with the number of building permits issued, school enrollments, Tax Assessor's database, etc. over the last decade and feel that the population within their county was undercounted. Counties cannot challenge the actual population count; however, counties may challenge the boundaries legally in effect on January 1, 2010, the Geocoding (placement of housing units and their associated population), or coverage, disputing specific housing units and individuals living in them on April 1, 2010. Any challenge must be well-documented with a detailed address listing and maps documenting the status of housing units and population on April 1, 2010.

What is the success rate of a Census challenge?

Nationally, 70% of the challenges made to the 2000 Census were successful. Overall the results of the 1,200 challenges made to the 2000 Census resulted in a net increase of the nation's population by 2,697 individuals. As of June 6, 2011 there are 10 pending challenges to the 2010 Census.

How do I prepare a challenge?

The Census Bureau as well as the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has a wealth of resources to assist you. Challenges will be accepted by the Census Bureau from June 1, 2011 to June 1, 2013. When making a challenge, the County Commission Chairman or her/his formally appointed designee must indicate the type of the challenge and document the challenge by submitting a detailed address list and maps. Detailed information on how to prepare and submit a challenge is available at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/cqr.php>. Click on the **Guidelines for Stateside Count Question Resolution (CQR) Challenges**. Any challenge will require a detailed census block by census block analysis, you can't simply state that you feel an area or population group was not counted. The Census Bureau does not share their address specific information with counties; instead counties must use Censusblock level data and maps reported in the 2010 Census products and compare it to county records showing the number of housing units in existence on April 1, 2010.

Resource to help prepare a challenge:

Terry D. Jackson, Director
Office of Mapping and Decision Support Systems
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Tele: 404.679.4946
Terry.Jackson@dca.ga.gov

Resource for filing a challenge:

Wes Flack, Geographic Coordinator
Atlanta Regional Office
U.S. Census Bureau
404.332.2726