



May 21, 2019

Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Stillwater Building
201 S. Shore Road
Northfield, NJ 08225

Dear Freeholders Bennett and Fitzpatrick,

We were very pleased to learn that you are supporting a resolution to authorize the creation of a Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census.

Historically, children of many of NJ's largest cities have been under-counted. This has numerous negative repercussions for the children over-looked, for the cities where they live, and for the state of New Jersey. Among other problems, future federal funds will not match the true needs of the area for schools, hospitals, and other social support systems.

The importance of Complete Count Committees was brought to our attention just last week when Peter Chen, Policy Counsel for the Advocates for Children of New Jersey, contacted our Atlantic County Chapter of the League of Women Voters to ask if we could urge leaders in Atlantic City, Pleasantville, and Galloway (all designated as having hard-to-count areas) to register a Municipal Complete Count Committee and thereby join the state-wide effort for an accurate census. We followed up on Mr. Chen's suggestion and wrote to municipal leaders in those communities asking if they would begin the process of forming a Complete Count Committee.

Mr. Chen has been contacting communities in historically under-counted cities throughout the state to offer assistance in this effort. Many cities in northern New Jersey have already registered Complete Count Committees.

Mr. Chen has offered to come to Atlantic County to do a presentation to jump-start the Complete Count effort. Complete Count Committees pull together community leaders from every part of a local community - - government, education, faith-based organizations, local businesses, veteran groups, immigrant organizations, philanthropic organizations, and many others.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through advocacy. This past year, we urged our New Jersey congressional members to reject inclusion of the citizenship question in the 2020 census. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey strongly supports the creation of Complete Count Committees because they increase the self-response rate by communicating the importance of the census through local messaging and by raising awareness and motivation.

Please let us know what we can do to help make this effort a success.

Sincerely,

Jesse Connor
Barbara Fiedler
Co-leaders, LWV-AC

Cc: Peter Chen
Cc: Jesse Burns, Executive Director LWVNJ

Helpful Links:

1) This is a map of Atlantic County's hardest to count areas:

https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/img/mappdfs/CountyMaps/CountyHTC_34001.pdf

2) Here's a quick primer on Complete Count Committees (CCC):

<https://www.unitedphilforum.org/sites/default/files/Municipal%20Complete%20Count%20Committee.pdf>

3) A longer explainer on CCCs from the Census Bureau:

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/ccc-guide-d-1280.pdf>

4) A Census 101 explainer for nonprofits:

<https://2w82c83t2w3r323sryb7pf6w-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Census-101.pdf>

5) A one-pager for residents on Census in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).