



Giving Every Child A Chance

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate

The Honorable Donald Norcross
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Malinowski
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Albio Sires
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable William Pascrell, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Christopher Smith
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
United States House of Representatives

Dear New Jersey congressional delegation,

The Census Bureau's [decision to move the end date for Census responses from October 31 to September 30](#) raises the real possibility of a substantial undercount. This latest move comes after additional Trump administration decisions to rush the Census and introduce more uncertainty at the eleventh hour.

Although New Jersey has had better-than-average response rates to the Census so far, more than 3 in 10 New Jersey households have still yet to respond.

The undersigned organizations and members of the Census 2020 NJ Coalition urge you to communicate to both House and Senate leadership the importance of ensuring an accurate count. Billions of federal dollars in New Jersey and representation at the state and federal level for a full decade to come depend on the current Census count.

We're asking for you to fight to include the Census Bureau's previous request in the current COVID-19 response package:

Extend the timelines for collecting data and for producing apportionment/redistricting data by 120 days

Provide \$400M in additional funding to the Census Bureau to complete its count accurately.

The President's current plan will spend more money for a rushed, inaccurate Census, rather than giving the agency the time it needs to complete an unprecedented count. Throwing more money at the count without ample time to complete it will result in a more expensive, less accurate count.

Cutting corners will hurt New Jersey communities not just this year but for a decade to come. New Jersey already routinely ranks in the bottom of the country when comparing the tax revenue we send to Washington with federal spending in our state. And as one of the most diverse states in the country, New Jersey is at high risk for an undercount already, with many hard-to-count groups, such as seniors, Black and Hispanic/Latino residents, immigrants, children under age 5 and people with limited Internet access.

The constitutional responsibility to conduct an accurate Census rests with Congress, not the President. The undersigned groups are calling on you to perform your constitutional duty and protect an accurate Census count.

If you have additional questions, please contact Peter Chen at pchen@acnj.org or 630-544-4936.

Attached you will find a table of each congressional district and its response rates so far. All districts still have at least 1 in 4 households that have yet to respond to the 2020 Census.

Thank you so much for your continued advocacy on this issue.

Sincerely,
Census 2020 NJ Coalition
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Action Together – New Jersey
Asian American Federation
Community Improvement Association of the Oranges
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, NJ State Association
Latino Action Network and Latino Action Network Foundation
League of Women Voters – New Jersey
Make the Road – New Jersey
NALEO Educational Fund
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Paterson Alliance
Wind of the Spirit

Census self-response rates by New Jersey congressional district as of July 30, 2020

District number	Census response rate as of July 30, 2020
District 1	67.6%
District 2	50.7%
District 3	70.0%
District 4	69.7%
District 5	73.3%
District 6	65.9%
District 7	75.2%
District 8	53.2%
District 9	62.2%
District 10	53.8%
District 11	74.7%
District 12	68.0%
<i>Statewide</i>	<i>64.8%</i>