



U.S. SUPREME COURT CITIZENSHIP QUESTION DECISION:

Background and Talking Points

What makes the citizenship question case so important?

- No other issue before the Supreme Court will have more direct consequences for the nation's Latinos than the one before the Court regarding the 2020 Census.
- On trial is not only the accuracy of a full Latino count, but also the foundation of our democracy.
- The 2020 Census will be the second in the nation's history in which Latinos make up the nation's second largest population group. If the Census Bureau undercounts 18 percent of the U.S. population, the Census will have failed.
- In a survey conducted by NALEO Educational Fund, 78 percent of Latinos stated that the inclusion of a citizenship question would make people afraid to participate in Census 2020.
- The clock is ticking. Now is the time for Congress and the nation's highest court to give the U.S. Census Bureau the clarity and certainty it needs to execute the 2020 Census by removing the citizenship question once and for all.

Why should the U.S. Supreme Court strike down the inclusion of the citizenship question?

- We know now the full extent of the corruption and deceit that has been employed to undermine our democracy, with new evidence showing that the origin of the effort to add a citizenship question to the census was a memo drafted by longtime Republican redistricting specialist Dr. Thomas Hofeller.
- These documents leave no question that a concerted effort to undermine the political progress of the nation's second largest population group drove the goal to add the citizenship question, with the [new evidence](#) revealing that Dr. Hofeller outlined how its addition would facilitate the use of Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in redistricting that would benefit 'Non-Hispanic Whites' and significantly harm Latino voters.
- The evidence in the case is clear. Three federal courts have already found that the addition of the citizenship question was done in violation of federal law and would result in an undercount of Latinos and immigrants. Two courts found a violation of the Enumeration Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Why should the U.S. Supreme Court strike down the inclusion of the citizenship question? (cont.)

- Given that the contents of these new groundbreaking documents also show that the claims that adding the citizenship question would help protect Latino voting rights were false, it is also very likely that additional laws have been violated.
- If the Court finds that the three district judges erred in finding that Secretary Wilbur Ross violated the Administrative Procedures Act, future Cabinet members will be free to make arbitrary decisions at will.
- By dismissing the citizenship question, the Court can make clear that politics has no home in the hallways of one of the most preeminent scientific agencies in the world.

When was the last time a question on citizenship was asked of all Americans?

- There has never been a citizenship question asked of the entire U.S population.
- The last time a citizenship question appeared on the decennial Census was in 1950, and only non-citizens were required to respond.
- The question the Trump administration wants to ask comes from a survey the Census Bureau began conducting annually in 2005 with about 1 in 38 households — the American Community Survey.

What is the Census and why is it important?

- The U.S. Constitution requires that every person living in the United States is counted every 10 years. The next census will take place from March through July of 2020.
- Census data are important to our democracy – these data determine apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and how district lines are drawn at all levels of government.
- Census data also guide the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal funding to programs that are crucial to the well-being of families and communities.
- Top 10 Census Guided Federal Programs:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP)
 - Medicare
 - Highway Planning and Construction
 - Section 8 Housing
 - Title 1 Grants to Local Education Agencies
 - National School Lunch Program
 - Special Education Grants
 - State Children’s Health Insurance (CHIP)
 - Head Start / Early Head Start
- We only get one chance every 10 years at achieving an accurate count – these data will inform important policy decisions and determine federal funding allocations for a decade.

What other kinds of challenges may thwart a full count of Latinos in Census 2020?

- In addition to the Secretary of Commerce's last-minute decision to add an untested and unnecessary citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire, there are some other key changes and challenges that pose a threat to a full count of Latinos in the 2020 Census.
- A lack of adequate funding that could limit the Census Bureau's ability to conduct the operations and outreach it will need to count all Americans.
- A shift to making the Internet the primary response option for the first time in the history of the Census.
- *¡Hágase Contar!* partners will play a critical role in educating the Latino community about these and other key changes to the Census.

What is the *¡Hágase Contar!* campaign?

- The *¡Hágase Contar!* Census 2020 Campaign is a national effort led and developed by NALEO Educational Fund.
 - The *¡Házme Contar!* Campaign, is a sub-campaign focused on achieving a full count of very young Latino children (ages 0-5).
- Both campaigns will focus on regions with significant Hard-To-Count (HTC) Latino communities and a notable undercount of Latino children.
- Nationally, the *¡Hágase Contar!* Census 2020 campaign will provide partners with a number of resources, including:
 - “Train-the-trainer” workshop opportunities;
 - State of the Census 2020 briefings;
 - Campaign material and promotional information;
 - Public awareness events and informational panels;
 - National bilingual information and referral hotline – **877-EL-CENSO** (877-352-3676); and
 - Website: www.hagasecontar.org.