



City Council Report

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File ID: 2019-00430

March 26, 2019

Consent Item 06

Title: Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the 2020 Census – “Be Counted California” (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: 1) Pass a Motion by two-thirds vote waiving the Council Rules of Procedure requirement that non-binding resolutions go the Law and Legislation Committee (Rule 7.K and 13.B) prior to Council approval; and 2) adopt a Resolution recognizing the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census.

Contact: Consuelo Hernandez, Director of Governmental Affairs, (916) 808-7395, Office of the City Manager

Presenter: None

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count the total number of people in the United States every ten years. The U.S. Census Bureau, a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, will conduct the next Census in 2020. The results of the census are used to distribute seats in the House of Representatives and inform the amount of federal funds allocated to states for certain programs. Census results also are used to determine legislative districts for federal, state, and local representatives. Moreover, the census provides a social, demographic, and economic profile of the country's residents, informing decisions by policymakers and businesses across the state.

California cities can play an active role in helping to make the 2020 U.S. Census fair and accurate, especially for historically undercounted populations: racial and ethnic minorities, young children, and renters. The 2010 census undercounted 95,000 (or 0.26% of) California residents. Though the overall count was an improvement from the previous undercounts (2.74% in 1990 and 1.52% in 2000), the rate of undercounted populations remains consistently high, and that has many cities concerned about getting an accurate account in the upcoming census. One of the main implications of a miscount is the loss of annual federal and state funding for local government, as well as funding for social programs and services. In addition, one or more Congressional seats currently given to California could be lost.

Obtaining an accurate and complete count poses challenges due to several factors. The housing affordability crisis has forced more Californians to become homeless or move into hard-to-count unconventional housing and overcrowded dwellings. For the first time, the census is a digital census, and more than 75% of California households will be receiving an invitation to complete their census form online, even though many households lack broadband or digital literacy.

The City of Sacramento (City) contains many areas considered to be hard to count. In Congressional District 6 (Matsui), Senate District 6 (Pan), and Assembly District 7 (McCarty), between 14% and 19% of neighborhoods are considered very hard to count. In much of the City, more than half of residents are from historically undercounted communities – primarily African American and Latino. Some of these areas have relatively high shares of noncitizens as well. Noncitizens may be less likely to respond to the 2020 Census because of the planned addition of a citizenship question and concerns about deportation and privacy. Young children are historically underrepresented in the census. In the City and surrounding suburbs, and the southwestern tip of Placer County, 9% or more of residents are children under five years old, compared to 6.5% statewide.

The California Census Office is hosting a kick-off event on April 2, 2019 at the State Capitol to jump-start public awareness of the 2020 census. The City recognizes the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census and encourages cities and others to contribute to a complete count.

Policy Considerations: The resolution is consistent with the City's and Sacramento County's efforts to ensure our voice in government, how much funding our community receives, and the collection of data for our communities to plan for today and the future.

Economic Impacts: Census data are used to distribute \$675 billion in federal funding. Sacramento County receives over \$500 million each year for programs that benefit schools, hospitals, public works, agriculture, roads, transit, and more.

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable.

Sustainability: None.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: The City is an active participant in the Sacramento Complete Count Committee. With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake in the region, the importance of an accurate count cannot be overstated.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

A Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the 2020 Census

Background:

- A. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution to conduct an accurate count of the population every ten years. The next enumeration will be April 1, 2020 and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses.
- B. The primary and perpetual challenge facing the U.S. Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups. That challenge is amplified in California, given the size of the state and the diversity of its communities.
- C. California has a large percentage of individuals that are considered traditionally hard to count. These diverse communities and demographic populations are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census.
- D. California receives nearly \$77 billion in federal funding that is based, in part, on census data. A complete and accurate count of California's population is essential.
- E. The data collected by the decennial Census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments. The data are also used in the redistricting of state legislatures, county boards of supervisors, and city councils.
- F. The decennial census is a massive undertaking that requires cross-sector collaboration and partnership in order to achieve a complete and accurate count. California's leaders have dedicated a historic amount of funding and resources to ensure every Californian is counted once, only once, and in the right place. This includes coordination between tribal, city, county, and state governments; and community-based, education, and many more organizations.
- G. The U.S. Census Bureau is facing several challenges with Census 2020, including a constrained fiscal environment, rapidly changing use of technology, declining response rates, and increasingly diverse and mobile population. Thus, support from partners and stakeholders is critical.

H. California is kicking-off its outreach and engagement efforts in April 2019 for the 2020 census.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City of Sacramento, in partnership with other local governments, the state, businesses, schools, and community organizations, is committed to robust outreach and communication strategies, focusing on reaching the hardest-to-count individuals.
- Section 2. The Mayor and the City Council hereby recognize the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census and support helping to ensure a complete, fair, and accurate count of all Californians.