

PROPOSED JUNE 2019

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee
Resolution: 2019 -21 IN SUPPORT OF AN UNBIASED CENSUS COUNT

Whereas, since 1790, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION mandates a counting every ten years of all persons living in the United States every 10 years for the purpose of apportioning seats in the U. S. House of Representatives among the states, and

Whereas, ARTICLE I, SEC. 2, CLAUSE 3, thereof explicitly requires an “actual enumeration” of “all persons” and charges as a duty of the federal government to count the “whole number of persons in each State”; and

Whereas, additional purposes and functions of the census include implementing, monitoring and evaluating civil rights laws and policies as applies to housing and the job markets, influencing the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal resources for those services as well as for health care, education, transportation and many other services, and

Whereas, after 1950, (1) the Census Bureau removed the question of citizenship because new innovations in survey methods revealed a more accurate and less burdensome accounting generally and since 1980 and consistently thereafter until the very present has asserted in response to all litigation that “any effort to ascertain citizenship will inevitably jeopardize the overall accuracy of the population count”, (2) and

Whereas, in January 2018, 6 former census directors by letter defended the non-inclusion of citizenship and in addition, Wilber Ross, former Secretary of Commerce, the department under which the Census Bureau serves, admitted in an October 12, 2017 Congressional hearing (4) that adding additional questions “ reduces response rates” ; and

Whereas, since the beginning of 2019, three Federal District Courts have found adding the citizen question to be procedurally improper and/or unconstitutional; (5) and

Whereas, former Commerce Secretary Ross, former White House adviser Steve Bannon and anti-immigration crusader and former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach conspired to include the citizenship question after the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice both initially refused to do so because adding the question would be fundamentally racist, would suppress participation by non-white people and artificially increase White/Republican power to influence gerrymandering in their favor and self-interests (6); and

Whereas, former Secretary Ross and the executive have refused to provide Congressional testimony to establish Bannon’s, Kobach’s and Ross’ improper and inappropriate collusion with the Justice Department that includes the citizen question as a pretext to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and therefore result in a violation of the Administrative Procedure Act and Congress’ subpoena powers;(6) and

Whereas, adding the citizenship question could result in an undercount of as many as 6.5 million residents of the US, an undercount that would not occur without the citizen question being included, and would result in violating the Constitutional task of counting all persons within the country as well

Platform, Resolution and Legislation Committee

Multnomah County Democrats

as illegally and improperly affecting all US citizens and immigrants, both legal and undocumented.

NOW THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Multnomah County resolves:

(1) That no question regarding citizenship, as proposed by the Commerce Department or any other party, be included in the 2020 Census questionnaire; and

(2) That the entire Congressional Delegation of Oregon and Governor Brown take any and all actions legally possible to affirm this position to the best of their abilities and publicly assert their opposition to including the question of citizenship in the 2020 census.

Adopted on JUNE __, 2019

References

1 <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/trump-wants-ask-about-citizenship-census-here-s-why-u-n864246>

2 <https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/meetings/2017-11/Memo-Regarding-Respondent-Confidentiality-Concerns.pdf>

3 https://www.washingtonpost.com/r/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2018/03/27/Editorial-Opinion/Graphics/DOJ_census_ques_request_Former_Directors_ltr_to_Ross.pdf

4 <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4685802/rep-jimmy-gomez-questions-secretary-ross-oversight-hearing>

5 NYT, 5/9/19, Linda Greenhouse

6 Washington Post – 5/31/19; Dana Milbank

This Resolution challenges the Department of Commerce’s Census Bureau and the Trump administration’s intention to include a question regarding citizenship for the 2020. Enumeration which will result in an inaccurate and significant undercount.

This Resolution should be sent to the entire Oregon Congressional delegation and Governor as the United States Supreme Court will render a decision on this issue prior to the end of June, 2019.

Send to

Congressional Delegation, Governor Brown