



CONSENT CALENDAR
December 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson, Mayor Jesse Arreguin, and
Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Subject: Resolution: Support of S. 4571 - 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting S. 4571, the 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act, which would extend the Census Bureau's statutory deadlines for delivering apportionment and redistricting data to April and July 2021, respectively.

BACKGROUND

The Census Bureau currently faces a December 31, 2020 statutory deadline to produce census numbers for congressional apportionment, and an April 1, 2021 deadline to transmit redistricting data to the states. The 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act would extend both deadlines by 120 days to allow for thorough and accurate data processing.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau extended data collection through October 31, 2020.¹ If Congress does not act to adjust the apportionment and redistricting deadlines accordingly, time for data processing would be cut in half, from 26 weeks in 2000 and 21 weeks in 2010 to just 11 weeks in 2020. These deadlines are particularly challenging given a larger, more diverse population, as well as disruptions to census operations caused by the pandemic.

One of many disruptions has been the closure of college campuses, which has increased the likelihood of double-counting or miscounting college students who have moved back home. The Census Bureau is required to count people at their April 1 "usual residence," meaning that students should be counted in their college towns. However, Berkeley has already seen some of the lowest self-response rates in the nation for Census Tracts 4227 and 4228, which encompass the Southside neighborhood.²

The Bureau needs adequate time to supplement low self-response rates through imputation. Data from this census will guide the allocation of economic and pandemic recovery resources to states and municipalities, including grant money, PPE, medical equipment, vaccines, and therapeutics. Furthermore, students counted in the wrong

¹ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/statement-covid-19-2020.html>

² <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates/self-response.html>

state could affect the outcome of congressional apportionment. Without careful data processing, cities like Berkeley could face significant undercounting, underfunding, and underrepresentation in the decade to come.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: Bill text

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORT OF S. 4571 - 2020 CENSUS DEADLINE EXTENSIONS ACT

WHEREAS, S. 4571, the 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act, would extend the Census Bureau's statutory deadlines for delivering apportionment and redistricting data to April and July 2021, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau's operations have been drastically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to the decision to extend data collection through October 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the impact of the pandemic on college campuses, the City of Berkeley has already seen some of the lowest self-response rates in the nation for Census Tracts 4227 and 4228, which encompass the Southside student neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, if Congress does not act to adjust the Bureau's statutory deadlines, there will be insufficient time for the data quality assurance and imputation work that the Bureau conducts to accurately count these low self-responding populations; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census numbers will guide the next decade of congressional apportionment, redistricting, economic investment, and the allocation of critical economic and pandemic recovery resources to states and localities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley supports S. 4571, the 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act, and calls upon Congress to carry out its constitutional duty to give the Census Bureau the time its experts need to produce statistically sound and acceptably accurate data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Senator Brian Schatz, Representative Don Young, Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Representative Barbara Lee, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

S. 4571

To extend certain deadlines for the 2020 decennial census.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 15, 2020

Mr. Schatz (for himself, Ms. Murkowski, and Mr. Sullivan) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To extend certain deadlines for the 2020 decennial census.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act”.

SEC. 2. CENSUS DEADLINE MODIFICATION.

Notwithstanding the timetables provided in subsections (b) and (c) of section 141 of title 13, United States Code, and section 22(a) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 ([2 U.S.C. 2a\(a\)](#)), for the 2020 decennial census of population—

(1) the tabulation of total population by States required by subsection (a) of such section 141 for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States shall be—

(A) completed and reported by the Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) to the President not earlier than 1 year and not later than 13 months after the decennial census date of April 1, 2020; and

(B) made public by the Secretary not later than the date on which the tabulation is reported to the President under subparagraph (A);

(2) the President shall transmit to Congress a statement showing the whole number of persons in each State, and the number of Representatives to which each State would be entitled under an apportionment of the then existing number of Representatives, as

required by such section 22(a), and determined solely as described therein, not later than 14 days after receipt of the tabulation reported by the Secretary; and

(3) the tabulations of population required by subsection (c) of such section 141 shall be completed by the Secretary as expeditiously as possible after the decennial census date of April 1, 2020, taking into account the deadlines of each State for legislative apportionment or districting, and reported to the Governor of the State involved and to the officers or public bodies having responsibility for legislative apportionment or districting of that State, except that the tabulations of population of each State requesting a tabulation plan, and basic tabulations of population of each other State, shall be completed, reported, and transmitted to each respective State not later than 16 months after the decennial census date of April 1, 2020.

SEC. 3. 2020 CENSUS OPERATIONS.

For the 2020 decennial census of population, the Bureau of the Census may not conclude the Nonresponse Followup operation or the Self-Response operation before October 31, 2020.

