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July 29, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

As members of [The Census Project](https://www.TheCensusProject.org), representing thousands of census stakeholders and data users in the private, public, non-profit and research sectors, we are writing to urge the Administration to request a funding anomaly for the U.S. Census Bureau in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. The nature of the budget cycle for the decennial census and your demonstrated commitment to a strong FY 2027 budget for the U.S. Census Bureau should make this a non-controversial request to have included in any continuing resolution.

Since it appears unlikely Congress will pass and send final FY 2027 appropriations bills to the President to sign before the end of September, Congress and the Administration will need to agree upon a continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal agencies, including the U.S. Census Bureau, operational.

As you know, FY 2027 is a critical and sensitive year for the Bureau in planning numerous activities to prepare for the 2030 Census. These include analyzing the results of the 2026 Census Test; conducting the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation, which allows tribal, state, and local governments to submit address lists and maps to the Bureau to help ensure universal coverage in the decennial headcount and reduce the scope of costly field address canvassing; and, ideally, launching a communications and partnership program. In addition, the Census Bureau must also continuously field the American Community Survey to provide communities, businesses, policymakers, and service providers with timely, robust and reliable demographic and socio-economic data updated every year throughout the decade.

At the same time, the U.S. Census Bureau is legally required to conduct the next Economic Census in 2027. The Economic Census operates on a five-year cycle and provides key benchmark statistics of U.S. businesses and their economic impact. These data are essential to gauge U.S. economic activity, inform business decisions, and guide policymaking at all levels of government.

www.TheCensusProject.org

The combined core missions overlap multiple fiscal years, requiring fluctuating funding levels over the course of the decade-long ramp up to the next Decennial Census and to prepare for the quinquennial Economic Census. In recognition of these unique circumstances, previous Administrations have historically requested funding anomalies, granting the U.S. Census Bureau permission to spend at a higher rate for the duration of a CR. The U.S. Census Bureau, for example, received funding anomalies in FY 2010, 2018, 2019, and 2020, allowing them to keep critical planning and research activities on schedule despite disruptions in the annual appropriations process.

The Administration requested a strong funding level for the U.S. Census Bureau as part of the President's FY 2027 budget. Your budget request reflects support for ensuring the agency has robust, consistent funding to fulfill its unique, constitutionally required mission and adequately prepare for the next Decennial and Economic Censuses. If the current appropriations process lapses, we urge you to reinforce your commitment to the U.S. Census Bureau by adding the agency to the Administration's requested list of funding anomalies as deliberations regarding the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill continue.

Thank you for considering our request and for your support of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

National

Academic Pediatric Association
American Educational Research Association
American Pediatric Society
American Statistical Association
Arab American Institute (AAI)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users
Claritas
Coalition on Human Needs
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics, LLC
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Fair Count
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Free Government Information (FGI)
Gerontological Society of America

ICSC
 Insights Association
 IPUMS
 League of Women Voters of the United States
 Movement Advancement Project
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 National Community Development Association
 NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
 Nielsen
 Population Association of America
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
 The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
 Union for Reform Judaism
 UNITED SIKHS
 Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

State-Level

Civic Nebraska	NE
COOLIC Region 8 SJEREC	SC
Equality California	CA
Forefront	IL
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda	GA
Housing Action Illinois	IL
Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network	HI
MACS 2030 - Minnesotans for the ACS and 2030 Census	MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations	MN
N.Y. Elections, Census & Redistricting Institute (NY Law School)	NY
Silver State Equality	NV
The Bingham Program	ME

Local/City/Regional

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region		
Dreams United/Suenos Unidos	Long Prairie	MN
Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.	Fayetteville	NC
International Children Assistance Network	San Jose	CA
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY)	Indianapolis	IN
Minneapolis NAACP	Minneapolis	MN
PML Agency	Philadelphia	PA
RLS Demographics, Inc.	Rensselaerville	NY
Williamson County, Texas	Georgetown	TX

YMCA of Greater New York

New York City NY

cc

The Honorable Joyce Meyer
The Honorable George Cook