

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Rd.
Suitland-Silver Hill, MD 20746

Dear Director Dillingham:

In light of the alarming news of efforts to rush the 2020 Census, we write to urge you extend the deadline for data collection to October 31, 2020.

We are troubled by your announcement on August 3rd that the Census Bureau would finish collecting data for the decennial count by September 30, 2020. This move will rush the enumeration process, result in inadequate follow-up, and exacerbate the historic undercounting of immigrant communities and communities of color. Senior career staff at the Census Bureau have publicly admitted that meeting the statutory deadlines is impossible because of the delays that have already occurred.

This decision to rush the Census in the wake of a pandemic raises concerns about the Bureau's ability to accurately and completely count every person living in the United States. A rushed Census would hurt a diverse range of rural and urban communities, leaving them underrepresented locally and in Congress and cutting their fair share of federal funding for Medicaid, economic development, child care, schools, road and public transit improvements, home heating assistance for senior citizens, and other vital services.

The coronavirus pandemic has significantly challenged local governments' outreach plans that are essential to our efforts to reach hard-to-count communities. Low-response areas exist in every part of the country, in every state, in every city. Inadequate counting operations will most directly harm communities most in need of resources to improve safety, health, and educational opportunity. With nearly four out of ten households still to be counted, the agency has insufficient time to reach historically undercounted groups who require additional outreach.

We urge you to reconsider the unrealistic deadline for data collection of September 30, 2020, and extend the deadline to October 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Liccardo
San Jose, California

Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach, California

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento, California

Mayor Jim Brainard
Carmel, Indiana

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, California

Mayor Miguel A. Pulido
Santa Ana, California

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Anchorage, Alaska

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Denver, Colorado

Mayor Alan Nagy
Newark, California

Mayor Rusty Bailey
Riverside, California

Mayor Harry Sidhu
Anaheim, California

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mayor Lauren McLean
Boise, Idaho

Mayor Kate Gallego
Phoenix, Arizona

Mayor Mike Duggan
Detroit, Michigan

Mayor London Breed
San Francisco, California

Mayor Regina Romero
Tucson, Arizona

Mayor Lyda Krewson
St. Louis, Missouri

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Washington, D.C.

Mayor William R. Bailey, III
Riverside, California

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Tacoma, Washington

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
Madison, Wisconsin

Mayor Michael Tubbs
Stockton, California

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Portland, Oregon

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot
Chicago, Illinois

Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville, Kentucky

Mayor Jim Kenney
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mayor Libby Schaaf
Oakland, California

Mayor Lily Mei
Fremont, California

Mayor Mike Coffman
Aurora, Colorado

Mayor Tom Barrett
Milwaukee, Wisconsin