

## *American Statistical Association President Robert Santos Nominated by President Joe Biden as Director of US Census Bureau*

Alexandria, VA April 19, 2021—The American Statistical Association’s 116th President, Robert L. Santos, was recently nominated by President Joe Biden to lead the Department of Commerce’s Census Bureau. If he is confirmed, Santos will be the first person of color and first Latino individual to serve as a US Senate-confirmed director of the Census Bureau, according to a statement from the White House.

In addition to presiding over the American Statistical Association (ASA)—the world’s largest community of statisticians and data scientists—Santos is the vice president and chief methodologist at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. He has a long history of service to and leadership in the ASA since becoming a member in 1977. Additionally, he is the 2006 recipient of the ASA’s Founders Award for excellence in survey statistics and contributions to the statistical community.

“I cannot think of a more qualified person and consummate professional to lead the Census Bureau than Rob Santos,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein. “He has been a champion for defending the integrity of federal statistics as objective and trustworthy and advocating to bolster the Census Bureau. If he is confirmed, the country will gain one of the foremost experts in survey research, which will be essential for leading the Census Bureau into the next decade.”

Santos’s appointment comes as the Census Bureau prepares to finish the 2020 census, which was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. He served as co-chair of an ASA task force that issued a report, [“2020 Census Quality Indicators,”](#) proposing measures of quality, accuracy and coverage to be applied to the decennial census data. The first release of congressional apportionment data is expected to be available this month, with redistricting figures to follow later this year.

“Rob has been deeply involved in the review and analysis of the decennial census, particularly in terms of quality and reliability,” said Wasserstein. “He has shown a real passion for the value of the Census Bureau and its work, and we fully expect that passion to benefit the organization and, in turn, the American people.”

Incoming ASA president Kathy Ensor said of Santos in her [letter](#) supporting his nomination, “Rob is devoted to the various 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.”

Santos was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He earned a BA in mathematics from Trinity University in San Antonio and an MA in statistics from the University of Michigan.

## **About the American Statistical Association**

The ASA promotes the practice and profession of statistics. It is the world's largest community of statisticians and one of the oldest continuously operating professional science associations in the United States. Since its foundation, it has supported statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

For additional information, please visit the ASA website at <http://www.amstat.org>.

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