



NC COUNTS COALITION

2020 CENSUS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPREME COURT GRANTS PERMISSION TO THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION TO END THE 2020 CENSUS COUNT

October 14, 2020 – On Tuesday afternoon, the Supreme Court of the United States issued an order allowing the current administration to end the 2020 Census count. Data collection for the 2020 Census will end tomorrow, October 15, 2020.

“This is unfortunate and disappointing,” said Stacey Carless, Executive Director of NC Counts Coalition. “North Carolina will feel the impact of this rushed census operation for 10 years. At a time when our state could benefit from federal funding to support healthcare, education, transportation, housing assistance and food security programs, we may be leaving billions of dollars on the table.”

Currently, it is estimated that up to 30 percent of North Carolinians may not have responded to the 2020 Census. This puts \$5.4 billion annually at risk for the state to support COVID-19 response, FEMA disaster assistance response, food security programs, healthcare programs, early childhood education programs, financial aid for college students, small business loan programs for rural North Carolina, highway and road construction projects and more.

The 2020 Census operation began in North Carolina on March 12, 2020. As of October 13, 2020, North Carolina remains one of the lowest performing states for 2020 Census self-response participation. In fact:

- 63.2 % of households self- responded to the census in North Carolina, compared to 66.8% of households nationwide. North Carolina’s 2010 self-response rate was 64.8%.
- North Carolina is ranked 36 out of 50 states and DC for Census self-response participation.
- Only 30 of 100 North Carolina counties have reached their 2010 self-response rate

The US Census Bureau issued a [press release](#) on yesterday evening announcing that it will end data collection on October 15, 2020. Specifically:

- Internet self-response will be available across the nation through October 15, 2020 until 11:59 pm Hawaii Standard Time (HST), (6:00 am Eastern Daylight Time on October 16, 2020) at www.2020Census.gov
- Phone response will be available for its regularly scheduled time on October 15, 2020. Click [here](#) for schedule and a list of numbers.
- Paper responses must be postmarked by October 15, 2020.
- Nonresponse Followup census takers will continue resolving nonresponding addresses through the end of the day on October 15, 2020.

NC Counts Coalition encourages North Carolina households to self-respond to the 2020 Census as soon as possible.

NC Counts Coalition and partner organizations continue to call-on Senator Burr and Senator Tillis to take action to prevent a rushed census operation by cosponsoring the bipartisan, bicameral [2020 Census Deadline Extension Act \(S.4571\)](#) and the Young/Gallego Bill ([H.R. 8250](#)). The Census Deadline Extension Act allows statutory deadline extensions to ensure that the 2020 Census operation can continue to adjust amidst COVID-19 related disruptions for a complete and accurate Decennial Census operation.

Abbreviated Census Deadline Timeline

- March 12, 2020 – NC households began receiving an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census.
- April 1, 2020 - Census Day, which is the date the United States government has selected to count the population. This is a reference date only. Households are still able to participate in the census after April 1st.
- April 13, 2020 - The US Census Bureau released a statement requesting an extension from Congress of the counting operation from July 31, 2020 to October 31, 2020 and two statutory deadlines for reporting apportionment and redistricting data (1) apportionment be moved from December 1, 2020 to April 31, 2021 and (2) Redistricting Data Files to the states be moved from April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021. President Donald Trump publicly supported the requested extension during a [White House Press Conference](#).
- August 3, 2020 - The US Census Bureau [announced](#) a shortened counting timeline, which shortened the previously requested deadline to end the operation on September 30, 2020.
- September 10, 2020 – NC Counts Coalition Executive Director, Stacey Carless, provided [testimony](#) to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on the impact of a rushed 2020 Census operation on North Carolina.
- September 24, 2020 - Judge Lucy H. Koh's, a federal judge out of California, issued a [preliminary injunction](#) requiring the US Census Bureau to continue its Decennial Census counting operation through October 31, 2020. Judge Lucy H. Koh's order prevented the US Census Bureau from ending the once-a-decade count a month earlier than anticipated. The preliminary injunction also barred officials from delivering completed census information to the president on December 31, 2020. The government challenged this ruling to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.
- October 7, 2020 - [9th US Circuit Court of Appeals](#) rejected the government's appeal to end counting before October 31st. However, the Court did set aside part of the California judge's order that blocked the government from trying to meet the legal deadline of December 31, 2020 for delivering data to the president. The government challenged this ruling to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- October 13, 2020 – The Supreme Court of the United States issued an [order](#) granting permission to the government to end the 2020 Census count.

About NC Counts Coalition

NC Counts Coalition is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, established in 2017 to prepare North Carolina for the 2020 Census. The Coalition serves as a hub to facilitate cross-sector coordination among government, planning and community organizations, service providers, businesses and others to achieve a complete and accurate Census count for North Carolina.