



NEWS

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SECRETARY GALVIN CALLS FOR HONEST CENSUS COUNT AHEAD OF TOMORROW'S SUPREME COURT ARGUMENTS

With the United States Supreme Court set to hear arguments tomorrow over the inclusion of a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census, Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, the state's designated Census Liaison, is calling for an honest and accurate count.

"The Supreme Court's decision in this case is critical, because it will determine whether or not we can get a complete and honest count for Massachusetts next year," Galvin said. "The fact that this administration is continuing to fight to include a question in the census that has been shown to reduce response rates just goes to show that they believe that politics is more important than accuracy."

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross previously directed the U.S. Census Bureau to include a question in the 2020 Census questionnaire asking for each resident's citizenship status. Several states, including Massachusetts, and other interested groups challenged the inclusion of the question. Multiple federal judges have issued rulings blocking the citizenship question from the 2020 Census questionnaire.

"It is clear from the Census Bureau's own studies that the inclusion of a citizenship question in the census would lead to lowered response rates, especially among foreign-born populations," Galvin added. "Massachusetts has seen steady population growth over the last 10 years, in large part due to the influx of immigrants from other countries. Injecting confusion and fear into a process that is simply supposed to count every person living here is an attempt to sabotage the count in states like ours."

Massachusetts is expected to reach almost 7 million residents by 2020, with approximately 1 million current residents who are foreign-born. Galvin has previously warned that a citizenship question could lead to non-citizens failing to answer the census, due to confusion or fear about their status.



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Census data is used to determine a myriad of things, including the amount of federal dollars states and communities receive for public education, transportation, and other government programs.

Population data from the census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Electoral College. Massachusetts is not expected to lose any representation in Congress if all residents are counted.

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