



NC COUNTS COALITION

2020 CENSUS

PRESS RELEASE

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FEDERAL JUDGE RULES THE 2020 CENSUS OPERATION MUST CONTINUE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2020

September 25, 2020 – On Thursday evening, just short of midnight, 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 prevents the US Census Bureau from ending the once-a-decade count a month earlier than anticipated. The preliminary injunction also bars officials from delivering completed census information to the president on December 31, 2020.

"This is great news, as we have many people in our state left to be counted who are primarily Black, Brown, rural and young," said Stacey Carless, Executive Director of NC Counts Coalition. "We need all the time we can get to achieve a complete and accurate 2020 Census for North Carolina. Though this is a victory, the battle has not yet been won."

The U.S. Justice Department filed a notice on Friday that they are appealing the recent decision by Judge Lucy H. Koh's, throwing the timeline for the 2020 Census operation into chaos and uncertainty.

"We need Congress to act to prevent a rushed Census, risking federal dollars, quality data for decision-makers and balanced political representation," Carless stated. "Don't get comfortable with the extension, we must continue to encourage everyone to count today."

Nearly 600,000 individuals are currently estimated to be missing from North Carolina's census count. This puts North Carolina at risk of losing billions of dollars in federal funding for 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 projects and more.

The 2020 Census operation began in North Carolina on March 12, 2020. As of September 24, 2020 North Carolina remains one of the lowest performing states for 2020 Census participation. In fact:

- 62.5 % of households self-responded to the Census in North Carolina, compared to 66.3% of households nationwide. North Carolina's 2010 self-response rate was 64.8%.

- North Carolina is ranked 37 out of 50 states and DC for Census self-response participation.
- 94% of North Carolina households have been enumerated through either self-response or nonresponse followup, below the national rate of 96.6%

NC Counts Coalition and partner organizations are calling-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.

As uncertainly of the Census operation timeline continues, NC Counts Coalition encourages North Carolina households to self-respond to the 2020 Census as soon as possible. Households can respond online at www.My2020Census.gov, or by calling 1-844-330-2020. If households still have the paper form, they can also respond by filling it out and placing it in the mailbox, no postage necessary.

About NC Counts

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. For more information go to our website at www.nccensus.org

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