



# 2020 Census Program Update Discussant Presentation

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**Arturo Vargas**

Chief Executive Officer  
NALEO Educational Fund

# **The 2020 Census, as well as the Census Bureau's integrity and credibility, are at serious risk**

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The Census Bureau is making a grave mistake proceeding as if this is business as usual.

Pending litigation presents challenges, yet national and regional staff need support, and stakeholders are demanding answers.

The lack of candor and transparency is undermining the Census Bureau's credibility among the "trusted messengers" it is relying upon to save Census 2020.

# The 2020 Census, as well as the Census Bureau's integrity and credibility, are at serious risk

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The efforts of Census Bureau professionals to salvage the best census possible against difficult odds, how the census process unfolds, and the outcome of the 2020 Census will have profound implications for the future of the agency and our democracy.

Stakeholders demand a fair and accurate 2020 Census, and are ready to support the Census Bureau, but they cannot do the work of the Bureau.

# The 2020 Census that is proceeding is NOT the operation the Bureau has been planning for the past decade

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- Years of underfunding have significantly altered the Bureau's preparations and plans for the 2020 Census. Numerous elements have been "paused," scaled back, or eliminated.
- Rural communities hit hard: Update/Enumerate replaced by Update/Leave in most areas; no final tests in rural communities.
- Plans for the Dress Rehearsal in three diverse sites replaced by a single "End-to-End test" in an urban site that did not even use the questionnaire that is to be used in Census 2020.
- Restrictions on who can be hired as enumerators.
- The 2020 Census questionnaire has been radically changed in the final months before the enumeration, including the abrupt, unexplained changes to the Bureau's plans for data collection on Race and Ethnicity, and the last minute addition of the untested citizenship question.

# The Census Bureau's characterization of the End-to-End Test as a "success" raises more questions than it answers and undermines confidence in the Census Bureau

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- The 2016 tests in Los Angeles and Harris County reported a large number of non-interviews in NRFU. How was this resolved in the End To End Test?
- How were NRFU cases resolved in the field? What were the differences by Hispanic Origin and Race?
- Why is 52.3% response rate considered a "success"? What is the response rate the Census Bureau is expecting for Census 2020 with the addition of the citizenship question?
- How will the Bureau accommodate a higher than expected response rate by paper?

# The Census Bureau's characterization of the End-to-End Test as a "success" raises more questions than it answers and undermines confidence in the Census Bureau

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- The Census Bureau did not meet its hiring goals for the End to End Test. How will the Bureau adjust its strategies and practices for Census 2020?
- There was no coverage measurement for the End to End Test. How is the Bureau determining "success"?
- What is the status of the redistricting file the Bureau is producing for the End to End Test? How is the addition of the citizenship question changing the plans for the redistricting data?
- What was the status of the Group Quarters operation in the End to End Test? Homeless count?

# NALEO Educational Fund Independent Assessment of the End-to-End Test

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**SURVEY** of representative sample of Providence County residents.

**INTERVIEWS** with elected officials and community leaders.

**REPORT** will hopefully help stakeholders:

- Inform plans for Census 2020 outreach and GOTC efforts.
- Understand participant concerns about confidentiality and attitudes about the citizenship question.

**OUR PARTNERS** are Dr. Kevin Escudero, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, and Gabriela Domenzain, Executive Director of Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University.

GCPI has published its first fact sheet on the test, covering its scope, purpose, design, and timeline; other fact sheets will cover the resulting technological and operational concerns the Bureau must address.



## The citizenship question has placed Census 2020 in crisis, and the Census Bureau needs to act accordingly

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**Numerous research studies confirm that the citizenship question will deter participation, resulting in a severely inaccurate count.**

- The question is raising concerns in all households – native- and foreign-born– about the motivation for adding the question, the confidentiality of information provided to the government and how it will be used.
- Adding the question is sabotaging the Constitutional mandate that the Census obtain a complete count of all of the nation's residents.





## The citizenship question has placed Census 2020 in crisis, and the Census Bureau needs to act accordingly

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- What is the status of the Internal Working Group that is determining NRFU protocols for the citizenship question?
- The Census Bureau's description of the Alternative D presented to the Secretary of Commerce, which he ordered implemented, describes a "**comprehensive statistical reference list**" of **U.S. citizens** that will be developed with administrative data and the citizenship question. What is the status and purpose of this national list of U.S. citizens?
- What are the changes to the Bureau's NRFU plans to address a very high non-response rate because of the citizenship question?

# Other issues in preparation for Census 2020 raises questions and concerns

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- Numerous stakeholders have raised serious concerns about the absence of CBAMS data to address the undercount of children.
- What is the status of the printing contract for Census 2020?
- How will the Communications program deal with the fear and distrust created by the addition of the citizenship question?
- Will multiple responses be allowed from single devices?
- When will the TEA designations be made so that we can prepare the public for the appropriate response mode: Internet First, Internet Choice, Update/Enumerate, Update/Leave?
- What is the status of a final decision on the use of Administrative Records to “enumerate” unresponsive households?

**History is watching.**



# Thank you.

**Arturo Vargas**

Executive Director

[avargas@naleo.org](mailto:avargas@naleo.org)

Twitter: [@ArturoNALEO](https://twitter.com/ArturoNALEO)

[www.naleo.org](http://www.naleo.org)