

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES

FOR THE

BLOCK BOUNDARY SUGGESTION PROJECT OF THE

2030 CENSUS REDISTRICTING DATA PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
490 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, SUITE 411
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 986-4600

ISSUE DATE: January 7, 2026

NOTICE

The New Mexico Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978, imposes civil and criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Council Service (LCS) invites individuals (Offerors) to submit proposals in accordance with the outlines and specifications contained in this request for proposals (RFP). This RFP contains specific requests for information. In responding to this RFP, Offerors are encouraged to provide any additional information they believe is relevant.

The purpose of this procurement is to select a Contractor to provide professional consulting services to the New Mexico Legislature. The work performed by the Contractor will enable the State of New Mexico to participate in Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program conducted by the United States Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau). Participation in this program will enable the New Mexico Legislature to accomplish its redistricting responsibilities in an efficient and accurate manner.

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
A. Release of RFP	January 7, 2026
B. Deadline for Submission of Proposals	January 28, 2026 (4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time)
C. Evaluation of Proposals and Selection	January 30, 2026

The selection date is subject to extension at the discretion of the LCS. The effective date of the Contract is tentative; it is dependent on the selection date, the length of time required for Contract negotiation and the length of time for processing the Contract.

The events identified in the schedule above are briefly described below.

A. Release of RFP. This RFP will be advertised in two (2) newspapers of general circulation pursuant to Sections 13-1-104 and 13-1-113 NMSA 1978, and prospective Offerors may direct questions about the RFP to Shawna Casebier, Director, at the office of the LCS, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 411, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501; by telephone at (505) 986-4600; or by email to shawna.casebier@nmlegis.gov.

B. Submission of Proposals. Offerors shall submit their proposals and supporting documentation via email in electronic format to Shawna Casebier, Director, at shawna.casebier@nmlegis.gov. Proposals must be in the format specified in Paragraph 6 of this RFP and must be signed by the Offeror. The LCS will not accept a hard copy of a proposal.

The deadline for receipt of proposals by the LCS is January 28, 2026, no later than 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Proposals will be deemed received as of the time reflected on the email receipt electronic record.

All proposals must be submitted with the email subject line: "Proposal for Professional Consulting Services for the First Phase of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program".

C. Modification or Withdrawal of Proposals. A proposal may be modified by an Offeror prior to the deadline for submission of proposals by emailing a written modification to the above email address. The email subject line shall read: "Modification to Proposal for Professional Consulting Services for the First Phase of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program".

A proposal may be withdrawn prior to the deadline for submission of proposals by delivering email notice or by telephone notification to the Director of the LCS.

Any proposal or modification received after the deadline for submission of proposals will be considered to be late. Unless a late proposal is the only one received, no late proposal or late modification will be considered unless it would have been timely but for the action or inaction of the LCS. Time limits will not otherwise be waived.

Proposals will not be opened publicly and will not be open to public inspection until after award of the Contract.

D. Evaluation of Proposals and Selection of Offeror. Proposals will be evaluated by the LCS using the criteria listed in Paragraph 8 of this RFP. During the evaluation process, the LCS may seek clarification from Offerors but will NOT negotiate with Offerors.

The individual selected to perform the work and those individuals not selected will be notified by the LCS. Selection does NOT constitute an obligation to contract with the successful Offeror.

3. AMENDMENTS TO RFP

If there are any amendments to this RFP, they shall be in writing and shall be emailed to all individuals who have notified the LCS of their intent to respond to the RFP and shall be posted on the legislative website at: https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Request_For_Proposals.

Amendments shall be distributed with sufficient time to allow Offerors to consider the amendments in preparing their proposals. The deadline for submission of proposals may be extended by amendment.

4. CANCELLATION OF RFP; REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

The LCS reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time and for any reason.

Any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when it is in the interest of the LCS to do so. The LCS is not responsible for the payment of any costs incurred by the Offeror in the preparation or submission of a proposal.

The issuance of this RFP, the receipt of proposals or the selection of a proposal in no manner obligates the LCS to the eventual purchase of services. This process is solely at the discretion of the LCS and may be terminated without penalty or obligation at any time prior to the signing of a written contract.

5. PROTEST DEADLINE

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely and in conformance with Section 13-1-172 NMSA 1978. As a Protest Manager has been named in this RFP, pursuant to Section 13-1-172 NMSA 1978, only protests delivered to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute and this RFP. The fifteen (15)-calendar-day protest period shall begin on the day following the award of contracts and shall end at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on the fifteenth (15th) day. Protests shall be written and shall include the name and address of the protestor and the RFP number. Protests shall also contain a statement of the grounds for protest, including appropriate supporting exhibits, and shall specify the ruling requested from the Protest Manager listed below. The protest must be delivered via email at gerardo.paredes@nmlegis.gov to:

Gerardo A. Paredes Jr., Chief Procurement Officer (Protest Manager)
Legislative Council Service
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 411
Santa Fe, NM 87501.

6. PROPOSAL FORMAT

Offerors must include the following information in their proposals:

A. Letter of Transmittal. Include the following information:

- (1) the name, address and telephone number of the Offeror;
- (2) the signature of the Offeror;
- (3) the date of the proposal;
- (4) a statement that the Offeror, if awarded the Contract, will comply with the Contract terms and conditions set forth in this RFP; and
- (5) a statement that the Offeror's proposal is valid for thirty (30) days after the deadline for submission of proposals.

B. Description of Services. Describe how the services will be provided or what tasks will be performed to accomplish the scope of work contained in Paragraph 7 of this RFP. (The scope of work indicates "what" the Offeror is supposed to do; the description of services should show "how" the Offeror intends to perform the services.)

C. Remuneration. The Offeror must state the maximum number of hours available for providing services to the LCS pursuant to the Contract. The Offeror must state the hourly rate for which the services will be provided. The Contractor will be compensated no more often than monthly at an hourly rate for work performed in the preceding month. The rate will be that agreed upon by the LCS and the Contractor, but not in excess of prevailing rates in the state for

comparable services. The Contractor will be reimbursed for incurred and separately stated applicable gross receipts taxes.

D. Related Experience and Qualifications. The Offeror must include in the proposal educational degrees, prior experience and qualifications related to accomplishing the scope of work contained in Paragraph 7 of this RFP. This portion of the proposal must demonstrate the extent to which the Offeror is qualified to perform both the scope of work outlined in this RFP and the specific services contained in the description of services portion of the Offeror's proposal.

The Offeror's ability to meet the evaluation factors contained in Paragraph 8 of this RFP must be stated in this section of the proposal.

7. SCOPE OF WORK

The Contractor shall furnish the following services to the LCS as requested and directed by the Director of the LCS.

A. The Contractor shall review and edit the state's census tabulation block boundaries and work with appropriate Census Bureau officials to ensure that necessary additions and deletions are made to the census block maps in anticipation of the 2030 federal decennial census. The editing function shall include:

(1) correcting errors on existing block boundaries;

(2) identifying block boundaries that need to be held or not held; and

(3) performing geographic review and updates as described in the Census Bureau's Block Boundary Suggestion Project Participant Guide.

B. The Contractor may use the Geographic Updates Partnership Software (GUPS) supplied by the Census Bureau to facilitate the state's participation in the Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP) or use its own geographic information system (GIS) software to modify and update the Census Bureau shapefiles, though the GUPS is the Census Bureau's recommended tool for submission and review of block boundary suggestions.

C. The Contractor shall identify and work with local government officials and other individuals knowledgeable in geographic boundaries and local development to obtain information regarding suggested block boundary modifications and deletions. The Contractor should anticipate that extensive coordination with local officials and other individuals will be required to complete the project. The Contractor should also anticipate the need to obtain information from state, city and county planning offices, city and county clerks, councils of government and other informed individuals and entities.

D. Through the LCS, the Contractor shall interact with the Census Bureau to coordinate the actual submission of responses for participation in the BBSP and submit completed work through the Director of the LCS, who is the state redistricting data program liaison, on the block boundaries of each county to the Census Bureau, with final submission to be completed by May 29, 2026. Upon receipt from the Census Bureau of the updated BBSP files, which is scheduled for early 2027, the Contractor shall conduct the verification phase of the project.

E. The Contractor shall provide such other related services as requested by the Director of the LCS to complete Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program.

8. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The responsible Offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the LCS shall be selected to perform the services. The inclusion of cost as a factor is not intended to require the LCS to select the lowest-cost proposal. The following evaluation factors shall be considered in order of importance:

A. experience and qualification in utilization of census maps, familiarity with geographic mapping issues in New Mexico, working with local and state officials and other informed individuals in the state, understanding and the ability to use technology and understanding census procedures to be utilized by the Census Bureau during Phase 1 of the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program (50%);

B. the approach to be used and the ability to perform the work in the required time frame (30%);

C. client references (15%); and

D. cost (5%).

9. CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Contract between the LCS and the successful Offeror will contain substantially the following terms and conditions. In the letter of transmittal, the Offeror must include a statement agreeing to these terms and conditions.

A. Scope of Work. This portion of the Contract will be drafted following selection of an Offeror to perform the services. It will incorporate the scope of work in Paragraph 7 of this RFP and the description of services from the Offeror's proposal.

B. Compensation. The total compensation will not exceed the limit specified in the Contract. The total amount will include applicable New Mexico gross receipts taxes for which the Contractor is responsible. The hourly rate will be specified in the Contract.

C. Term. The Contract shall be effective from the date of execution through completion of the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2027. The Contract may be amended in

writing by mutual agreement of the parties to the Contract if additional work is requested by the LCS. The Contract may be renewed upon the agreement of both parties for up to three (3) additional years.

D. Termination. The Contract may be terminated by either of the parties upon written notice delivered to the other party at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of termination. A party may not nullify obligations or liabilities already incurred for performance or for failure to perform prior to the date of termination.

E. Status of Contractor. The Contractor is an independent contractor performing professional services for the LCS and is not an employee of the State of New Mexico. The Contractor will not accrue leave, retirement, insurance, bonding, use of state vehicles or any other benefits afforded to employees of the State of New Mexico by virtue of the Contract.

F. Assignment. The Contractor may not assign or transfer any interest in the Contract or assign any claims for money due or to become due under the Contract without the prior written approval of the LCS.

G. Subcontracting. The Contractor may not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under the Contract without the prior written approval of the LCS.

H. Records and Audit. The Contractor must maintain detailed time records that indicate the date, time and nature of services rendered. These records are subject to inspection by the LCS and the State Auditor. The LCS has the right to audit billings both before and after payment. Payment under the Contract does not foreclose the right of the LCS to recover excessive or illegal payments.

I. Release. The Contractor will, upon final payment of the amount due under the Contract, release the LCS, its officers and employees and the State of New Mexico from all liabilities, claims and obligations whatsoever arising from or under the Contract. The Contractor may not purport to bind the State of New Mexico to any obligation not assumed in the Contract by the State of New Mexico, unless the Contractor has express written authority from the LCS to do so, and then only within the strict limits of that authority.

J. Confidentiality. Any information provided to or developed by the Contractor in the performance of the Contract must be kept confidential and may not be made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the LCS.

K. Product of Service; Copyright. All work and rights to work produced, developed or acquired by the Contractor under the Contract, including ownership of any copyrights to work produced under the Contract, shall be transferred to and become the exclusive property of the State of New Mexico, and all materials developed or acquired under the Contract shall be delivered to the LCS not later than the termination date of the Contract. The Contractor and LCS

acknowledge that the compensation paid to the Contractor is due consideration for transfer of ownership of any copyrights for work produced under the Contract.

L. Conflict of Interest. The Contractor must warrant that the Contractor has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict with the performance of services required under the Contract.

M. Amendment. The Contract may not be altered, changed or amended except by an instrument in writing executed by the parties.

N. Merger. The Contract incorporates all of the agreements, covenants and understandings between the parties thereto concerning the subject matter thereof. No prior agreement or understanding, verbal or otherwise, of the parties is valid or enforceable unless embodied in the Contract.

O. Applicable Law. The Contract will be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

P. Waiver. No waiver of any breach of the Contract or any of its terms or conditions shall be a waiver of any other or subsequent breach; a waiver is not valid unless it is in writing and signed by the party granting the waiver.

Q. Appropriation. The terms of the Contract are contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorization being made to the LCS by the New Mexico Legislature or other funding agency. If sufficient appropriations and authorization are not made by the New Mexico Legislature or other funding agency, the Contract terminates immediately upon the Contractor's receipt of written notice of termination from the LCS. The LCS's decision of whether sufficient appropriations and authorization are made by the New Mexico Legislature must be accepted by the Contractor and is final.

R. Notice. The Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978, imposes civil and criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

S. Equal Opportunity Compliance. The Contractor must comply with all federal and state laws pertaining to equal employment opportunity. In accordance with all such laws, the Contractor must assure that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual preference, age or handicap, be excluded from employment with or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity performed under the Contract. If the Contractor is found to be not in compliance with these requirements during the life of the Contract, the Contractor must take appropriate steps to correct these deficiencies.