

November 19, 2018
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about the approaching census. This poll has grown to play a role in political decisions from redistricting to resource allocation and has also become the premier source of data for a vast array of useful and interesting studies. For this to work it is essential that participation nearly to universal, a goal the 1978 law keeping the data confidential was meant to help. The Justice Department has proposed adding the question of citizenship and recently publicized internal DOJ email suggest consideration of breaking this confidentiality law and possibly sharing the data with ICE. The question alone would have the obvious effect of discouraging noncitizen participation for fear of reprisals, a fear the email shows well founded. Besides the obvious immorality of such a bait and switch, even the rumor of this plan will hurt faith in government and suppress census response.

Please assure me that you will not politicize the census.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our trustworthy government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson