

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0236

## Proclamation in Support of an Accurate 2020 Census

**WHEREAS**, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has added a citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire at the last minute, citing the need for better voting rights enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau submitted the Census 2020 questionnaire to Congress, which includes a question on the citizenship status of residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commerce Secretary's decision is unjustified, insofar as data from the American Community Survey, and the census "long" form before that, are sufficiently robust for civil rights and Voting Rights Act enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the decennial census has not included a citizenship question since 1950, prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, a citizenship question has not been tested by the Census Bureau in modern times, in a form sent to 100% of population, and the Bureau's 2018 End-to-End test questionnaire does not include the question; and

**WHEREAS**, Census Bureau representatives have already reported widespread and unprecedented fear among respondents to other surveys, with respondents being reluctant to participate fully and provide accurate information; and

**WHEREAS**, if Latinos and other residents do not initially respond to the Census questionnaire, the Bureau will follow-up by sending enumerators to their homes, increasing costs exponentially; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau expects that a decrease in the self-response rate will increase the cost of the census to \$55 million – a \$10 million increase from its original projected cost of \$45 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the citizenship question in Census 2020 would lead to inaccurate data about Latinos and all residents of the City and County of Denver, adversely affecting the prosperity and well-being of our city.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That Denver City Council expresses its strong opposition to the addition of a citizenship question to Census 2020.

**Section 2.** That Denver City Council calls on these Members of Congress to contact the leadership of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and urge them to oppose the addition of the citizenship question and to conduct oversight hearings examining Secretary Ross's decision.

**Section 3.** That Denver City Council use future opportunities in the federal administrative and legislative process to express its opposition to the addition of the citizenship question, and to highlight the adverse impact on the City and County of Denver.

**Section 4.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Cory Gardner, and Representative Diana DeGette.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 11, 2019

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PRESIDENT