

Sample Comments

Ms. Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

RE: Comments on Proposed Information Collection on 2020 Census, Docket No. USBC-2018-0005

Dear Ms. Jessup,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of [MY ORGANIZATION] in response to the proposed information collection related to the 2020 Census. We ask that the Department of Commerce remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census form as it will jeopardize the accuracy of the census.

The citizenship question will discourage many populations in Colorado from responding to the Census, particularly if they are among the 20 percent of Coloradans who are foreign-born or have immigrant parents. Feedback from the Census Bureau's Committee of Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations in 2017 suggests the question will have a negative impact on response rates as many respondents, whether documented or not, were visibly hesitant to answer questions or provide information about immigration status. [ADD ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THIS AFFECTS POPULATIONS SERVED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION]

Because this question has been proposed less than two years before the 2020 Census, there is inadequate time to test the question and confirm it will not negatively impact response rates. Citizenship data is already collected every year from a representative sample through the American Community Survey. Asking this untested question of all people in the United States is not necessary.

Nearly half of Colorado's counties had participation rates of less than 60% in 2010. Colorado's nonprofit organizations [INCLUDING MY ORGANIZATION] will be working hard to increase the percentage of Coloradans who are counted. Having an accurate 2020 count means not only reliable data to help Colorado's nonprofits serve our communities effectively, but also ensures Colorado receives its fair share of federal representation and funding.

Colorado received nearly \$1,500 in federal assistance for each person counted in the 2010 Census. Based on projections, Colorado is likely to increase this federal assistance and gain an 8th Congressional seat based on the 2020 Census. Including the citizenship question makes it more difficult to ensure a sufficient participation rate to meet these goals.

The results of the 2020 Census are critical for Colorado's 23,000 nonprofits which work every day to improve people's lives, enliven our communities with faith and culture, and address societal problems. A significant undercount would reduce funding for programs that support Colorado's families while increasing burdens on nonprofits and local governments. On behalf of

[MY ORGANIZATION] , we request removing the citizenship question from the census to ensure a fair, accurate, and complete enumeration for Census 2020.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME], [ORGANIZATION]