

The U.S. Census

“Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons¹. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.”

U.S. Constitution: Article 1, Section 2

¹. Later modified by the 14th Amendment Section 2 (see also 15th Amendment and 19th Amendment)

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First U.S. Census: 1790

- Allocation of congressional seats
- Allocation of electoral votes
- Allocation of government program funds

The Census changes with society, and the three criteria explain why those changes are contested

