

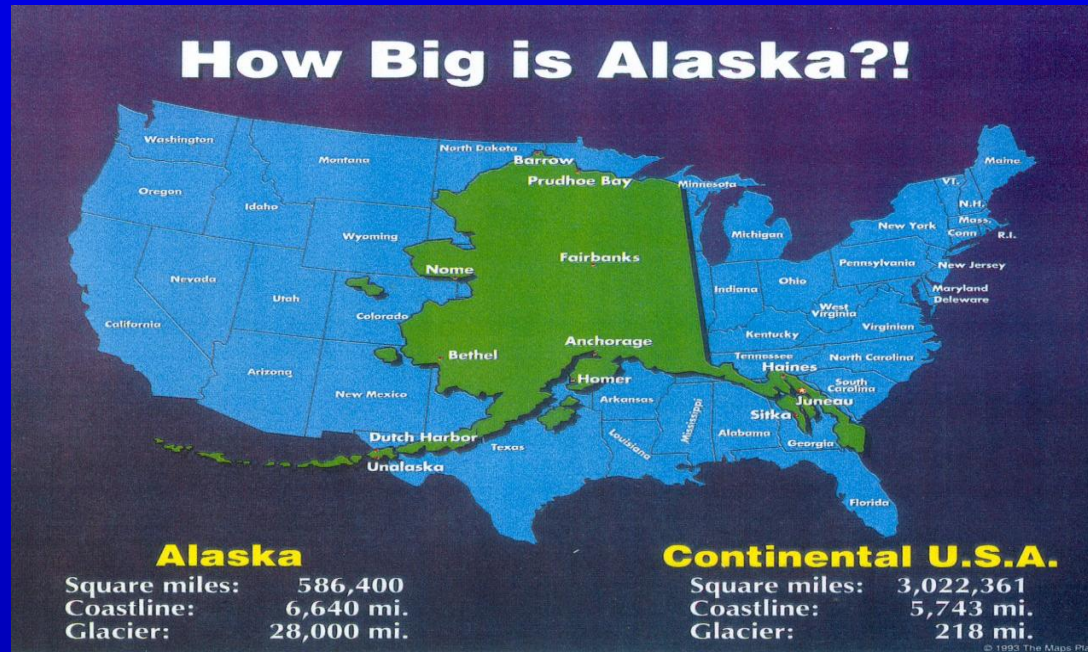
# The 2010 Census in Alaska

*Alaska House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor and Commerce Meeting  
February 5, 2010*

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Seattle Regional Census Center*

*Mark Tanguay, Director  
Alaska Local Census Office*

# Alaska - this isn't the Lower 48!



- Size
- Transportation
- Climate and weather uncertainties
- Culture and language diversity

# Why A Local Census Office?

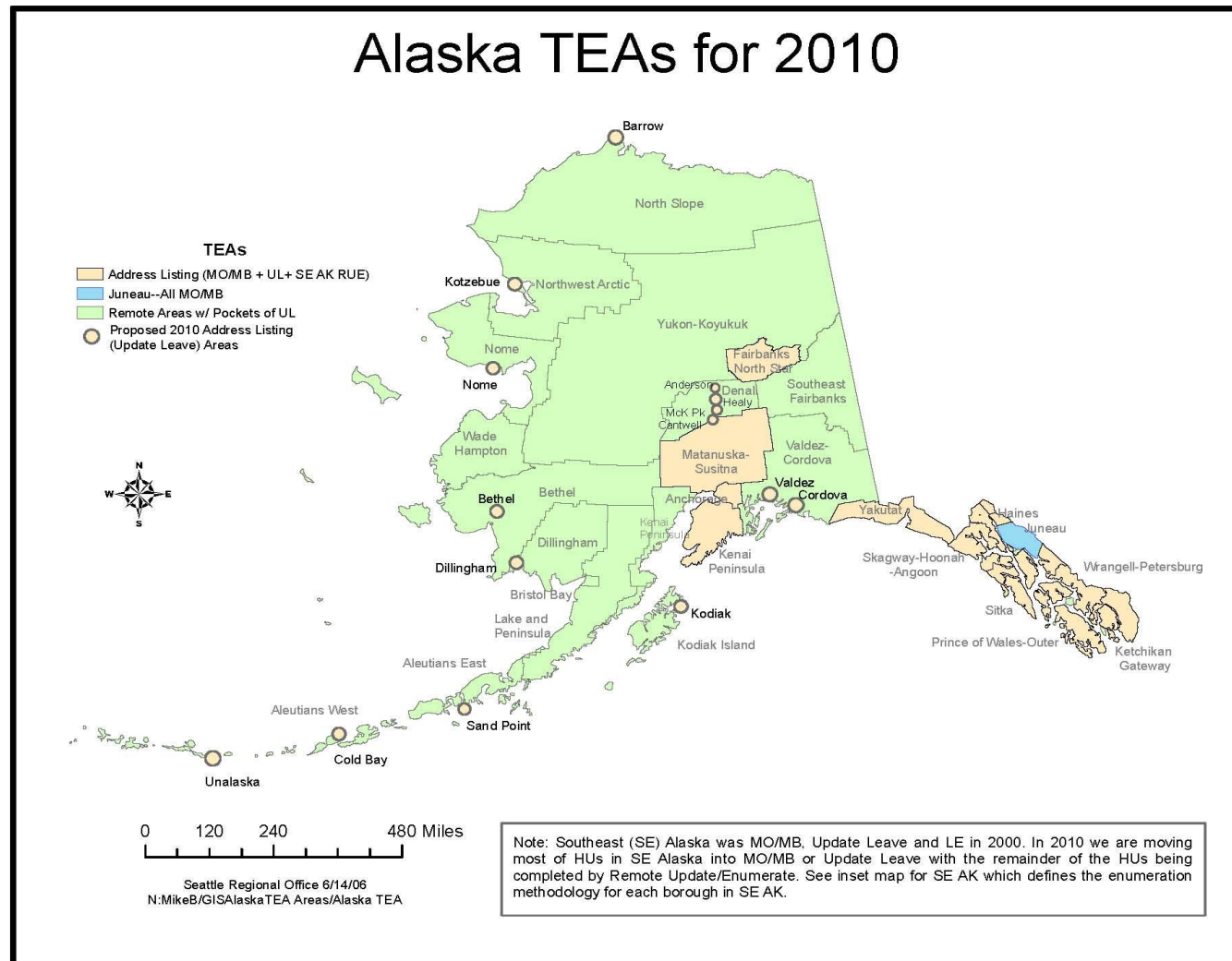
- One office per Congressional District
- Located in Anchorage
- Conduct all Decennial Census Operations in the State of Alaska
- Knowledge and understanding of the challenges
- **Ensure everyone counted once, only once AND in the right place!**

# 2010 Census Timeline in Alaska

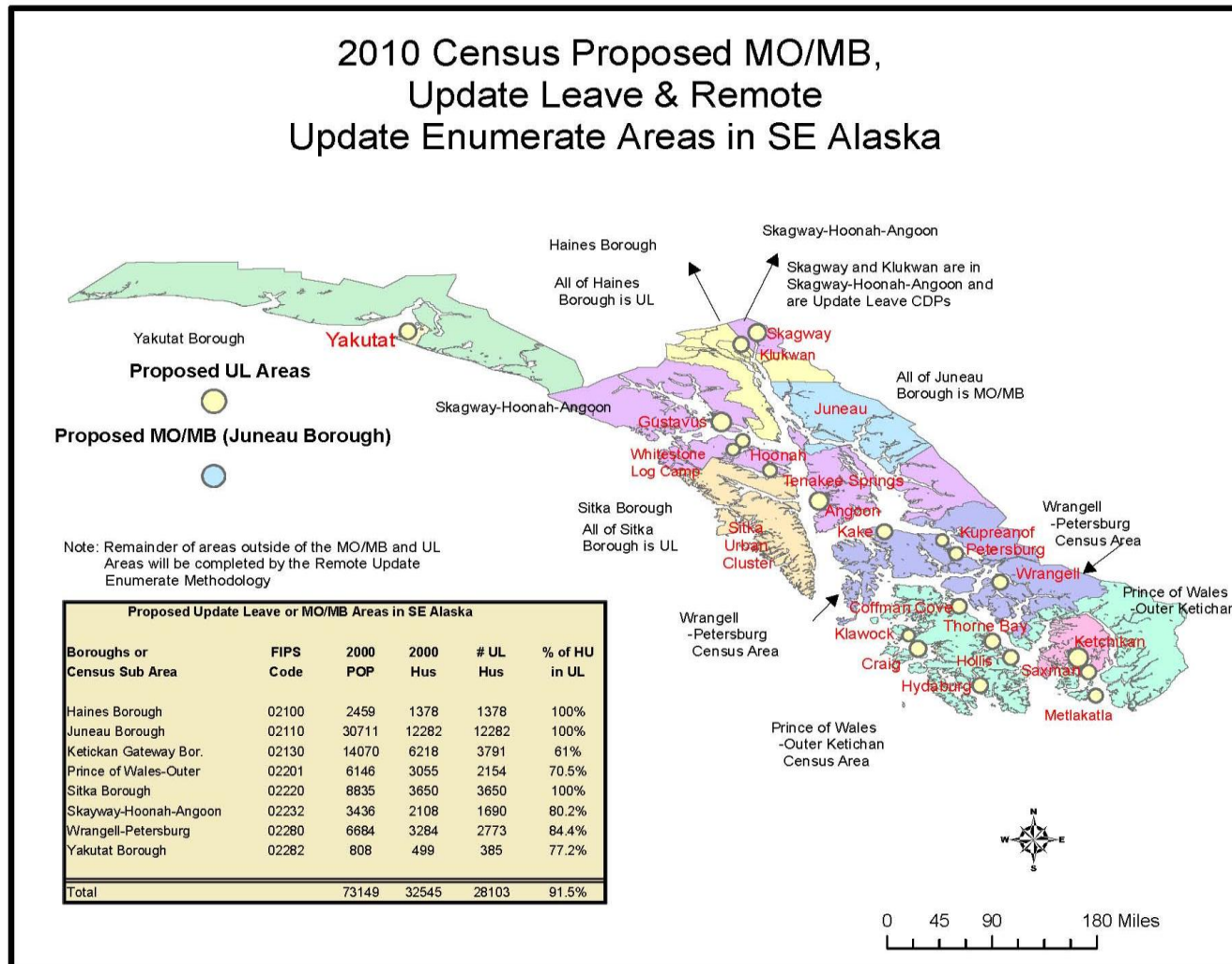
## Key Dates

Spring 2009	ADDRESS CANVASSING	Census employees went door-to-door to update address lists and maps
Fall 2009	RECRUITING	Census Takers needed for peak workload in 2010
January – April 2010	REMOTE ENUMERATION	Census is conducted in Alaska native Village in the bush
February – March 2010	MAILOUT/MAILBACK, UPDATE/LEAVE, RURAL UPDATE/ENUMERATE	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
April 1, 2010	CENSUS DAY	Reference date for the Census
May – July 2010	NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP	Census Takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail for all MO/MB and UL areas
April – May 2010	GROUP QUARTERS ENUMERATION	Census Takers visit Group Quarters to conduct interviews and collect data
March – April 2010	ENUMERATION OF TRANSITORY LOCATIONS	Census Takers visit places where people congregate who are without a usual place of residence, such as soup kitchens.

# Type of Enumerations Areas



# Type of Enumeration Areas in SE AK



# Enumeration Methodologies for Alaska

- Mailout / Mailback (MO/MB)
  - Cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks and all of Juneau Borough.
  - Block groups must be 70% or more for city style delivery
  - Approximately
- Update / Leave (U/L) - expand use in 2010
  - Balance of Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough; Eastern part of Kenai Peninsula; Mat-Su Borough.
  - Update/Leave pockets throughout Alaska (HUB cities in rural Alaska)
  - Canvass each block, update the address list and maps, leave a questionnaire at each household to complete and mail back in a pre-paid postage return envelope



# Enumeration Methodologies for Alaska

- Rural Update Enumerate
  - Only in Southeast Alaska.
  - Approximately 4500 housing units.
  - Areas include communities that are sparsely populated.
  - Areas tend to have geographic social, cultural or linguistic characteristic that affect the Questionnaire response rate.
  - Most of these houses are only accessible by boat
  - Census Takers update the address list and maps and then interview the household in person



# Enumeration Methodologies for Alaska

- Remote Alaska Enumeration
  - Approximately 27,000 housing units.
  - Alaska Native Villages spread across an area of 2000 miles east to west; 1000 miles south to north.
  - Crew Leader will fly to villages and train local Census takers to count everyone in the village
  - Census takers update the address list and maps, and then interview the household in person
  - Schedules may have to be modified to accommodate local circumstances.

# Enumeration Methodologies for Alaska

- Military Enumeration of installations
  - The Census Bureau works directly with the military to count military personnel on military installations.
- Group Quarters (GQ)
  - Group Quarters are place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other.
    - Examples: College residence halls, worker's dormitories, Village jails, mining and logging camps, fish processing quarters/bunkhouses, nursing homes for the elderly.

# Enumeration of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- Three Day Operation, 3/29 to 3/31/2010
- Four GQ type and designated dates:
  - Emergency/transitional shelters—3/29
  - Soup Kitchens and Regularly Scheduled Food Vans—3/30
  - Targeted Nonsheltered Outdoor Locations-3/31

# Enumeration at Transitory Locations

- The Enumeration at Transitory Locations (ETL) is conducted in the following specifically designated locations from March 19-April 12:
  - RV Parks
  - Marinas
  - Racetracks
  - Campgrounds
  - Carnivals /Fairs/Circuses
  - Designated Hotels/Motels

# Non Response Follow-up (NRFU)

- We have a Master Address File that we use to check-in completed questionnaires from the Mail out/Mail back and Update Leave areas.
- Not everyone will return their questionnaire in the mail from these MO/MB and UL areas due to residents who receive their mail at a PO. Boxes, or they think the Census Questionnaire is junk mail or too busy to take time to complete, or etc...
- Since we have a check-in control system for all the addresses in a borough, Census Takers complete the census with all residents who did not return their questionnaire in the mail.
- For example, there are 50,000 households in a borough and only 60% (30,000) of the residents return their Census in the mail. The remaining 20,000 households will be visited by census takers who are hired from their neighborhoods to work their neighborhoods.
- Total Hus 50,000-30,0000 returns = 20,000 Hus in NRFU.

# Field Verification Operation

- The Field Verification Operation is a final check on the existence of specific addresses in specific census blocks.
- The Field Verification is designed to both verify the existence of external adds to the census address inventory and to verify potential duplicate addresses.
- These adds are derived from two sources:
  - Be Counted Questionnaires
  - Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA) questionnaire fulfillment and TQA interviews

# NRFU Vacant / Delete Check

- Vacant / Delete Check
  - Any Housing Unit that is reported as vacant or non-existent (deleted) by an enumerator during NRFU is double checked to ensure that the vacant or delete status is correct.
- Supplemental universe of new addresses identified in other census operations.
  - New Construction
  - Non-responding Update Leave adds
  - Accepted Appeals from the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA ) program
  - U.S. Postal Service Delivery Sequence File (DSF) update from Spring 2010

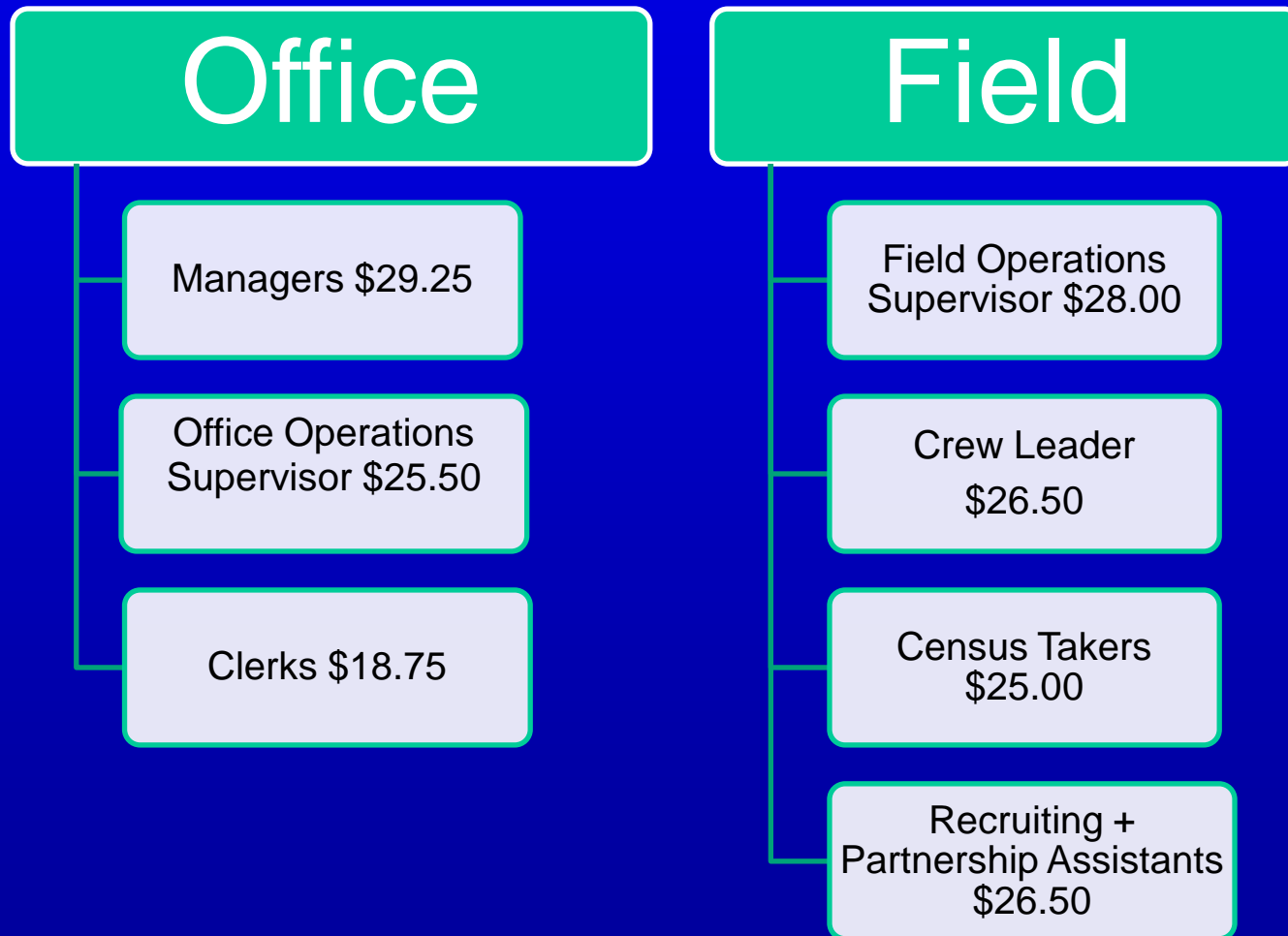


# Quality Control/Quality Assurance

## Quality Control/Quality Assurance

- Each field operation has a Quality Control component.
- Depending on the field operation, 5% to 10% of every Census Taker's work is re-interviewed.
- In addition, if any census takers work is designated as an outlier (i.e.; high number of one person households during NRFU), an additional sample is taken to be re-interviewed.
- If the Census Taker's work fails re-interview, the Census Taker's entire assignment is redone.

# Alaska Jobs and Salaries



# Importance of Decennial Staffing

- Census is labor intensive: must verify every address and interview every household
- Local Census Takers are necessary to ensure accuracy and coverage
- Requires a sufficient number of Census Takers in all areas



# Qualifications

- U.S. Citizen (unless citizens are not available)
- At least 18 years old
- Have valid social security number
- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be registered with selective service

# Census Takers

- Travel assignment areas to update map features and locate housing units
- Interview and leave or complete Census forms for all housing structures
- Check work for accuracy and completeness
- May be hired as interpreters or guides

# Contact Information

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