

**Important Census Update**

The U.S. Census Bureau just announced that the “Legacy Format” of the 2020 Census that is needed for redistricting will be released to the public on Aug. 12 – a week from today.

As you recall from our previous Redistricting Reports, the Legacy Format of the Census is like the IKEA furniture version of the Census: The Bureau will give us all the pieces, but it’s unassembled and will require a little bit of time – we estimate a few days to a whole week before the Census data will be usable for the purposes of redistricting.

For most redistricting happening outside of California, the assembly of the redistricting-ready file from the Legacy Format will mean those agencies and the public will be ready – at long last – to draw lines with the datasets they’ll need to conduct and adopt a new redistricted map.

For California’s statewide commission, counties and cities, there is still an additional step to go.

The Statewide Database is responsible for reallocating the state prisoner population so that they are removed from the group quarters where they were located on April 1, 2020 and then reassigned to the last known address (or smallest known geography, like street, town, etc.) where they resided at the time of their arrest. This prisoner population reallocation is estimated to take nearly a full month after next Thursday’s release, and only then will California’s agencies have in hand the final dataset they can use to redraw the lines for congressional, legislative, county supervisor, and city council lines.