





Intergovernmental Relations Committee

2020 US CENSUS

IMPORTANCE OF AN ACCURATE CENSUS COUNT



- Determines distribution of federal funds
- Forecasts transportation needs
- Determines eligibility for assistance programs
- Apportionment of seats to the House of Representatives; impact on Texas
- Planning & implementing programs
- Redistricting







REDESIGNED 2020 CENSUS



- Four key changes:
 - 1) Reduced field canvassing
 - 2) Emphasis on online/telephone response
 - 3) Reeingeered field operations
 - 4) First day to self respond is March 23,
 - 2020; Census Day is April 1



LOCAL OUTREACH & TIMELINE



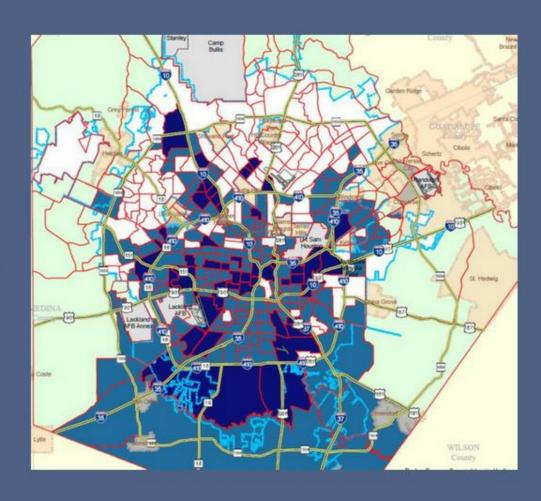
- Complete Count Committee
- Locally based outreach campaign to raise awareness & drive participation
- Stakeholder engagement
- Local Census Bureau



RESPONSE RATES IN SAN ANTONIO



- About 24 percent of San Antonio residents are likely to not self-respond
- 66 percent of Texans live in tracts that exceed average low response score



2020 QUESTIONNAIRE



- Proposed questions sent to Congress in late March
- Overview of planned questions
- History of question on citizenship

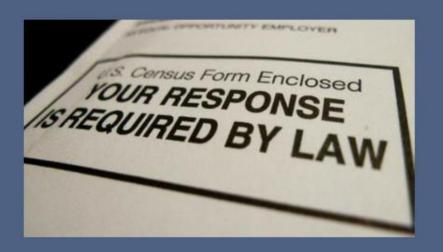




CITIZENSHIP QUESTION



- Letter by 6 former Census Directors
- Census testing
- Pending lawsuits
- Opposition by other entities



January 26, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross Secretary of Commerce U.S. Department of Commerce 14th St. and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

As former directors of the U.S. Census Bureau, serving under both Republican and Democratic administrations, we want to thank you for the care for the future of the Census Bureau you have displayed. We were, however, troubled to learn that the Department of Justice has recently asked the Bureau to add a new question on citizenship to the 2020 census. We are deeply concerned about the consequences of this possible action and hope that our objective observations provide a useful perspective before a final decision is made on this issue.

We were encouraged by your testimony before the Census Bureau's House and Senate authorizing committees last October. Your frank assessment of the status of 2020 Census preparations and your acknowledgment that the Bureau will need more resources to conduct an acceptably accurate enumeration were correct. Undoubtedly, your substantial private sector experience has informed your approach to the Bureau's mission. Similarly, your experience as a census enumerator many years ago may have helped to shape your appreciation for the importance of the fair and accurate census our Constitution envisions, free from partisan influence and guided by sound, well documented, scientifically driven decisions.¹

There is a well-proven multi-year process to suggest and test new questions. We strongly believe that adding an untested question on citizenship status at this late point in the decennial planning process would put the accuracy of the enumeration and success of the census in all communities at grave risk. Your observation at the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on October 12, 2017 — that adding untested questions could reduce response rates — suggests that you have carefully considered respondent

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-Former Directors of US Census Bureau







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