The League of Women Voters Of Dane County presents...

Census 2020

Speakers:
Margo Anderson, Professor, Emerita, UW-Milwaukee
Ben Zellers, City of Madison Planning Department
Abha Thakkar, Executive Director of Madison’s Northside Planning Council

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

6:00 p.m. - Unit Meeting Info & Refreshments
7:00 p.m. – Program

Madison Central Library, Room 301
210 West Mifflin Street, Madison

Planning Committee: Sybil Better, Bonnie Chang, Janine Edwards, Janie Riebe, Louise Robbins, Marilyn Townsend, Jim Youngerman, Mary Anglim

The event is free and open to the public

Parking in the Overture Parking Garage, 318 West Mifflin St., or the State Street Capitol Garage, 214 North Carroll St.

For more information visit the League’s website at lwvdaneCounty.org or call 608-232-9447
CENSUS 2020

Questions for Discussion:

1. Professor Anderson and our articles use examples of controversies of the past around the decennial census, for example, rural vs. urban power struggles, anti-immigrant and anti-union fears, and efforts to control who should be counted. How are these situations similar to or different from tensions observable today?
2. How does the Census impact apportionment and gerrymandering issues?
3. Should funding and apportionment be based on the number of residents counted or on the number of citizens? Can you argue both sides of the issue?
4. What are some of the impacts of technology, such as mapping, sorting, data aggregation and similar technologies on the Census and people’s attitudes toward it? Does this growth of technology usage by the Census Bureau give rise to confidentiality and security concerns and what can be done to mitigate them?
5. How is the American Community Survey different from the Decennial Census? What are some of the uses of each?

Suggestions for Action:

1. Spread the word among those you know--friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, community groups including churches--about the importance of the Census. Do it in person or write a letter to the editor or post on social media.
2. Communicate with your legislators about the importance of adequate funding for the Census and the Census Bureau.
3. Help individuals to complete the Census Form via computer, paper, or telephone
4. See if your local library needs volunteers to help people fill out the online census forms.
5. Monitor what happens after the Census is finished. Is the data used fairly and transparently in reapportionment and allocation of funds? If not, speak up about your concerns.

League of Women Voters Positions

Apportionment (Impact on Issues, 2018-2020, pp. 20-21)

Statement of Position on Apportionment, as announced by the National Board, January 1966, and revised March 1982:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained, and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.
League History
The apportionment of election districts was a state issue until 1962 and 1964 Supreme Court rulings, requiring that both houses of state legislatures must be apportioned substantially on population, transferred the issue to the national arena. These rulings, spelling out the basic constitutional right to equal representation, prompted introduction in Congress of constitutional amendments and laws to subvert the Court’s one-person, one-vote doctrine. Leagues in 33 states already had positions on the issue when, in 1965, the League’s national council adopted a study on apportionment. By January 1966, the League had reached national member agreement on a position that both houses of state legislatures must be apportioned substantially on population. The 1972 Convention extended the position to cover all voting districts.

League action on both the national and state levels during the late 1960s had a significant role in the defeat of efforts to circumvent the Court’s ruling. The League first lobbied in Congress against the Dirksen Amendment, which would have allowed apportionment of one legislative house based on factors other than population, and later worked to defeat resolutions to amend the Constitution by petition of state legislatures for a constitutional Convention. Successful efforts to fend off inadvisable constitutional amendments have left the responsibility for work on this position at the state and local levels. Successive League Conventions have reaffirmed the commitment to an LWVUS apportionment position to be available for action should the need arise. After the 1980 census, state and local Leagues used this position to work for equitable apportionment of state and local representative bodies. . . .

Behind the League position on apportionment is a conviction that a population standard is the most equitable way of assuring that each vote is of equal value in a democratic and representative system of government. The term “substantially” used in Supreme Court decisions allows adequate leeway for districting to provide for any necessary local diversities, and to protect minority representation under the League’s voting rights position. . . .

Recent LWVUS Statements on Census 2020

Why it matters- The U.S. Census data is used to make decisions around education, healthcare, infrastructure, and political representation both within and among states. Getting an accurate and complete count of every person is crucial to ensure that each state receives funding to support the number of residents. This Census the focus continues to be on reaching hard to count communities and ensuring these communities get included in the Census count.

What we're doing- The League’s Census work will occur in three phases: (1) Education, (2) Get Out to Count activities, (3) Watchdog reporting. In the months leading up to Census Day, April 1, 2020, Leagues around the country will be in communities sharing information and resources about how to participate and the importance of the U.S. Census. On Census Day, the League will work to help get everyone counted, work in Complete Count Committees to share out information about low-reporting areas, and communicate where additional support is needed. Once the Census count wraps up in the Summer/Fall of 2020, the Leagues will remain in communities and will watchdog any issues from the ground.

LWV Advocated for Adequate Federal Funding for the Census Bureau

1 LWVUS Census Documents - https://tinyurl.com/y4mpxq8
LWVUS Address Canvassing - https://tinyurl.com/yyzfu7y
LWVUS Regarding Citizenship - https://tinyurl.com/y3ozjr37
On July 17, the League joined the Census Project and other affiliates calling on Congress to support the funding levels for the Census Bureau appropriated in the FY 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. The legislation allocates $8.45 billion for the Census Bureau including $7.5 billion in dedicated funding of the 2020 Census. Note: Some states are not allocating funds toward the Census effort.

**LWV Position on Federal Resources Needed for Complete Count Across the Country**

For the first time ever, in 2020 the Census will be primarily digitally based.

The Census Bureau has taken many steps over the decades to improve the accuracy of the count. The League has long been a partner in communities across the country to ensure that a complete and accurate census is conducted. We support the efforts to modernize the collection of federal data in a time of advanced technological capabilities. We also support relieving the cost burden on taxpayers for the U.S. Census. But we must also be aware of the realities of counting certain communities of color, low-income populations, geographically hard-to-count constituencies, and young children. Information campaigns and processes for community outreach efforts must be implemented throughout the country.

**LWV Advocates for Individuals who are Incarcerated to be Counted at their Home Addresses**

The League sent comments to the Census Bureau regarding the decision to continue using the “usual residence” rule. The rule counts incarcerated citizens at their prison addresses rather than their home addresses.

The League joined national civil rights, voting rights, labor and criminal justice organizations in submitting comments to the Census Bureau asking that incarcerated persons be counted at their home address, rather than the prison facility they occupy on census day. The League believes that if the Census Bureau modified its residence rule with respect to incarcerated persons, all states and localities will have the opportunity to more accurately and equitably reflect the incarcerated population in their redistricting plans.

A Census undercount or miscount will compromise the lives of millions of people and will cost more money to rectify in the long run.

The League believes including a citizenship question in the 2020 Census would have caused participation to plummet and threaten the accuracy of the Census. Census data is not only used to draw state and congressional districts based on population, but it is also used by local governments to plan for public safety and make investments in the future of their communities. An undercount of persons in any given area could result in inadequate disaster responders, insufficient resources for transportation and education and will impact the overall health and safety of communities. An accurate Census is critical to all American communities. An accurate count is too important to risk the negative results with this political move.

**LWV Position on Apportionment Related to the Census**

The League of Women Voters believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained, and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment (Adopted January 1966 and revised March 1982). Leagues encourage the widest possible participation in the Census as a way to ensure the most accurate population base for apportionment and redistricting. Behind the League
position on apportionment is a conviction that a population standard is the most equitable way of assuring that each vote is of equal value in a democratic and representative system of government.

**Study Materials**

The upcoming decennial census is the 24th such headcount of all persons living in the United States.

According to Professor Margo Anderson, our speaker tonight, the decennial census, defined in Article 1, Paragraph 2, Section 3, is one of the “core instruments” the framers designed to be forward looking, requiring “relegation of political power (and, originally tax obligations) among the states every ten years, and authorizing Congress to establish the parameters to implement the decennial count by statute as the population grew and changed.”

**Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution mandates the Decennial Census.**

Amendments removed direct taxation, shown by ellipses here, and negated the references to “Indians not taxed” and the infamous “three fifths” compromise.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they [Congress] shall by Law direct.

“After the first few censuses, Americans also recognized the extraordinary dynamism of American population patterns. ...[They] came to recognize that their decennial census reapportionments would shift political power to growing communities... [T]hese dramatic patterns drew attention to the census counting process itself, and have provided the impetus for...periodic controversies.”

Anderson writes,”Every census has had its controversies, often accusations of political manipulation of the count or tabulating procedures, or the cost of the effort, or the accuracy of the census results.”

“The U.S. has a continuous record of counting its population, and except for the 1920 census, using the results to reapportion House seats and the Electoral College. That decade the census data collection proceeded as usual, but Congress rebelled at the results, which showed for the first time that “urban” areas of the country housed the majority of the population. ...Only in 1929 did Congress pass a reapportionment bill, to go into effect after the 1930 census, and their “solution” to the apportionment controversy laid the seeds of future battles over voting rights, gerrymandering, and census accuracy. There are significant echoes of those controversies in the 2020 round.”

Excerpts from “The Census is Coming,” by Margo Anderson, July 17, 2019 (DRAFT). Read the full article at [https://tinyurl.com/y5yzxxyok](https://tinyurl.com/y5yzxxyok).
In summary, so why should we care about the census?

The census determines political reapportionment and the allocation of resources from the Federal government. And it tells us how our communities and nation are changing.

Find much more here: www.census.gov

The comprehensive guide to everything census, including many reports based on census-derived data. Some of this is derived, not from the decennial census survey, but the American Community Survey, which only a small portion of people will receive. If you get the ACS form, you must answer it as well. Includes historical snapshots and stories the Census can tell, such as what our social and economic well-being are.

https://2020census.gov/en

Information about how and why to answer, the impact on our communities, and answers to concerns about privacy and security.

What the census will ask - https://tinyurl.com/yxptxwzt

As required by the Census Act, the U.S. Census Bureau submitted a list of questions to Congress on March 29, 2018. Based on those questions, the 2020 Census will ask:

- **How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020.** This will help us count the entire U.S. population and ensure that we count people according to where they live on Census Day.
- **Whether the home is owned or rented.** This will help us produce statistics about homeownership and renting. The rates of homeownership serve as one indicator of the nation's economy. They also help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.
- **About the sex of each person in your home.** This allows us to create statistics about males and females, which can be used in planning and funding government programs. This data can also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.
- **About the age of each person in your home.** The U.S. Census Bureau creates statistics to better understand the size and characteristics of different age groups. Agencies use this data to plan and fund government programs that support specific age groups, including children and older adults.
- **About the race of each person in your home.** This allows us to create statistics about race and to provide other statistics by racial groups. This data helps federal agencies monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as those in the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.
• About whether a person in your home is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. These responses help create statistics about this ethnic group. This is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as those in the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

• About the relationship of each person in your home. This allows the Census Bureau to create estimates about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that support families, including people raising children alone.

Governments, businesses, communities, and nonprofits all rely on the data that these questions produce to make critical decisions.

The Census Bureau will never ask you for:

• Your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card numbers.
• Money or donations.
• Anything on behalf of a political party.
• Do not reply, click links or open attachments in a suspicious census email. Forward the message to ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov.

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate. For more information, visit Avoiding Fraud and Scams. (https://2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html)

View a draft of the actual form https://tinyurl.com/yx1mq2dh.

Privacy and Security - (https://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy.html)
The Census Bureau does not release any personally identifiable information to anyone. In fact, census data is not released until a generation (72 years) after the date of the close of the decennial Census.

Professor Anderson and William Stezer found that the Census Bureau released block-by-block data during WWII that alerted officials to neighborhoods in California, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Arkansas where Japanese-Americans were living. Anderson and Seltzer discovered copies of a memo from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of Commerce requesting the data and memos documenting that the Bureau had provided it. https://tinyurl.com/gs34mku

Cybersecurity: Perspectives on the Bureau of the Census’ work
A wide-ranging survey of how the Bureau of the Census will implement the Census, including new data bases and apps, as well as more traditional canvassing, outreach to remote places, and advertising. BARCA and ROAM, both internally developed, give census workers increased mapping capabilities and predictive data on lower response areas. ECaSE will be the app 350,000 workers use to personalize their routes and best times for responses. The Bureau has been constrained by a tight budget that prevented a full-blown test. It is working with social media firms to monitor for signs of disinformation and hacking, but
worries that people may rely on corrupted devices or be deceived by scammers or phony sites. If the Bureau’s plan works, a digital census could make the count more inclusive and, eventually at least, help cut costs. The Bureau’s tech team acknowledges there are external threats outside that are not fully within their control.

A very recent update on technical issues- https://tinyurl.com/yy8pq7mc

During 2013-17, **10.3% of Dane County's households had either no home internet subscription or dial up-only**, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates. **5.5% of the county's households had a cellular data plan only** (which may be costly to use for non-essential services).

**Perspectives on the citizenship issue—context counts:**

The fight over the 2020 census citizenship question, explained. (Vox) A relatively straightforward account of what the citizenship issue is and why it is so important with links to other sources. It was written before the Supreme Court stopped the current administration’s request to include the citizenship question on the 2020 Census. But the issue isn’t dead yet.

See the Brennan Center for a list of Census cases pending. Perhaps the most pertinent of these is this one, brought by the State of Alabama and joined by a number of other states and jurisdictions:

“The State of Alabama and Congressman Morris J. Brooks Jr. are challenging the Census Bureau's policy of including all U.S. residents, regardless of their citizenship status, in the census count totals used for apportioning congressional seats and electoral college votes.”

How Controversy Over the Census and Immigration Caused a Crisis 100 Years Ago. (Time) Drawing on an interview with Professor Anderson, this provides a history of the uses of the citizenship question in the Census and why it has been so politically charged. It argues that the Census has always been political because of its importance in determining Congressional districts and Electoral College votes. The controversy has always been born out of a concern over the growth in immigration and the power of cities. The years leading up to the 1920 Census had already seen an uptick in anti-immigration violence and the growth of racist activities as well. When the Census results came out, showing greater numbers of people in the more generally Democratic cities, the Republican-dominated Congress refused to believe them and did not move to reapportion Congressional districts until 1929. Congress eventually passed a law that required reapportionment following the Census. However, the compromise with smaller, more rural states that made the law possible, paved the way for today’s gerrymandering.

The Census ‘Controversy’ That Wasn’t. (Commentary Magazine) The author argues the position that the citizenship question is not much of a concern. It also takes a historical approach from a different angle. It says that the controversy is a partisan ploy, rather than an effort to have a full count. Because funding and apportionment are based on Census figures, it says it is reasonable to ask who among those counted is a citizen, although the Constitution mandates counting residents, rather than citizens. The article also says that fears the Census data may be used to identify undocumented residents are overblown, since the Census is forbidden to use any personally identifiable information from the Census for any purpose.
Local Efforts to Promote and Prepare for the Census:

Local officials help U.S. Census Bureau prepare for 2020. *(NBC 15)* How does the Census know what new apartments and houses have been built and new addresses need to be canvassed? Find out here.

**Complete Count Committees, who chairs your CCC?** You can use this interactive map to locate Complete Count Committees in any location in the contiguous United States. Enter Wisconsin (or use the pull down menu) in the search box in the upper left-hand corner of the map and find and alphabetical listing of Wisconsin jurisdictions and Native Nations.

**Madison’s Complete County Committee Members** *(https://tinyurl.com/y4yyww3s)*

Madison's Complete Count Committee aims to lead 2020 Census outreach. *(Cap Times)* Views of community leaders on community outreach. “The city, with a budget of $75,000 in 2019, issued a [call in June to fund community partners](https://tinyurl.com/y4yyww3s) to assist census outreach. Centro Hispano, Hmong Institute, Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Latino Chamber of Commerce, Freedom Inc., Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association and the Northside Planning Council received contracts.”

Undercounted areas in Madison and Milwaukee:

An easy-to-use interactive version of the Census Bureau’s data on the 2010 Census, located in the LWVUS Census Action Kit, allows you to see the areas in the nation, a state, a county, or even a zip code, where 2010 responses fell below 73%.

**U.S. map, Dane County** map where: ~6% of the county’s population is Latinx (regardless of race), ~7% of the county’s population reported their race as African American (either alone or in Combination with other races), ~7% of the county's population reported their race as Asian (either alone or in combination with other races), and ~1% of the county's population reported their race as American Indian or Alaska Native (either alone or in combination with other races), [Milwaukee County](https://tinyurl.com/y4yyww3s) map.
In the most recent decennial census in 2010, **85.1%** of the state’s households mailed back their questionnaire, requiring more costly and difficult in-person follow up from the Census Bureau to count the remaining **14.9%**.

Based on the latest census estimates, approximately **7%** of Wisconsin’s current population (or 396,624 people) lives in **hard-to-count neighborhoods**, shaded in **light orange to dark red** on the map. These are census tracts where almost a quarter or more households did not mail in their census questionnaire in 2010. Without greater self-response these and other neighborhoods in the state could be missed in the 2020 census, putting a fair and accurate count in jeopardy for Wisconsin.

In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the internet. As recently as 2017, **18.5% of Wisconsin’s households** had either no internet subscription or dial-up only, according to the latest American Community Survey estimates.

**HTC 2020**

https://www.CensusHardToCountMaps2020.us
How Census Bureau Tries to Map Out of the Way Places

https://tinyurl.com/yxspgx4s

This article shares all the technological means that the Census Bureau uses to verify addresses in an effort to locate every person. It is a fascinating read. Almost all of the preliminary mapping has already been done.

Census Activities for Students:

This links to numerous resources for students, including lesson plans, new maps, videos and more. It emphasizes how the Census can help build an understanding of statistics.

How Census data is used:

Hurricane Dorian- In order to prepare for and recover from disasters, knowing where people live is crucial.

Want to know what kinds of jobs people with various degrees get? How much more a Wisconsinite with a bachelor’s degree is likely to average in earnings than one without? An interactive visualization like the one linked helps!

With more than 80% of reservation lands being ranked among the country’s hardest-to-count areas, building trust among rural Native communities and stakeholders helps to achieve a fairer count and provide funding for critical infrastructure building in marginalized communities.


Privacy & The Census - tinyurl.com/y5qf4oar