



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
SAN FRANCISCO COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

June 27, 2019

San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs, San Francisco Complete Count Committee, and San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Statement on 2020 Census Citizenship Question

Although the citizenship question remains blocked from the U.S. Census for now, the fight is not over. Ruling that the justification for the question “seems to have been contrived,” the U.S. Supreme Court calls into question the administration’s true motivation. If the purpose of including the citizenship question is to intimidate immigrants, we have one message: we will not be silenced.

By law, the census must record every person living in the U.S. and its territories, regardless of their citizenship status. This is clearly articulated in Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution and has been standard practice since the first census in 1790. Partisan and racially discriminatory efforts to politicize the census and exclude certain Americans are morally wrong and illegal.

The stakes for our communities are high. Data collected by the Census Bureau are used to determine everything from congressional representation to federal dollars for transportation, health, safety, and other vital programs. We must make sure that everyone is counted so that our communities receive the political representation and federal funds that they deserve. Being counted and represented by the government that serves ALL the people, not just some, is at the heart of America’s democracy.

The Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs, San Francisco Complete Count Committee, and the Immigrant Rights Commission pledge to work with our community leaders and partners to make sure the 2020 Census provides an accurate, complete, and inclusive count of ALL San Francisco residents. Our immigrant communities matter. And in 2020, each of us must make sure that we are counted. The health, safety, strength, and success of all of our communities depend on it. We urge everyone to participate for the sake of our democracy.

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