



# THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of  
America's economy and places

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## **More Than 90 National, State, and Local Organizations Urge Appropriators to Fund Census Bureau in FY24 At Senate-Approved Level**

**Washington, D.C.** – On the eve of major design decisions for the 2030 Decennial Census, more than 90 national, state, and local organizations wrote [a letter](#) to congressional Appropriators to stress the need to support the higher funding level for the Census Bureau in the Senate version of the Commerce, Justice and Related Sciences (CJS) appropriations legislation. A broad array of organizations representing the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors, signed the letter, including the National Association of Counties, US Conference of Mayors, the Population Association of America, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Nielsen, National Association of REALTORS, Insights Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and others.

Stressing the critical planning year that is ahead, they wrote, “... In FY 2024, the Bureau will choose a design and release an initial operational plan for the 2030 Census—decisions that will affect every facet of the next decennial. Sound investments now will help to ensure the future success and cost efficiency of the 2030 Census by reducing the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak planning years later in the decade. In addition, increased funding will enable the Bureau to pursue a thoughtful research agenda to ensure the 2030 Census is inclusive and accurate.”

House and Senate action on funding are below the Administration’s request, which concerns stakeholders that important reforms to address historical undercounts and to remedy pandemic-related data quality issues coming out of the 2020 count may not be sufficiently funded unless the Senate level is attained. Funding levels for the Census Bureau in the House and Senate CJS bills are \$1.354 and \$1.501 billion, respectively.

“Despite the budget politics of the moment, it remains true that the U.S. Census Bureau powers the nation’s data infrastructure, which serves public, private and for-profit activities essential to our nation and democracy. We are now more than 1/3 of the way through the incomparable decennial planning cycle, and funding uncertainty now will cost more later in the decade,” said Mary Jo Hoeksema, Co-Director of the Census Project.

“The Bureau needs a predictable, reliable funding scenario in FY24, not just for decennial planning, but also for the American Community Survey (ACS), which has long needed investment to improve the timeliness and quality of data essential to most decisionmakers in the private and public sector,” said Howard Fienberg, Co-Director of the Census Project.

The Census Project recently released an update to their comprehensive [report](#) on the value and impact of the ACS, which needs of major reforms and modernization. The report urges an infusion of \$100 to \$300 million to protect the ACS from further data quality deficiencies, enhance non-response follow up operations, increase the survey’s sample size, reduce respondent burden, and develop new data products, as well as adding new questions and survey content that are needed to ensure the ACS is accurately capturing data about the nation’s increasingly complex population and households. Strengthening the ACS is also essential given its role as a test bed for the next decennial Census.

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*The Census Project (<https://thecensusproject.org>) is a broad-based coalition of national, state, and local organizations and companies that support an inclusive and accurate 2030 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) (the modern version of the census “long form”). Its 800+ member organizations and companies, representing the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors, rely on objective data that the Census Bureau produces to inform evidence-based investment, policy and planning decisions.*