Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

New Mexico SDC Meeting

Chris Wingate
Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Agenda

- Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
  - BAS Overview
  - American Community Survey (ACS) and Population Estimates Program (PEP)
  - Why is BAS important and who should respond?
  - BAS Annual Response
  - BAS Schedule
  - What’s new in 2017 BAS!
  - Participation Methods (Digital BAS, GUPS, Paper Maps)
  - State and County Agreements
  - State Certification
  - Geographic Partnerships website (emphasis on BAS)

- Boundary Quality Assessment and Review Project (BQARP)
Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

- Annual, voluntary survey to collect legal status and boundary updates for tribal, state, and local governments.

- Boundary updates submitted as part of the BAS must be legally in effect on or before January 1st of each BAS year.

- Boundary updates submitted March 1st are reflected in the American Community Survey and Population Estimates data.

- Boundary updates submitted by May 31st are reflected in the following year’s BAS materials (digital files and paper maps).
Governmental Units (GUs) included in the BAS:

- Counties
- Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs)
- Incorporated Places
- Consolidated Cities (e.g. Louisville/Jefferson County)
- American Indian reservations and federally recognized off-reservation trust lands
Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

- **Why do we conduct the BAS?**
  - Ensure that population and housing counts are assigned to the correct geography in all Census Bureau products.
  - Support the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-16
    - Collecting and maintain boundaries for legal areas
    - Geo.data.gov
    - The National Map (http://nationalmap.gov/)
  - Present statistics for various censuses and surveys:
    - American Community Survey (ACS)
    - Population Estimates Program (PEP)
    - Economic Census
    - Decennial Census Programs
American Community Survey (ACS)

- A monthly nationwide survey providing communities with a fresh look at how they are changing.
- Collects and produces population and housing information every year.
- The ACS reports data for legal areas and some statistical areas, using the most recent boundary information from the BAS.
- The ACS releases demographic, housing, social, and economic data for smaller communities and statistical areas for 5-year period estimates.

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/
Population Estimates Program (PEP)

- Re-tabulates the most recent decennial census results in the current year’s geography to update the Census Bureau’s official population estimates.
- Uses boundary information collected during the BAS.
- [http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html)
Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

- Why should governmental units respond to the BAS?
  - Local officials know their geography best
  - State, county, city, and tribal areas will all benefit from a more accurate data tabulation
  - The BAS has implications for the allocation of federal funds, and in some states, state funds as well
  - Provides important information for community planning and decision-making
Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

How does the Census Bureau determine the BAS contact?

- Local officials tell us.
- A local government employee responding to the BAS for consecutive years will be assigned as the BAS contact.
- If we have not received a BAS response for several years, we will attempt to establish a contact in either the local planning or GIS department.
- The State Data Center (SDC) provides contact updates to the Census Bureau during the telephone follow-up phase of BAS.
- If contact cannot be established, the BAS materials are mailed to the Highest Elected Official (HEO).
- For federally recognized tribes, the BAS materials are mailed to the Tribal Chairperson unless the tribe provides another contact.
Annual Response:

- Annual response letters emailed to BAS contacts for all governmental units in December.

- Respondents provide updates to the HEO/BAS contacts and indicate whether or not they have boundary changes to report.

- PDF maps, shapefiles, and forms are available on the BAS website.
# 2017 BAS Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Response Email</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annexation Effective Date (for inclusion in ACS and PEP data)</td>
<td>January 1, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAS Submission Deadline (for inclusion in ACS and PEP data)</td>
<td>March 1, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Data Center NRFU</td>
<td>March and April 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final BAS Submission Deadline (for inclusion in 2018 BAS materials)</td>
<td>May 31, 2017</td>
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2017 BAS – What’s New?

- Update to annual response email, BAS forms, and website
- GUPS enhancements (tribal module, contact information, embedded videos, address information)
- GUPS Tool available for download
- Redistricting data contacts participating in the BBSP verification phase may submit boundary updates for reconciliation with BAS contacts
- On-site trainings and webinars
2017 BAS - Participation Methods

- **Digital BAS**
  - Designed to accept submissions from *experienced* users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) who have the ability to modify Census Bureau spatial data
  - Spatial data provided in GIS shapefile format
  - Goal is to provide governmental units the option to use a GIS to create BAS submission files and electronically submit the files to the Census Bureau
GUPS

GUPS is based on an open-source platform known as QGIS. It is a customized geographic information system (GIS) provided by the Census Bureau. GUPS is tailored to meet the needs of those without extensive GIS experience and replaces the MAF/TIGER Partnership Software (MTPS) previously used in BAS.
2017 BAS - Participation Methods

- **Paper**
  - Paper BAS is designed for participants who prefer to update their boundary and attribute information on paper maps. Participants annotate their boundary, feature, and attribute changes on Census Bureau-provided paper maps.
BAS State Agreements

- Available to states that mandate local governments report boundary updates to the state government.

- Under this agreement, states report to the BAS by:
  - Submitting all boundary updates in the state, OR
  - Submitting a list of entities that had boundary updates.

- State participation improves the BAS process in the following ways:
  - Reduces duplication of effort in collecting information
  - Reduces the burden on local governments
  - Improves the completeness of the boundary data collected in a given year
The county government responds to the BAS for governmental units within their jurisdiction.

County agreement does not require every entity to sign on.

County participation improves the BAS process by:
  - Reducing the burden on local governments
  - Improving the completeness of the reported boundary data
BAS State Certification

- A program for state governments to review information that local governments reported during previous BAS years
  - Legal boundary changes (annexations and deannexations)
  - Function status of governments
  - Legal names of governmental units

- The current year state certification reports information collected during the previous BAS year
  - Example: 2016 State Certification reports information collected during the 2015 BAS
BAS State Certification – Why?

- Verify that legal boundary changes and governmental unit status changes reported to the BAS are legal.

- Maintain the accuracy and completeness of boundary information:
  - The Census Bureau is responsible for collecting and maintaining correct legal boundary information.
  - Verify that MAF/TIGER matches what is in each state’s records

- Verify the attribute information submitted during the BAS is correct:
  - Ordinance numbers
  - Effective dates
  - Authorization types
The extent of State Certification varies depending on each state’s laws for incorporations/disincorporations and boundary changes.

Some states have strong state laws requiring local governments to report their boundary changes to the state government:
- The state contact has the authority to request that the Census Bureau edit or delete changes submitted during BAS.

In states without such provisions, the Census Bureau will not edit or revert changes without conferring with the local government.
In strong law states, the state contact may notify the Census Bureau of any missing or illegal boundary changes:
- The local entity is sent a discrepancy letter describing the issue.

For boundary changes missing from the Census file:
- The entity may simply report the missing boundary change to the BAS.

For boundary changes flagged as invalid by the state:
- The entity is responsible for resolving the discrepancy with the proper state authority.
- After resolving the issue, the entity may submit the valid boundary change to the BAS.
Legal Disputes

- If it comes to our attention that an area of land is in dispute between two or more jurisdictions, we will not make boundary changes until the parties come to a written agreement, or there is a documented final court decision regarding the matter/dispute.
BAS Website

- **BAS Website:** Contains BAS program information, schedule, BAS maps and shapefiles, BAS forms, etc:
  
  [http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html)
Boundary Quality Assessment and Review Program (BQARP)
BQARP

- Pilot project comparing locally sourced data to adjust Census Bureau boundaries, where necessary

- Coordinating efforts with state partners
  - **North Carolina:** Worked with state to acquire surveyed county boundaries

- Improving the spatial quality of legal and administrative boundaries within the MAF/TIGER System
  - Establish spatial accuracy for each boundary section
  - Lock boundaries in place to avoid changes without legal documentation

- Accurate legal boundaries will improve the quality of demographic statistics and assure that subsequently funding and fund allocation through the Census Bureau counts are accurately distributed
Boundary Quality Assessment and Reconciliation Project (BQARP)
Program Status as of June 2016
Questions?

Contact Us
Email: geo.bas@census.gov
Phone: 1-800-972-5651 (toll free)
Alternate: 1-301-763-1099