

# RESOLUTION

No. 2020–448

By Commissioner Bell and Co-Sponsored by Commissioners Anderson, Basham, Baydoun, Clark-Coleman, Daub, Haidous, Killeen, Knezek, Jr., Baker McCormick, Palamara, Scott, Varga, and Ware

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Commission, which serves a vastly diverse population, knows the importance of the U.S. Census (the “Census”). The Commission is committed to making sure that the residents of Wayne County are accurately counted and that the County receives its maximum amount of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the Census is a decennial census mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which states: “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States... according to their respective Numbers” and

WHEREAS, the primary purposes of the Census are to determine congressional representation and to allocate federal resources. The 2010 Census and surveys have resulted in over \$675 billion in federal funds being provided each year. States have received funding for infrastructure, schools, hospitals, police and fire departments, and allocation of congressional seats and electoral votes; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020, the Trump Administration announced the “Memorandum on Excluding Illegal Aliens from the Apportionment Base Following the 2020 Census.” The Administration has indicated its intention to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportioning head count for congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration also seeks to change the Census reporting deadline from October 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that field data collection and the self-response period would be shortened by one month. These actions will negatively impact the ability of the U.S. Census Bureau to achieve a full and accurate 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, the Census aims to count every United States resident each decade. There is a two-step process to obtaining this information. The first step is to ask people to respond to a Census questionnaire. The second step is to go door-to-door to households that have not yet been counted. Many of these households are the most neglected part of our citizenry. They include people of color, immigrants, and those with low income. These are the very people who need the full benefits of an accurate Census; and

WHEREAS, with nearly \$1 trillion in federal funding being apportioned each year based on Census results, an accurate, complete count is crucial to county governments and their residents. Funding for health care, economic development, infrastructure, education, public safety and other critical county responsibilities are all informed by Census results. Without an accurate and complete count, counties across the country, and their residents, will not have access to the services that are critically needed; and

WHEREAS, Census response rates are currently down throughout the country, and the sudden and unexpected curtailment of data collection by an entire month only serves to adversely impact ongoing efforts for state and local jurisdictions. Allowing enough time for the U.S. Census Bureau's Nonresponse Follow-Up Operation is crucial to reaching households that have been historically undercounted and are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, ceasing counting operations one month early will disproportionately affect the quality of life and resources for county constituents for the next decade, as well as the effectiveness of county officials to execute their responsibilities.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission on this 20th day of August, 2020 does hereby strongly oppose all efforts to change the 2020 Census deadline from October 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Limiting field data collection and the self-response period along with the exclusion of undocumented immigrants could lead to severe negative budgetary consequences for state and local governments throughout the nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission:

1. Affirms that an accurate, complete Census count is crucial to county governments and their residents as funding for health care, economic development, infrastructure, education, public safety and other critical county responsibilities are all informed by Census results;
2. Requests that the U.S. Census Bureau's Nonresponse Follow-Up Operation be allowed enough time to reach households that have been historically undercounted and are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and
3. Requests congressional intervention to secure a complete, fair and accurate 2020 Census count and affirmation of the U.S. Census Bureau's prior commitment to the October 31, 2020 deadline;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to members of the Wayne County Michigan congressional delegation; Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of United States House of Representatives.

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