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U.S. Census Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

WHAT

BAS is a Census Bureau survey that allows local governments, minor civil divisions, counties, and states, as well as tribal governments, to submit changes to their legal boundaries, names, and governmental status effective on or before January 1, 2016.

WHEN

The BAS is conducted annually. Entities receive notice of the program open schedule around December with changes due March 1, 2016 in order to be included in the Population Estimates program and American Community Survey. Note: Updates received after May 31, 2016 will be included in the 2017 BAS updates.

WHY

The BAS ensures current and accurate boundaries of governmental units for use in tabulating and presenting statistical data released from censuses and surveys.

The Census Bureau uses the BAS results to support a number of programs, including congressional and state legislative redistricting, the Decennial Census and related preparatory tests, the Economic Census, and the Special Census program. The annual American Community Survey uses BAS boundaries to tabulate survey results, and the Population Estimates Program uses BAS to ensure that the most current boundaries are available in the annual release of population estimates.

Numerous federal programs rely on accurate boundaries from each BAS. The United States Geological Survey depicts the annual BAS boundaries on their on-line National Map Service. The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses BAS boundaries to determine jurisdictional eligibility for various grant programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant program. The Department of Agriculture uses BAS boundaries to determine eligibility for various rural housing and economic development programs.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016

There will be a paper BAS option in 2016 with maps available on paper or online. For digital submission, the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) replaces the MAF/TIGER Partnership Software (MTPS). All BAS submissions must be submitted through the Census Bureau's Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM). Local governments must apply for a SWIM token to respond online (To apply: http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html). Communities with no changes still need to respond online through the response form (SWIM). BAS participants reporting boundary changes (annexations or deannexations) are required to include the authorization type (i.e. resolution, ordinance, local law, state level action or other).

QUESTIONS

For more information please contact: Lisa Miller, Data/Graphics/GIS Director, (309) 793-6302, ext. 133, lmiller@bistateonline.org or Mike Saponaro, Planner, (309) 793-6302, ext. 131, msaponaro@bistateonline.org. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html>.