

Lawsuit on Census Citizenship Question

On March 26, 2018, the United States Commerce Department announced that the 2020 U.S. Census will include a question about citizenship status. A question on citizenship threatens to cause great harm to jurisdictions with a significant immigrant population.

One in four of our nation’s immigrants live in the State of California, and in Los Angeles County, more than one third of our population is foreign-born. A question regarding citizenship on the 2020 Census will result in an extreme undercount of individuals who are afraid to disclose their citizenship status, especially in the current environment of increased immigration enforcement.

The decennial census is used to draw congressional districts to determine fair political representation. Census data also determines the allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding each year on education, public health, transportation, and other critical programs in states, counties, and cities. An undercount in the 2020 Census

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would hurt Los Angeles County's most vulnerable populations and significantly undermine equal representation.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has already taken action to challenge this harmful decision. On April 3, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to join these efforts and authorized County Counsel to file and/or sign on to amicus briefs in lawsuits opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census.

By joining the California Attorney General's lawsuit as a plaintiff, Los Angeles County would strengthen its commitment to protect the rights and interests of all residents, regardless of citizenship status.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to join the efforts of the California Attorney General by signing on as a plaintiff in his lawsuit opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census.

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HLS:jv