

The Census Bureau's participation in 2020 election work and the August 18 posting of the document, [Noncitizen Voting in the 2020 Election, A Beginning Analysis](#), to its website are contrary to its mission, legal statutes, standards, and practices. The Bureau should stop this work and renounce it immediately.

The Census Bureau is a preeminent statistical agency whose information is used to determine representation in the US House of Representatives, guide \$1.5 trillion in federal funding annually, and inform decisions made by state and local governments, businesses, and researchers across the country. To perform these vital functions and fulfill its mission "to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy," the Census Bureau must be trusted by the public, its many data users, and the people and businesses whose information it collects and protects in producing credible and objective statistical products.

To earn and maintain the trust paramount to its work, the Census Bureau has rigorous practices and standards to ensure quality, transparency, and scientific objectivity. Beyond being common sense and time-tested, these practices and standards are required by law. Most recently, a [2019 bill signed into law by President Trump](#) requires all statistical agencies to "conduct credible and accurate statistical activities" and "objective statistical activities" and "protect the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of their responses." The same law requires the statistical agency's administrative home—the Department of Commerce in this case—to "enable, support, and facilitate statistical agencies" to carry out these requirements. A [1954 law](#) states, "Neither the Secretary, nor any other officer or employee of the Department of Commerce or bureau or agency thereof, or local government census liaison, may ...use the information furnished under the provisions of this title for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which it is supplied..." The Census Bureau's [Statistical Quality Standards](#), developed in accordance with a 2002 law, include requirements that "Any conclusions derived from sample data must be supported by appropriate measures of statistical uncertainty" and the sharing of "Documentation needed to replicate and evaluate" 14 aspects of the work, including the analysis.

I therefore repeat this call for the Census Bureau to immediately discontinue and renounce this work, beginning with removing the report from its website and issuing a statement from the acting director. The Census Bureau's work in support of our governance, economy, and society is too important for the agency's leaders to allow its rigorous procedures and standards to be bypassed or its limited resources to be used for non-statistical purposes far outside its mission.