

**Statement by Former U.S. Census Bureau Directors**  
**January 12, 2021**

**On the Historic Transparency of Producing and Releasing the New  
Apportionment of the House of Representatives**

Having helped to plan, execute or lead five decennial censuses serving nine Presidents of both parties, and overseeing the release of Apportionment counts after every decennial census since 1980, we call on the U.S. Census Bureau to follow the constitutionally prescribed release of the 2020 Apportionment consistent with trusted and historical public practices.

Census data has directed the apportionment of political representation since the founding of the United States of America. Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandated in 1789 that seats in the House of Representatives “shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers...” This has been a core foundation to our democracy. It has ensured the fair redistribution of political power across more than two centuries - even as the nation expanded across the continent, evolved from an agrarian economy, and became home to representatives of every other nation.

In 1941, Congress passed H.R. 2665, which prescribed that the “method of equal proportions” would be the basis for translating population totals into allocations of House seats, (P.L. 77-291 signed by President Roosevelt). This mathematical formula has been the apportionment algorithm employed by senior, career professionals at the Census Bureau. We can personally attest that since the 1980 census, the Census Bureau itself has delivered state population results to the nation through an announced, open, public forum. The transparency and openness have assured the nation that the process is free from any political interference or manipulation, and that the Census Bureau has insured the count is of the highest quality possible.

We acknowledge that delays in the 2020 enumeration and post collection data processing caused by Covid-19 have compressed the normal schedule and delayed the release of the Apportionment counts. It is appropriate that the Census Bureau take the time necessary to ensure the count is as complete and accurate as possible and therefore share all quality indicators about the Apportionment count simultaneous with their release. We commend to everyone’s attention a comprehensive website on the history of the open, public release on Apportionment counts through history at: <https://usapportionment.org/>

**Vincent Barabba** (1973-76 & 1979-81)

**Kenneth Prewitt** (1998-2001)

**Robert Groves** (2009–2012)

**John Thompson** (2013-2017)