



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20233-0001

04/21/2021

Amy Cohen
Executive Director, National Association of State Election Directors
1200 G Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
acohen@nased.org

Dear Executive Director Cohen,

Thank you for your email of April 14, 2021, passing along some questions and concerns of your members. We are aware of the difficulties that your members face with the late delivery of redistricting data. The willingness of the National Association of State Election Directors, alongside the National Association of Secretaries of State, to engage with us has helped us understand these concerns more acutely, and we appreciate the time your members have shared expressing those concerns.

While the Census Bureau has announced that it would provide redistricting data by September 30, 2021, we have been continually evaluating our schedule and processes to identify actions we can take that would reduce the burden of a late delivery of the redistricting data. One such solution we identified on March 15, 2021, is to provide the legacy format summary files in August, earlier than the planned September official release by DVD/flash drive to state officials and through our primary dissemination platform at data.census.gov for the public.

We understand that states need to plan for the receipt of this data as every day is important for the compressed timelines they will face. As such, the Census Bureau is committing to publishing the legacy format summary files to our FTP site for the states and the public no later than August 16, 2021.

The question of the possibility of these files being available earlier has been raised during our engagements with NASS and NASED. The Census Bureau's working schedule is a dynamic one, with time built in for the Census Bureau to identify and correct issues we find during data processing. Being a dynamic schedule, dates and timing are liable to shift as different activities take place. If we have an indication that our schedule could change, we will inform the public. We have confidence, however, that we will be able to meet the August 16, 2021, and September 30, 2021, dates.

I hope the firm acknowledgment of the August 16, 2021, date provides you and your members with the certainty needed for their planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James CA Whitehorne".

James Whitehorne
Chief, Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office