



NEWS

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SECRETARY GALVIN APPLAUDS COURT DECISION TO BLOCK CITIZENSHIP QUESTION FROM 2020 CENSUS

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, the Massachusetts 2020 Census Liaison, expressed his delight over today's decision by a federal judge to block Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross from including a question on the 2020 Federal Census which would have required respondents to declare their citizenship status.

Galvin has warned for more than a year that the inclusion of the citizenship question on the Census would lead to lower response rates in immigrant-heavy communities and could ultimately result in a loss of congressional seats, electoral votes, and federal resources for Massachusetts.

"I am delighted that the Court acted to block this question from the 2020 Census," Galvin said. "The census is meant to count every person residing in the United States, and attempting to frighten immigrant communities into not responding was a clear and deliberate effort to depress the count in states like Massachusetts."

In his ruling striking down the citizenship question today, Federal Judge Jesse M. Furman of the Southern District of New York wrote that "...adding a citizenship question to the census will result in a significant reduction in self-response rates among noncitizen and Hispanic households."

Massachusetts was one of several states involved in the case. Galvin's office worked with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's office to challenge the citizenship question after the Trump Administration announced that they would be adding it to the 2020 Census last March.

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