

RESOLUTION NO. 2874

**Resolution in Support of an Accurate 2020 Census
Without the Citizenship Question**

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2018 Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross agreed to a Department of Justice request, and added a citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire after the opportunity for testing the effects of the question on data collection had passed, citing the need for better voting rights enforcement;

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2018 the Census Bureau submitted the Census 2020 questionnaire to Congress, including a question on the citizenship status of residents;

WHEREAS, the Commerce Secretary's decision is unjustified, insofar as data from the American Community Survey, and the Census "long" form before that, are sufficiently robust for civil rights and Voting Rights Act enforcement;

WHEREAS, the decennial census has not included a citizenship question since 1950, prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965;

WHEREAS, a citizenship question has not been tested by the Census Bureau in modern times, in a form sent to 100% of population, and the Bureau's 2018 End-to-End test questionnaire did not include the question;

WHEREAS, Census Bureau representatives have already reported widespread and unprecedented fear among respondents to other surveys, with respondents being reluctant to participate fully and provide accurate information;

WHEREAS, if residents do not initially respond to the Census questionnaire, the Bureau will follow-up by sending enumerators to their homes, and dramatically increasing the cost to the federal government;

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau expects that every one percent decrease in the self-response rate that it has budgeted will increase the cost of the census by \$55 million – a \$10 million increase from its original projected cost of \$45 million;

WHEREAS, the adoption of the citizenship question in Census 2020 would lead to inaccurate data about communities that have been historically undercounted, adversely affecting the prosperity and well-being of the City of Alexandria;

WHEREAS, a systematic undercount of Alexandria residents belonging to historically undercounted communities would hinder our government's goal of equitably serving all residents in our City;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Alexandria express its strong opposition to the addition of a citizenship question to Census 2020 by sending this resolution to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, its U.S. Senators, and its U.S. Representative. The City of Alexandria also calls on these Members of Congress to contact the leadership of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and urge them to oppose the addition of the citizenship question and conduct oversight hearings examining Secretary Ross' decision.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Alexandria use all future opportunities in the federal administrative and legislative process to express its opposition to the addition of the citizenship question, and to highlight the adverse impact on the City of Alexandria and all its residents.

Adopted: April 23, 2019