



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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April 15, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Portman  
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Peters and Ranking Member Portman,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA) Board of Directors, I write to enthusiastically support the nomination of Robert Santos as director of the US Census Bureau and urge his swift confirmation.

Rob is an outstanding nominee for director. He brings the expertise, stakeholder support, and leadership skills needed to lead the largest federal statistical agency. His expertise—which includes quantitative and qualitative research design, sampling, survey operations, and statistical analysis—matches well with the work of the census, especially in the bureau’s work to reach hard-to-count populations such as communities of color.

As an active member of the statistical and survey community for more than 40 years, Rob is well known, highly regarded, and deeply respected by the Census stakeholder community. He has held many leadership positions, including president of the ASA, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), and the Washington Statistical Society. He has also served on numerous National Academies panels and the National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors. In addition to being a fellow of the ASA, he has received our highest honor, the ASA Founder’s Award for distinguished service to the association.

Rob’s leadership experience and skills will also benefit the bureau immediately upon his swearing-in if confirmed. He is currently vice president and chief methodologist at the Urban Institute. He has also held executive-level positions at the University of Michigan Survey Research Center and the nonpartisan and objective research organization NORC at the University of Chicago.

On a personal note, I would like to speak to Rob’s character and values as a colleague and friend (and a fellow Texan). Humble to the core, Rob started his statement for candidacy to be ASA president with, “I’m just a kid (albeit much older) from a San Antonio barrio...”<sup>1</sup> Rob is devoted to the various

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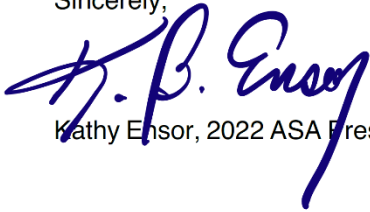
<sup>1</sup> <https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2019/03/01/2020candidates/>

communities to which he belongs and to the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition to being a leader, he is also a valued team member.

While a candidate for ASA president, Rob wrote, "As an executive officer, I embrace stewardship and decision-making motivated by values, mission, and fidelity to strategic plan. I make tough decisions as needed, but with compassion." I know Rob will bring these leadership qualities and approach to the directorship of the US Census Bureau.

I am proud to highly recommend your committee and the US Senate confirm Santos promptly so the bureau can benefit from his leadership as it concludes the 2020 Census, prepares for the 2030 Census, and performs its myriad other activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. B. Ensor". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kathy Ensor, 2022 ASA President