CENSUS MESSAGING GUIDANCE ON 7/21/20 PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- President Trump released a memo on July 21, 2020 saying that undocumented communities will not count for dividing up Congressional representation between the states. The Presidential memo is unconstitutional and is being challenged by legal advocacy groups.
- The census does not ask whether you or anyone in your household is a citizen and does not ask about immigration status.
- We are all counted. The census counts every person living in the country, including non-citizens and regardless of immigration status.
- Participating in the census is critically important to getting our families and communities the resources and representation we deserve. Our census responses help the government decide where to invest in schools, services, roads, hospitals, and more.
- We have the strongest confidentiality protections in the history of the census. The Census Bureau is not allowed to share individual census responses with anyone, including immigration enforcement and other government agencies.

THEMES

- Everyone who lives in the United States counts for apportionment and is represented in Congress. This memorandum is unconstitutional.
- The President's memorandum seeks to shift political representation away from places with large immigrant communities by defying the Census' constitutional mandate to ensure each state is represented in proportion to their population.
- The U.S. Constitution mandates that every person living in the United States should be counted in the decennial census, regardless of citizenship status. The Census Bureau will continue to reach out to all households to respond to the 2020 Census.
- People should still fill out the census because it does not ask about immigration status or citizenship.
- Everyone in America, regardless of political affiliation or ethnicity, should be deeply troubled by the President's attempts to undermine and misrepresent data from the 2020 Census.

TALKING POINTS

What does Trump's memo mean? Is the memo legal?

- The memorandum is not about the census overall, not about who should respond to the census or about how the census helps our communities get services and resources.
- This memorandum IS about how many Congressional seats each state gets and where.
- **A proposal to exclude anyone is unconstitutional on its face.** This will be subject to legal challenge.
- The Constitution empowers *Congress* (not the president) to carry out the count in "such manner as they shall by law direct."

Should my community still participate in the census?

- Yes! We must continue to encourage our communities to participate in Census 2020.
- When you complete the census, it helps our families and communities get the resources and representation we deserve.
- A full count of our communities is vital in making sure that the data that influences and impacts our communities is complete. We need households to complete the Census while we fight back against this unconstitutional attempt to rig the Congressional map.

Why did Trump issue this memo?

- This move is purely political. Trump wants to suppress Census participation and skew the Congressional map.
- The Constitution is quite clear in that the Census should count "the whole number of persons in each state." The President can't pretend people and communities don't exist.
- This memo is another attempt to attack immigrants. He tried it before with the citizenship question, but he failed.

What is our message to the community?

- The best way to stop Trump's attack is by answering the census now.
- We, and our communities, won't allow ourselves to be erased.
- Every single person in our community matters and must be counted in the 2020 Census.
- This is the latest in a series of attempts to politicize the census. We will not allow the President to silence people in our country.
- To individuals in our communities, do not be deterred. Everyone should be counted in the census. We encourage you to fill out the census if you have not already.