



*League of United Latin
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2020 Census
Suggested Talking Points for Media Interviews

- **ORAL ARGUMENTS WERE HEARD TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2019 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**
 - Legal observers of the court predict a 5-4 ruling in favor of allowing a question in the 2020 Census which asks: **"Is this person a citizen of the United States?"**
 - Justice Sonia Sotomayor predicts this question will have a serious impact on Latinos willing to answer the 2020 Census.
 - LULAC agrees with Justice Sotomayor who stated, "There's no doubt that people will respond less" because of the citizenship question.
 - LULAC believes that the question about a person's citizenship has no place in the 2020 Census if a full and accurate count is the goal
 - LULAC agrees with Justice Elena Kagan that the question is a "contrived one" or *made up* simply to discourage and decrease Latino participation.
 - The expected ruling of the Supreme Court comes after three federal judges at U.S. district courts in New York, California and Maryland have each ruled to block the question.
 - In the California and Maryland rulings, **the question was even called unconstitutional because it gets in the way of the government's job to count every person** in the United States.

- LULAC agrees with those three federal judges and urges the Supreme Court to follow what has been the historical practice in past census counts.
- Further, **LULAC is very concerned that of the 6.5-million people expected NOT to answer the 2020 Census, the majority will be Latino.**
- The ruling is expected to be handed down by the Supreme Court as early as June or as late as October, 2019.

THE FOLLOWING EXPLAINS THE IMPACT OF THE 2020 CENSUS:

- **MORE THAN \$880 BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR ARE AT STAKE.**
 - This is the annual amount in federal assistance to states, local governments, and families determined by the U.S. Census.
 - The Census is used to guide community decision-making affecting:
 - Schools and education programs,
 - Housing,
 - Health care services,
 - Business investment, and much more.

- **LATINOS & THE CENSUS – FACTORS THAT AFFECT OUR COUNT**

Today, there are 56.5 million Hispanics living in the United States, and roughly one in three live in hard-to-count census tracts.

- **Some factors in the 2020 Census** include:
 - Major changes in methods used to do the counting, such as relying on the internet as the primary way for households to respond to the Census;
 - How and who will do the actual Census outreach in some regions where residents may not trust the Census workers.
 - Also, some Latinos may be reluctant to answer the Census because of concerns about the confidentiality of the information and that it may be turned over to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- **Other major factors that will affect our 2020 count:**
 - **Latino children in particular are among the most undercounted** populations in the United States. Latino children make up more than 24-percent of U.S. children under five. Fifty-five percent live in a household with complex living arrangements, sometimes moving between various relatives' or caregivers' residences. One-quarter of young Latino children also live in a linguistically isolated household where adults have difficulty speaking English. In 2010, Latino children made up more than 36-percent of the total net undercount for all children under five, more than double the undercount of non-Hispanic White children.
 - **Language Barriers:** Almost a third of Hispanics (31 percent) speak English less than “very well.” Historically, areas with low rates of English proficiency have been undercounted.
 - **Poverty:** Hispanics have an official poverty rate of 21 percent, significantly higher than the official U.S. poverty rate of 13 percent. It is widely believed that households in poverty are difficult to count.
 - **Education:** More than 60 percent of Hispanic adults have only a high school degree or didn't complete high school, compared to 40 percent of the total population. Areas with lower educational attainment are also hard to count.
 - **Immigrant Status Creates Fear:** More than a third of Latinos (34 percent) are foreign-born. People immigrating to the United States from Latin America made up more than half of the undocumented population in 2016. Negative political rhetoric and federal detention and deportation operations targeting the undocumented community could reduce participation among immigrant communities – placing immigrant households at greater risk of being undercounted. Because of these tensions, a growing segment of immigrant households may be reluctant to respond to the census questionnaire due to concerns about data confidentiality.

- **THE CENSUS ITSELF CREATES SOME OF THE CONFUSION FOR LATINOS**

Official race and ethnicity questions need to accurately reflect the Latino community.

The Census Bureau defines race as a person's self-identification with one or more social groups. An individual can report as White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or some other race. Survey respondents may report multiple races.

Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For this reason, ethnicity is broken out in two categories, Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics may report as any race.

- Since 1980, the Census has asked about Hispanic identity separately from racial identity.
 - Recent Census Bureau testing shows that combining the Hispanic ethnicity with the general race question would more accurately reflect the Latino population.
 - Though the bureau plans to improve the question by allowing Hispanic respondents to identify with multiple subgroups, it announced in January 2018 that it will yet again ask about race and ethnicity separately.
 - **Unless Congress adopts new standards via legislative action, the 2020 Census will not meet the need for a combined race and ethnicity question.**
- **LULAC IS ENGAGED WITH THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE LATINO PARTICIPATION.**
 - For more than a year, LULAC has been developing the framework to increase the number of Latinos who respond to the 2020 Census.
 - National LULAC has been messaging to members across the country and Puerto Rico.
 - State LULAC organizations have been hosting Census Outreach Specialists to align efforts with the goal of maximum participation, and
 - Local Districts and Councils have been in contact with their own communities through non-profits, churches and local leaders to be present in the Census 2020 planning.

- **THIS WILL INTENSIFY AS WE NEAR THE START OF THE CENSUS AND CONTINUE THROUGHOUT ITS DURATION.**

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THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT DRAWS FROM MULTIPLE GOVERNMENTAL, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION SOURCES AS AGGREGATED BY GEORGETOWN LAW, CENTER ON POVERTY & INEQUALITY / ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE. UPDATED NOVEMBER, 2018.