

Resolution No.: 18-1082
Introduced: April 3, 2018
Adopted: April 10, 2018

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice President Navarro
Cosponsors: Councilmembers Elrich, Katz, Berliner, Council President Riemer, Floreen,
Leventhal, Rice, and Hucker

SUBJECT: Opposition to a Citizenship Question on the 2020 Decennial Census

Background

1. On December 12, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice requested that the U.S. Census Bureau include a citizenship question on the 2020 Decennial Census. The Census Bureau has not asked all U.S. households about citizenship in a Decennial Census since 1950.
2. A coalition of 19 Attorneys General and the State of Colorado signed a letter addressed to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce opposing the request made by the U.S. Department of Justice. Signatories included the Governor of Colorado and the Attorneys General from the following states: California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. The letter asserts that adding this question will damage the accuracy of the 2020 Census, hinder the goals of the Voting Rights Act, and undermine the Census Bureau's quality guidelines.
3. Per Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers."
4. The Census Bureau has had its challenges in counting the total population for many reasons. According to a 2016 report by the Administrative Records, Internet, and Hard to Count Population Working Group, the groups that have generally been harder to count include: Racial and ethnic minorities, persons who do not speak English fluently, lower income persons, homeless persons, undocumented immigrants, young mobile persons, children, persons who are angry at and/or distrust the government, and LGBTQ persons.
5. Montgomery County officials played a significant role in the 2010 Census in the effort to promote the participation of hard-to-count communities by engaging in many outreach opportunities and providing public information and service announcements targeting traditionally hard-to-reach populations.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Council supports Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh's decision to join a coalition of 19 Attorneys General and the State of Colorado in urging the U.S. Department of Commerce to reject the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census.
2. The Council urges Attorney General Frosh to join at least 12 other states in suing to stop the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, either as part of a multistate lawsuit, or by initiating one on behalf of the state of Maryland.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Megan Davey Limarzi".

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.,
Clerk of the Council