



# 2020 Census Program Update

## **Discussant Presentation**

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# The 2020 Census that is proceeding is NOT the operation the Bureau has been planning for the past decade

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- Years of underfunding have significantly altered the Bureau's preparations and plans for the 2020 Census. Numerous elements have been "paused," scaled back, or eliminated.
- Rural communities hit hard: Update/Enumerate replaced by Update/Leave in most areas; no final tests in rural communities.
- Plans for the Dress Rehearsal in three diverse sites replaced by a single "End-to-End test" in an urban site.
- Restrictions on who can be hired as enumerators.
- The 2020 Census questionnaire has been radically changed in the final months before the enumeration, including the abrupt, unexplained changes to the Bureau's plans for data collection on Race and Ethnicity, and the last minute addition of the citizenship question.

# The Census Bureau's financial situation has improved, but funding is still below what is needed

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- FY 2019 total appropriations projected to be **\$3.015.1 billion**.
- The Commerce Department's estimate for FY 2019 is **\$3.139 billion**, which *does not* include the Secretary's recommended 10% contingency fund, bringing projected estimate of appropriations needed for FY 2019 to **\$3.452 billion**.
- Given this shortfall, what additional planned elements of the 2020 Census will be delayed or "paused," scaled back, or eliminated?
- Plans are for 1,500 Partnership Specialists by next spring, yet Congressional Appropriators request staffing levels be equal to FY 2009. What are the plans to meet this directive?

# The 2018 End-to-End test has been affected by these changes

- Local elected officials and community leaders upset with lack of consultation before commencing the test.
- No community education or outreach activities to prepare residents.
- Various reports of community members not understanding purpose of test, discarding materials received in the mail.
- Reluctance or refusal by community members to participate in the test, particularly immigrants. Public dialogue and confusion about the citizenship question has exacerbated these concerns.
- No Coverage Measurement Operation to evaluate accuracy.





# Cannot dismiss the Census Bureau's extensive research to improve data collection on Hispanic origin and Race in 2020

## Census Bureau staff recommended a new format that combined Hispanic Origin and Race that:

- Achieved significant decline in nonresponses and "some other race" responses
- Achieved better reporting of Latino identification by respondents
- Did not result in loss of data on Latinos who wish to identify with multiple major race/ethnicity groups
- Accommodated reporting of multiple Latino national origins.

Combined question required revision of federal standards on race and ethnicity data; OMB silent on decision to keep current standards in place.

**8. Which categories describe Person 1?**  
Mark all boxes that apply AND print details in the spaces below.  
Note, you may report more than one group.

**WHITE** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> German	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> English
<input type="checkbox"/> Italian	<input type="checkbox"/> Polish	<input type="checkbox"/> French

Print, for example, Scottish, Norwegian, Dutch, etc.

**HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican or Mexican American	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuban
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvadoran	<input type="checkbox"/> Dominican	<input type="checkbox"/> Colombian

Print, for example, Guatemalan, Spanish, Ecuadorian, etc.

**BLACK OR AFRICAN AM.** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Jamaican	<input type="checkbox"/> Haitian
<input type="checkbox"/> Nigerian	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopian	<input type="checkbox"/> Somali

Print, for example, Ghanaian, South African, Barbadian, etc.

**ASIAN** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese

Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

**AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Central or South American Indian
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Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

**MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Iranian	<input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian
<input type="checkbox"/> Syrian	<input type="checkbox"/> Moroccan	<input type="checkbox"/> Algerian

Print, for example, Israeli, Iraqi, Tunisian, etc.

**NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Tongan	<input type="checkbox"/> Fijian	<input type="checkbox"/> Marshallese

Print, for example, Palauan, Tahitian, Chuukese, etc.

**SOME OTHER RACE, ETHNICITY, OR ORIGIN** – Print below.

# NALEO Educational Fund Independent Assessment of the End-to-End Test

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**SURVEY** of representative sample of Providence County residents beginning in mid-July to determine:

- Experiences with the End-to-End Test and explore whether residents had heard about the test before they received materials or encountered an enumerator;
- For residents who say they responded, survey will explore mode of response (on-line, paper, telephone) and inquire about the experience;
- For residents who say they did not participate, survey will examine reasons for not participating. We will probe the effect of the citizenship question on participation in the test and in Census 2020.

Pending additional local funding, we will oversample Latinos and African Americans.

# NALEO Educational Fund Independent Assessment of the End-to-End Test

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**INTERVIEWS** with elected officials and community leaders in August to learn about their perspectives of the test, constituent experiences, interaction with the Census Bureau, and recommendations. We intend the interviews will reflect geographic, racial and ethnic diversity of the County.

**REPORT** due by October 1 will hopefully help stakeholders:

- Understand how well the Bureau was able to conduct the test.
- Inform plans for Census 2020 outreach and GOTC efforts.
- Understand participant concerns about confidentiality and attitudes about the citizenship question.

**OUR PARTNERS** are Dr. Kevin Escudero, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, and Gabriela Domenzain, Executive Director of Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University.

GCPI has published its first fact sheet on the test, covering its scope, purpose, design, and timeline; other fact sheets will cover the resulting technological and operational concerns the Bureau must address.

# Administration's last minute addition of citizenship question puts Census 2020 at grave risk

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- On March 26, the Secretary of Commerce agreed to a DOJ Justice request, and added the citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire, ignoring the advice of the Census Bureau's Chief Scientist and others.
- The question is completely untested in a decennial environment, and not even the same question that was asked in 1950. The ACS is NOT the Decennial.

**Is this person a citizen of the United States?**

Yes, born in the United States

Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents

Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – *Print year of naturalization* ↴

No, not a U.S. citizen

# Administration's actions to add citizenship question are flawed and specious

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- The Department of Justice and the Secretary of Commerce justified the addition by citing the need for better voting rights enforcement. We now know better.
  - However, data from the ACS, and the census "long" form before that, are sufficiently robust for civil rights and Voting Rights Act enforcement. The decennial census has not included a citizenship question since 1950, prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.
- Secretary of Commerce claims lack of evidence that citizenship question will depress response rates, but question has not been tested in current political climate, in a form sent to 100% of households.
  - The Nielsen Company has disavowed how its research was misrepresented in the Secretary's memorandum.
  - The Secretary arbitrarily directed question to be listed last.
  - Census Bureau already reported widespread and unprecedented fear among respondents to other surveys.

# The Administration's actions are untimely and costly

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- The Census Bureau conducts extensive and costly testing to develop the census questions and every element of the census questionnaire.
- Census Bureau submitted topics for 2020 Census to Congress by March 31, 2017 as required; citizenship was not submitted at that time.
- The Bureau expects that every one percent decrease in the self-response rate that it has budgeted will increase the cost of the census by \$55 million. This assumes an average of three visits to unresponsive households; Chief Scientists estimates six visits may be needed because of the added question, further increasing costs.



## **The citizenship question will severely affect participation in Census 2020**

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**The addition of a citizenship question will deter participation, resulting in far less accurate data.**

- The question will raise concerns in all households – native- and foreign-born– about the confidentiality of information provided to the government and how it will be used.
- Adding the question would sabotage the Constitutional mandate that the Census obtain a complete count of all of the nation’s residents.



## There is widespread bipartisan opposition to the addition of the citizenship question

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- More than 60 members of Congress, 161 Democratic and Republican mayors, 19 state attorneys general, Latino elected and appointed officials at all levels of government;
- **Two former Commerce Secretaries and six former Census Directors who served in Republican and Democratic administrations;**
- Scientific organizations including the American Sociological Association, the Consortium of Social Science Associations, the Council for Community and Economic Research, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, and the National Latino/a Psychological Association; and
- Business leaders from across the country concerned about undermining the validity of census data, and ultimately harming economic growth and development opportunities.

# The 2020 Census is at stake, as well as Census Bureau's integrity and credibility

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The Census Bureau cannot proceed as if this is business as usual.

Pending litigation presents challenges, but national and regional staff need support, and stakeholders are demanding answers.

Census Bureau professionals must not compromise their commitment to intellectual honesty and scientific rigor.

The efforts of Census Bureau professionals to salvage the best census possible against difficult odds, how the census process unfolds, and the outcome of the 2020 Census will have profound implications for the future of the agency and our democracy.

Stakeholders stand ready to support the Census Bureau.

**History is watching.**



# Thank you.

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