



## Sabotaging the Count: Trump's Attacks on the Census and What You Can Do

The Trump administration seeks to strip funding and political representation from communities of color through underfunding the Census Bureau and adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. The U.S. Constitution mandates that every U.S. resident regardless of age, citizenship status, or ability to vote be counted every ten years. Policymakers use the information from the decennial census to distribute [nearly \\$700 billion in public funds each year](#). Census data also [determines political representation](#) based on the number of people counted within each state and district. Through the addition of a question regarding citizenship status, the chronic underfunding of the process, and the failure to appoint permanent leaders to top positions in the bureau, the Trump administration is clear in its motivations to undercount and underfund people of color and immigrant communities. [Tell the Census Bureau they must reverse course and count everyone who lives in the United States.](#)

### The Trump Administration's threats to a fair count:

- The Trump administration's addition of a citizenship question will reduce the participation of immigrant communities. The census has historically undercounted people of color and inquiring after respondents' citizenship status is a scare tactic which will result in further undercounting of immigrant communities.
- The administration continues to underfund the process, preventing necessary testing of new methodology in West Virginia, Puerto Rico and Washington State's tribal lands. The testing was intended to determine how the new technology would fair in historically undercounted communities, including rural areas and low-income communities of color.
- Trump has left the Census Bureau dysfunctional and mismanaged with the appointment of enemies of a fair, full count to the bureau while leaving many positions unfilled.

**The citizenship question threatens to undercount and underfund immigrant communities.** The citizenship question operates as a clear threat to immigrant communities who fear that the Census Bureau will provide Trump with information to tear their families apart. This will exacerbate past undercounts. Even though the 2010

BROOKLYN  
301 GROVE STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11237  
718 418 7690

QUEENS  
92-10 ROOSEVELT AVENUE  
JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372  
718 565 8500

STATEN ISLAND  
161 PORT RICHMOND AVENUE  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302  
718 727 1222

LONG ISLAND  
1090 SUFFOLK AVENUE  
BRENTWOOD, NY 11717  
631 231 2220

WESTCHESTER  
46 WALLER AVENUE  
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605  
914 948 8466

census is considered the most accurate to date, experts estimate that 1.5 million people of color were not counted [while one percent of white residents](#) were overcounted (often because of people with multiple residences). Given the enormous public resources at stake, this reinforces racial inequalities. An undercount in the 2000 census is estimated to have resulted [in the loss of \\$300 million in public funding in Bronx County](#) alone.

**Underfunding the Census Bureau has resulted in abandoning necessary testing of new technology which will make the 2020 Census less accurate.** After shortchanging the census in past years, President Trump's initial fiscal year 2018 budget request asked for [\\$1.5 billion for the census](#), [significantly less than what experts estimate](#) would be required to get an accurate count. The Trump administration's budgetary restrictions have forced the Bureau to [abandon digital tests in West Virginia, Puerto Rico and Washington State's tribal lands](#). Failing to sufficiently test strategies that would address the digital divide will suppress the counts of groups with less digital access and experience, including immigrants, low-income communities, and elderly people.

**Failing to fill top agency positions leaves the Bureau mismanaged under partisan leadership seeking to under-represent immigrant New Yorkers and people of color.** The top two positions in the agency have [interim occupants](#). For over a year, the Trump administration had refused to nominate a candidate for the director's position since it became vacant in June 2017. Until recently, the administration wanted Thomas Brunell in the deputy director role, which would have put him in charge of administering the census. Brunell is a political science professor who [has argued in favor of segregating voters by party and who worked for Republicans to defend GOP redistricting](#).

### **Taking Action: Defending our Communities and Fighting Back for Funding and Political Representation**

- **Community groups as well as state and city governments have sued the Trump administration for its efforts to undermine the constitutional mandate for a full and fair count.** The ongoing litigations from [over a dozen of states and cities](#), as well as the [NAACP](#), the [ACLU](#), and immigrant rights organizations like [Make the Road New York and CASA de Maryland](#) argue that the inclusion of the citizenship question and the underfunding of the Bureau are unconstitutional because they inhibit the collection of an accurate count of the United States population and discriminate against immigrant communities of color. The 2020 Census should seek to accurately apportion funds and ensure that our most marginalized, including low-income communities, people of color, and undocumented immigrants, are given a fair share of resources and representatives through budgeting and districting. These litigation efforts are a crucial piece of ensuring a full, fair count.
- **Condemn the Census Bureau's addition of the citizenship question with a public comment before August 8th.** The Federal register is currently requesting public comments on the 2020 Census. [Join the public outcry--demand a full and fair count.](#)