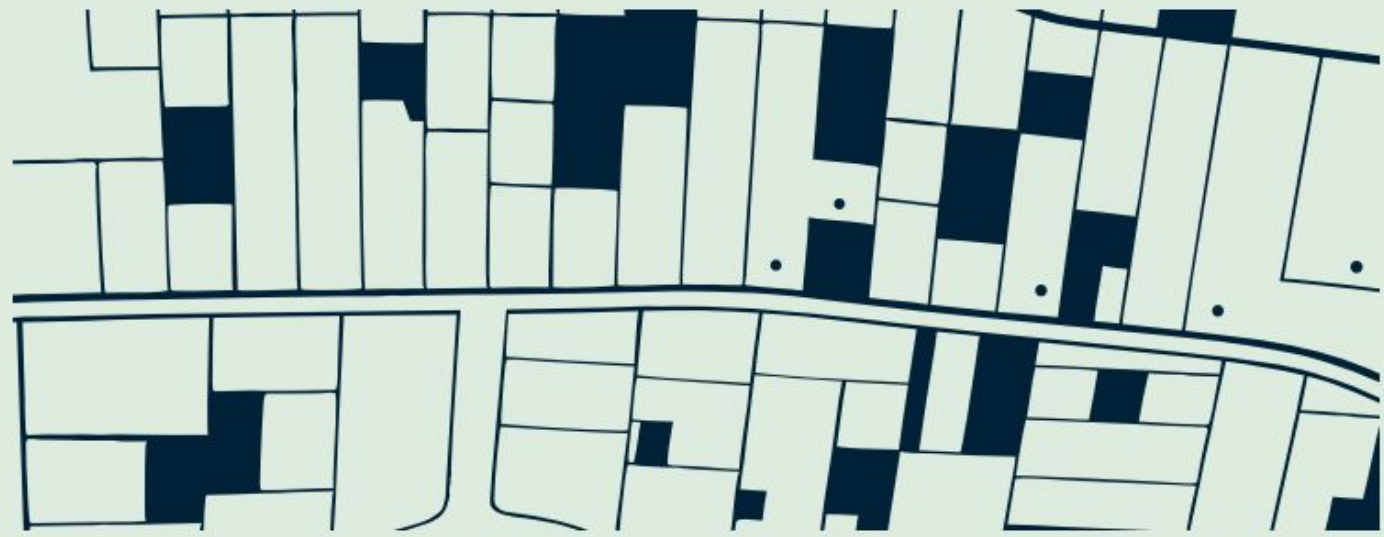
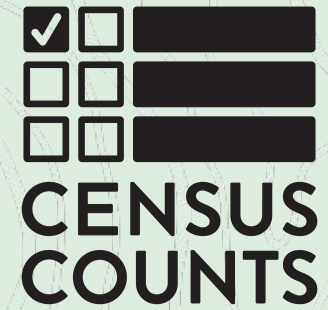




The Leadership Conference
Education Fund



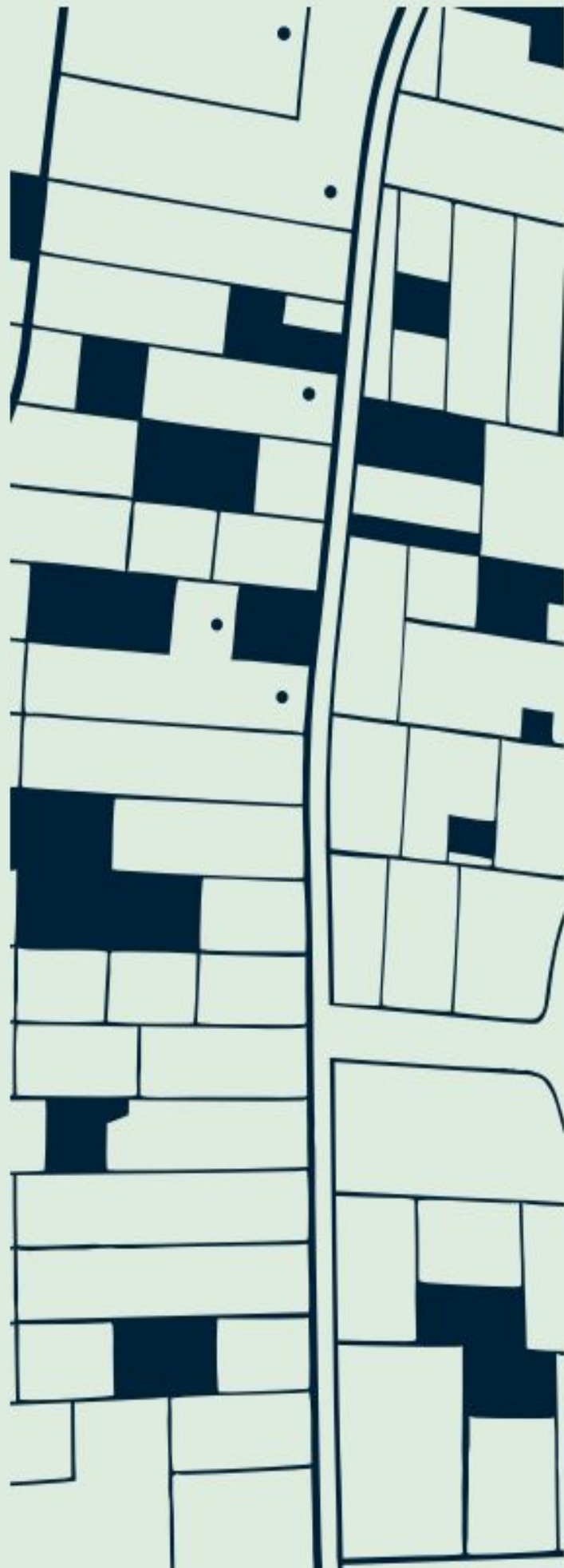
LUCA

Local Update of Census Addresses Operation

Building the Address Foundation for the 2030 Census:
How Arizona Cities and Towns Can Start Preparing Now

Esteban Camarena | *Sr. Program Manager* – The Leadership Conference Education Fund | Census Counts

[camarena@civilrights.org]



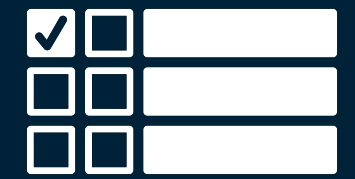
WHERE WE'RE GOING:



- 01. THE CHALLENGE:** 2030 Census Preparation Setbacks
- 02. WHAT IS LUCA:** What Cities and Towns Can Leverage
- 03. HOW IT WORKS:** Timeline, Eligibility, Confidentiality
- 04. WHAT WORKED:** 2020 Case Studies
- 05. WHAT TO DO:** Concrete Steps for Arizona



2030 Census Preparation Setbacks

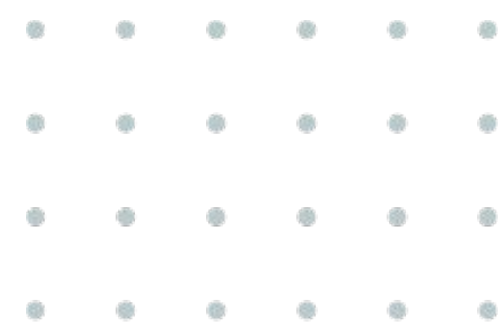


- **The 2026 Census Test was scaled back.**
 - 4 of 6 test sites cut, including tribal and rural areas in northern Arizona.
 - No rural areas, no group quarters, no national sample.
 - Testing English-only, 70+ question ACS questionnaire instead of decennial format.
- **Design decisions are being locked in anyway.**

2030 Census design calls for greater use of administrative and supplemental data, automation, shared systems, and less in-field enumeration.

 - **Government Accountability Office (GAO) June 2026 report** warns that the Bureau may finalize parts of the 2030 design before it has evidence those methods work.
- **Lack of transparency and stakeholder input.**

Questionnaire, messaging, testing, staffing, funding, privacy, and implementation decisions will shape accuracy and public trust.



ARIZONA: SNAPSHOT



Rapid growth, uneven local capacity, and persistent undercounts make early LUCA preparation essential for Arizona.

- **Rapid growth.** Arizona's population reached 7.62 million in 2025—up 6.5% since 2020—while its housing stock grew 2.0% in one year, the nation's second-fastest rate.
- **A complex local landscape.**
 - Nearly four in five Arizonans live in incorporated areas, but the state's 91 cities and towns and 22 federally recognized Tribal Nations vary widely in geography, staffing, data, and technical capacity.
- **Persistent risks of being missed.**
 - Rural and Tribal communities, households with limited English proficiency or broadband access, young children, group quarters residents, and some older adults face distinct barriers.
 - American Indians and Alaska Natives on reservations were undercounted by 5.6% in 2020, and an Arizona Tribal Lands site was removed from the 2026 Census Test.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) | [League of Arizona Cities & Towns](#) | [Post Enumeration Survey \(2022\)](#)

The one lever cities and towns can control...



You cannot control...

the federal budget, the operational design, how many test sites remain, national messaging, or response rates.

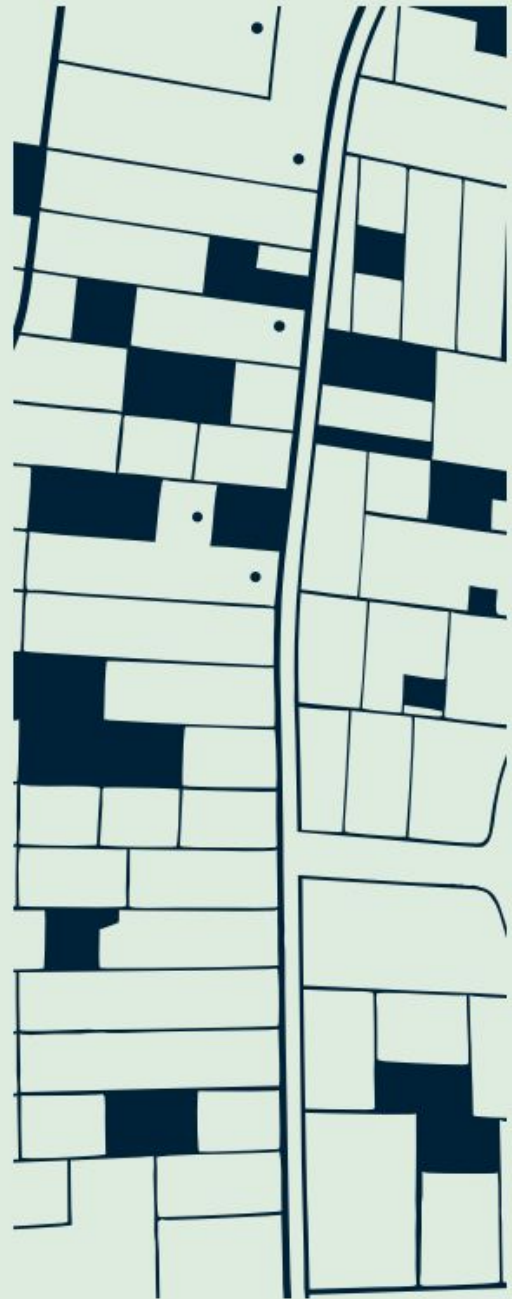
You can control...

whether the Census Bureau's address list for your jurisdiction is correct before the count begins using local knowledge.

If a housing unit is not on the list...

no questionnaire arrives, no census-worker follow-ups, and the people living there are unlikely to be counted – and will never know they were missed.

LUCA is a one-time window for local input.



What is **LUCA?**

Local Update of Census Addresses Operation

Overview: LUCA Operation



WHAT: the only opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review and correct the Census Bureau's confidential address list before the count.

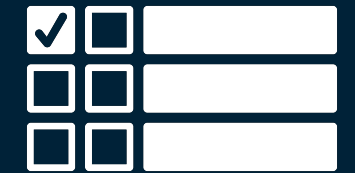
WHY: accurate addresses are key for an accurate census, and in turn, fair funding, representation, and service planning (i.e. emergency response) for 10 years.

WHO: the invitation goes out directly from the U.S. Census Bureau to the highest elected official in every eligible jurisdiction. In Arizona, likely your mayor.

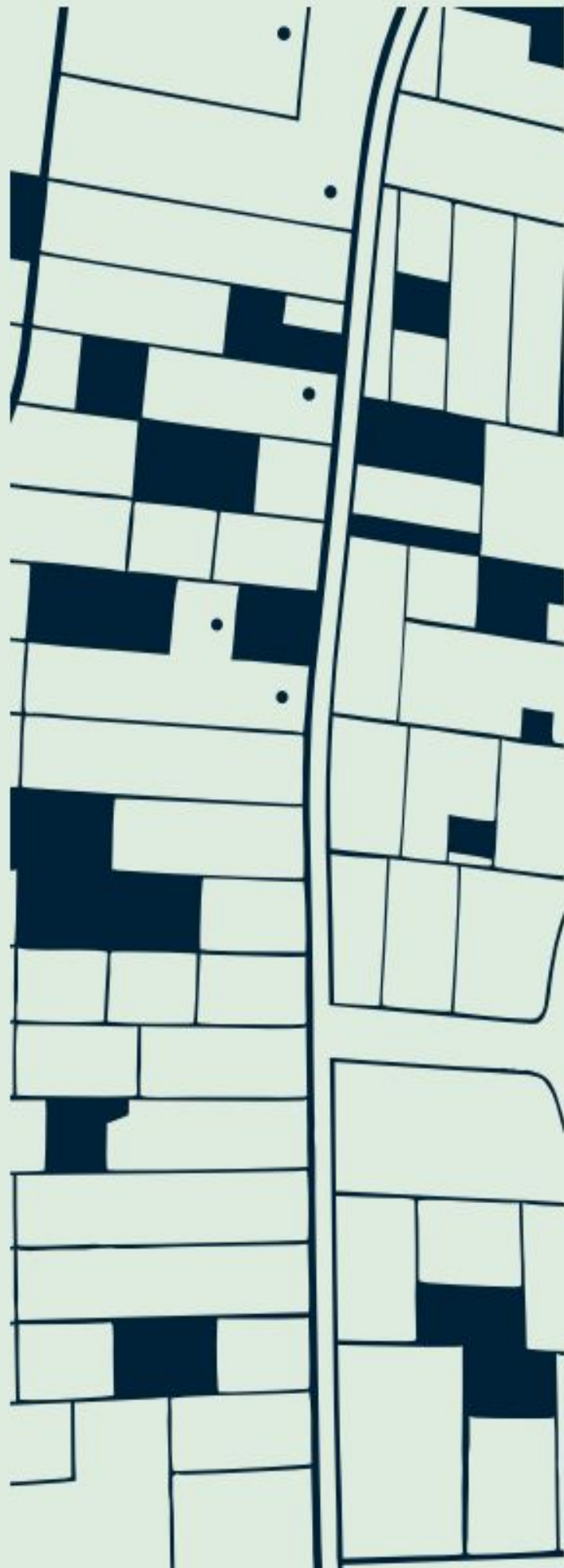
WHEN: invitations sent May 2027; review opens October 2027; submissions close March 31, 2028

COST: participation is voluntary and unfunded; requires local knowledge, technical capacity, and staff time – none of which the Bureau provides.

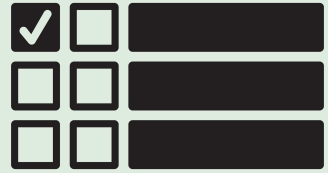
The LUCA timeline*



- ❑ **Now → May 2027: Groundwork & stakeholder education.** Assess capacity, organize address data, identify priority areas, secure local resources.
- ❑ **May → Aug 2027: Prepare to participate.** Invitations go out. Highest elected official responds and names a LUCA liaison. No submissions accepted yet.
- ❑ **Oct 2027 → Mar 2028: Review address list and submit changes.** Compare the Bureau's list against local records; submit additions, deletions, corrections, and geographic updates. **Firm deadline: March 31, 2028.**
- ❑ **March 2029: Feedback on submissions; option to submit appeals.** Address-level feedback returned. 60 days to file an appeal through OMB's independent process.
- ❑ **Late 2029: Closeout.** Access to confidential* files ends; materials must be destroyed except the summary page.
- ❑ **April 1, 2030: Census Day.**

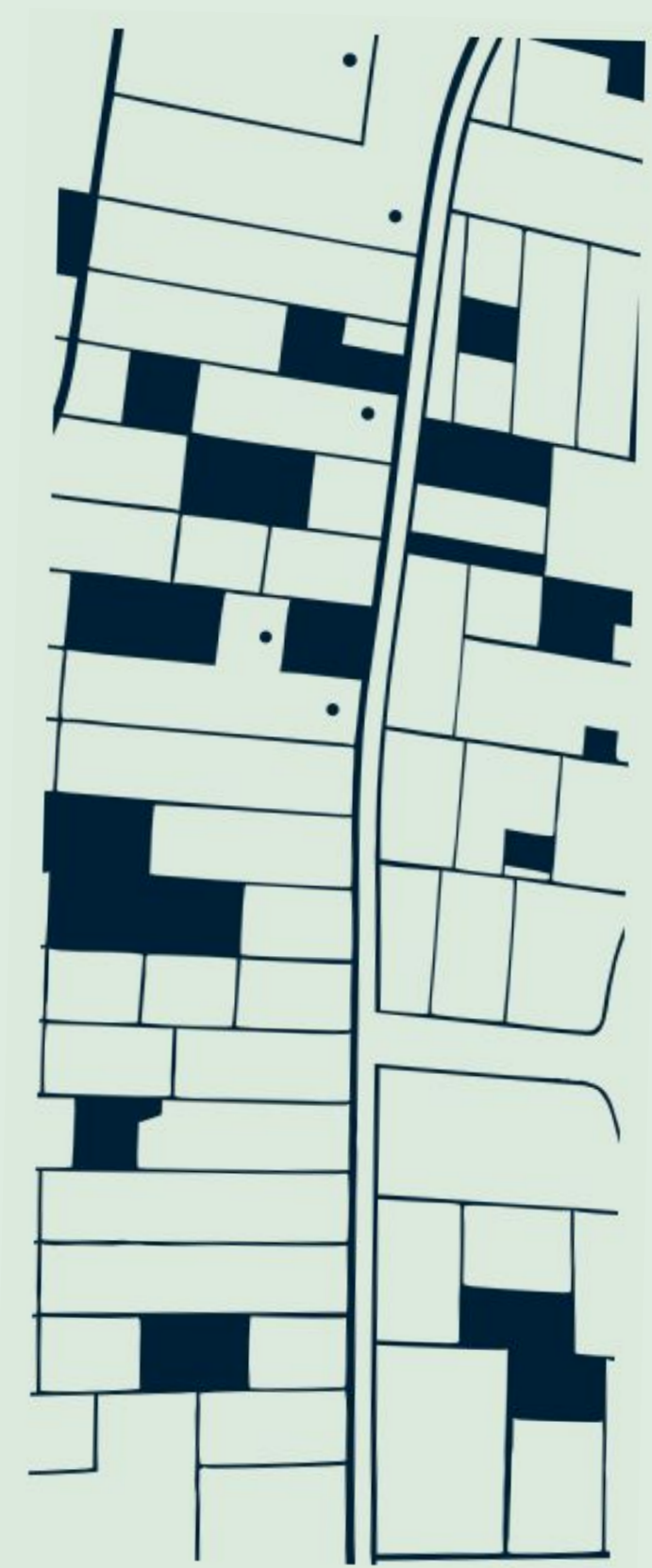


Where addresses are missed:

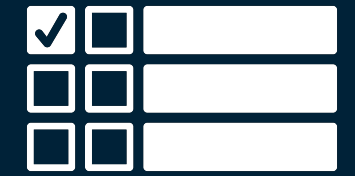


- **Casitas, guest houses, converted garages, and accessory dwelling units**
- **Internally subdivided homes and informal units sharing one mailbox**
- **Housing without a city-style address (number + street name)**
- **Addresses served only by P.O. Box, rural route, or 911 coordinates**
- **Rapidly built subdivisions where construction outpaced the address file**
- **Seasonal, RV, and park-model housing occupied as primary residences**
- **Group quarters — dorms, nursing homes, correctional and group facilities**

the **LUCA** *Process*

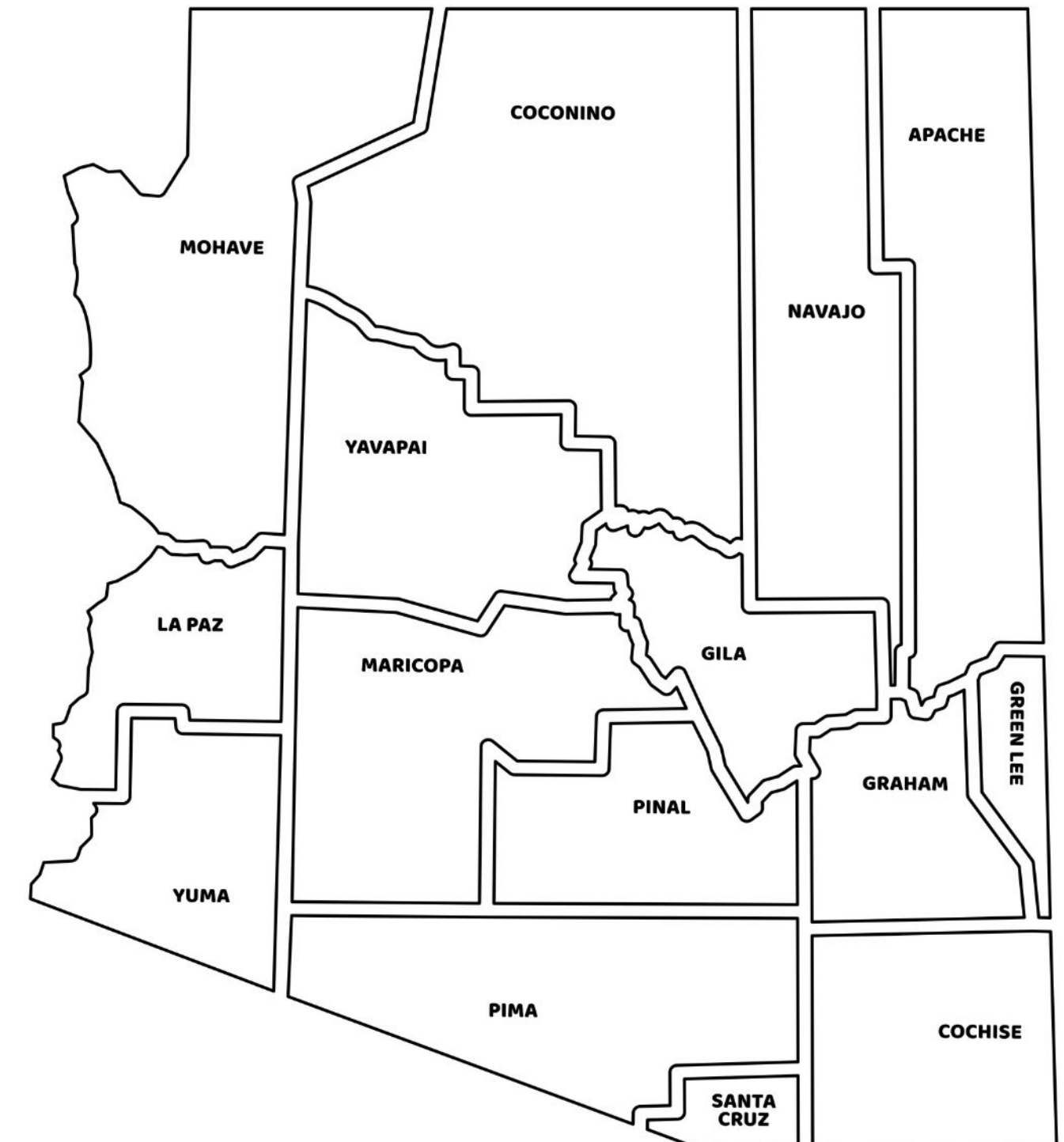


Who is eligible to participate?



Determine WHO is eligible to participate – and what that means for Arizona.

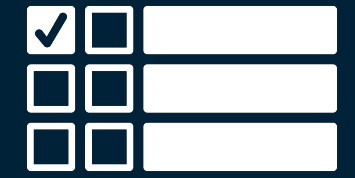
- **Nationally eligible:** federally recognized tribal nations with reservation and/or off reservation trust lands, states, DC, and Puerto Rico; counties and municipios; incorporated places; and minor civil divisions.
- **In Arizona that is** the State, 15 counties, 91 incorporated cities and towns, and 22 federally recognized tribal nations.
- **Smaller jurisdictions can delegate** the review to their county, the state, a council of governments, or a regional planning agency – and can use the support of local organizations.



Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau 2030](#) | [LUCA Working Group](#)

What is different for 2030?

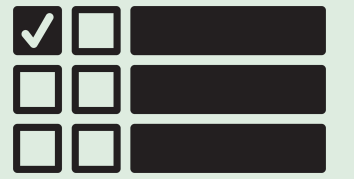
Earlier preparation, digital participation, and a more targeted review



- **Earlier preparation:** Address Count Listing Files are available now. From May–August 2027, governments can train, compare block counts, and practice an address review.
- **Digital participation:** There will be no paper materials. Participants may use GUPS Web or download the address list for review with their own GIS and added security controls.
- **Improved tools:** Web-based tools, address matching, and a secure portal will support registration and review.
- **Data-driven review:** Governments can focus on whether blocks contain the right number of addresses in the right locations.
- **More review time:** Formal LUCA runs from October 2027–March 31, 2028—up to six months, compared with four months in 2020. Participants may appeal determinations to OMB.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau 2030](#) | [LUCA Working Group](#)

TITLE 13: CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS

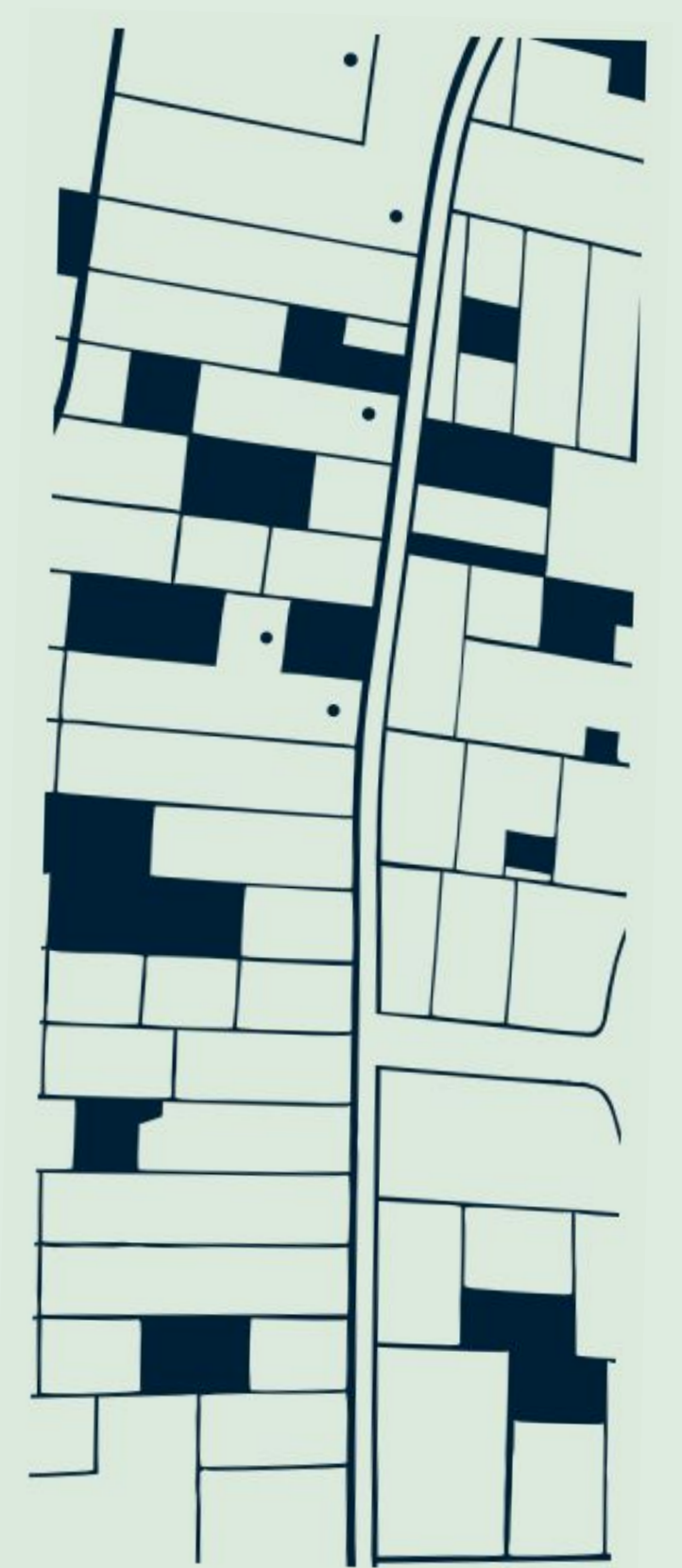


LUCA data is protected under the same federal laws (**Title 13, U.S. Code**) as all Census Bureau activities, ensuring ***no personal information*** can be used for legal, administrative, or law enforcement purposes.

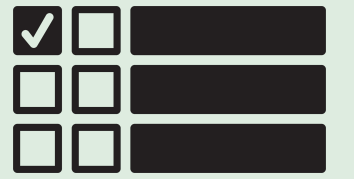
- Authorized Address Review Participants **must complete** the LUCA Security Checklist and Confidentiality Agreement.
- The Census Address List and other Title 13 materials may be used only for the **authorized statistical review** and may not be shared with unauthorized persons.
- Community members, contractors, interns, or university partners may assist only if **formally designated** and permitted under the LUCA confidentiality framework.
- All LUCA staff, including eligible government officials and team members, must take a confidentiality oath with serious **legal penalties** for violations.
 - ➔ Wrongful disclosure can carry penalties of up to 5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$250,000

Preparing for LUCA:

Lessons from 2020



2020 LUCA Participation: What the data shows



8,628 total respondents nationwide

Only ~29% of eligible governments actively participated.

- **Midwest led participation (36%) despite smaller population**

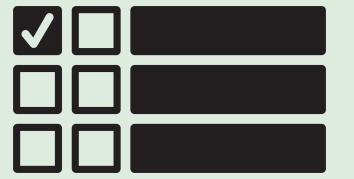
Lower Participation in:

- **Rural areas**
- **Tribal areas**
- **States with fewer local govts**

Top States:

- **Pennsylvania (645)**
- **Illinois (461)**
- **Georgia (459)**
- **Minnesota (409)**
- **California (404)**

Arizona's own 2020 record



- **60 of 91 cities and towns participated.** About 66% participation rate, more than double the 27% national rate for incorporated places.
- **11 of 15 counties participated.** Apache, Graham, La Paz, and Navajo counties did not.
- **5 of 22 tribal nations appear.** Gila River, Hopi, Salt River, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Fort Mojave.
- **The State participated.** Led by the Deputy State Cartographer at the Arizona State Land Department.
- **72 state-assigned Arizona respondents, plus five Tribal Nations listed separately.**

Source: [2020 LUCA Respondents List](#) (U.S. Census Bureau)

THE FIVE PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Recommendations from the LUCA Working Group

1 Local Address Data Capacity

2 Local Knowledge of High-Priority Areas

3 Partnerships with Trusted Voices

4 Assessment of Housing and Group Quarters

5 Understanding Geographic Gaps



LUCA Case Studies: five jurisdictions, five conditions

New Mexico Tribal Areas — one tribal partnership alone identified 450+ additional housing units, about 9% of that tribe's total housing. State LUCA liaison supplied GIS tools, aerial imagery, technical assistance, and shared workspace; tribal governments supplied the local knowledge.

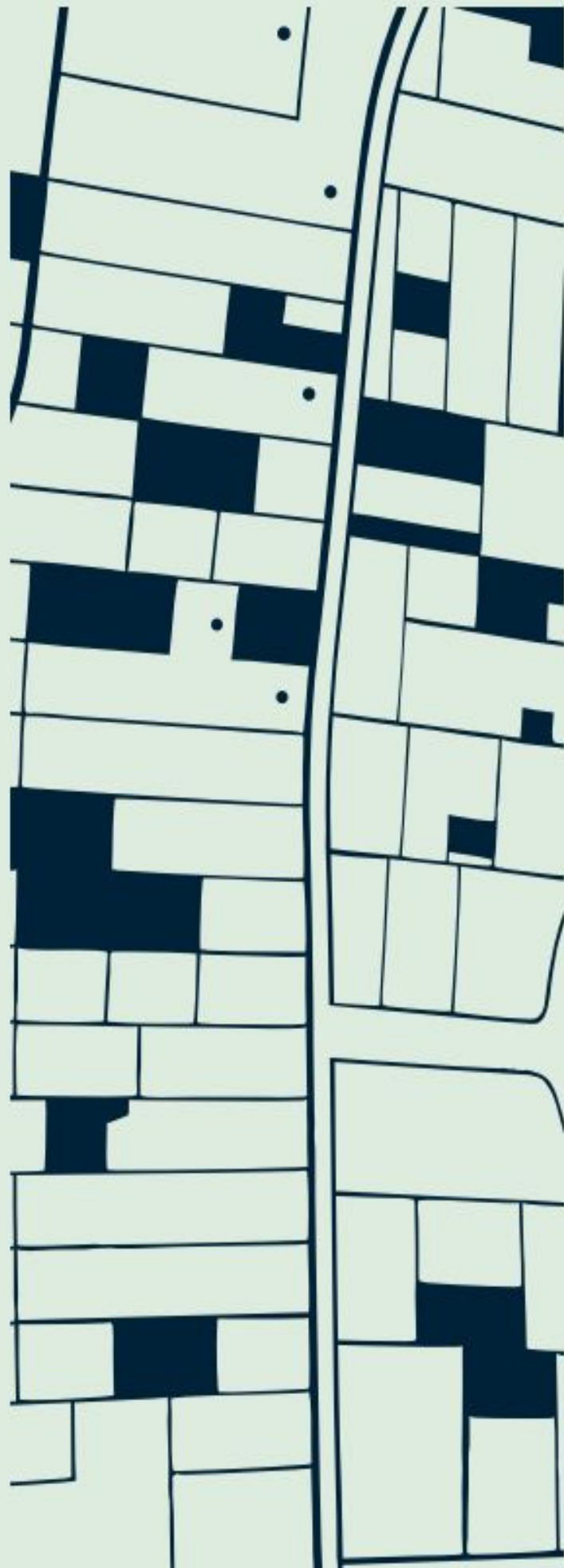
Issaquah, Washington — nearly 600 missing units found using a city GIS database originally built for emergency response, not for the census. The additions were 17% of the housing enumerated in one neighborhood.

Hidalgo County, Texas — roughly 10,000 address updates countywide. In Pueblo de Palmas, 73% of the community's 2020 housing count was added through LUCA, helping ensure an accurate count of more than 20,000 residents.

Fresno, California — community canvassing plus digital mapping raised the county housing count by about 4%, with nearly three-quarters of additions being non-postal housing. Similar work across six California counties added nearly 13,000 units.

Clark and Pershing Counties, Nevada — state-coordinated review added 110 units in fast-growing North Las Vegas and 76 in rural Pershing County.



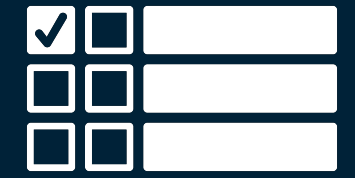


Four lessons Arizona can adapt:



- 1. State coordination works across different settings:**
Nevada reviews added 110 housing units in fast-growing North Las Vegas and 76 in rural Pershing County.
- 2. Tribal knowledge plus state technical support is powerful:** one New Mexico partnership identified more than 450 housing units - about 9% of the tribe's housing.
- 3. Service-delivery GIS can double as census infrastructure:** Issaquah identified nearly 600 units, including 17% of housing in one fast-growing neighborhood.
- 4. Trusted local canvassing finds non-postal housing:**
Fresno's effort increased the county housing count by about 4%, with nearly three-quarters of additions involving non-postal housing.

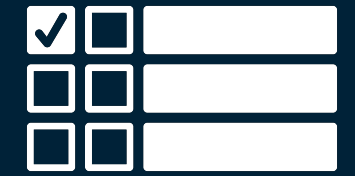
Make the Case: Now → Spring 2027



- ❑ **Inventory your address data.** Which departments hold addressing? Typically 911 and emergency dispatch, planning, building permits, GIS, utility billing, and the assessor at the county. Find out what exists, who maintains it, and how current it is.
- ❑ **Compare and prioritize.** Map your local counts against the Bureau's block-level counts. Flag blocks where the gap is largest — those become your priority review areas in 2027.
- ❑ **Get trained.** Census Academy, Census Bureau LUCA trainings, LUCA Working Group sessions, NLC's monthly LUCA office hours, and Census Counts briefings.
- ❑ **Scope the resources.** Estimate staff hours and any contract or software needs. The Working Group's companion resource, *The Details: Tasks, Required Skills, and Costs of a LUCA Plan*, includes model spreadsheets you can customize.
- ❑ **Get it into the FY28 budget conversation.** If participation needs money, the request has to exist before the window opens, not after.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) | [LUCA Resource Guide](#)

Preparing for LUCA: the time is now!



- ❑ **Name someone.** Designate a staff lead now – most likely in GIS, planning or IT. Not a formal LUCA liaison appointment yet, just a person who owns the file.
- ❑ **Find out what you did in 2020.** If your jurisdiction participated in 2020, find the department that led the address update and whether that person is still there.
- ❑ **Flag the May 2027 formal invitation from the Census Bureau.** Make sure the mayor's office and clerk know an email is coming to the highest elected official and who it should be forward to.
- ❑ **Pull your block counts.** Download the Address Count Listing Files for your county and look at housing unit counts by census block against what you know is on the ground.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) | [LUCA Resource Guide](#)

Get support.



- **Census Bureau.** Denver Regional Office. Arizona is served by Denver, not Los Angeles.
1.800.852.6159 | 2030.luca@census.gov
- **Arizona State Data Center.** oeo.az.gov/population/state-data-center
- **Arizona State Land Department.** 602.542.4631 | pr@azland.gov
- **National League of Cities.** The 2030 LUCA resource collection, the interactive 2020 participation map, FAQs, and monthly LUCA office hours. census@nlc.org
- **2030 Census National LUCA Working Group.** info@luca-census.org — the Resource Guide, case studies, planning spreadsheets, and trainings.
- **The Leadership Conference | Census Counts.** censuscounts.org | censusroadmap.org



stay in touch!

Esteban Camarena | *Sr. Program Manager* – The Leadership Conference Education Fund | Census Counts

[camarena@civilrights.org]

LUCA

*Begin your
preparations now!*