



Travis County Commissioners Court Voting Session Agenda Request

Meeting Date: July 30, 2019

Agenda Language:

Consider and take appropriate action on Census 2020 matters, including:

- A. Introduction of Census Program Manager
- B. Update on Austin-Travis County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee activities
- C. Adoption of Resolution supporting Travis County participation in Census 2020 activities.

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Elected/Appointed Official or Department Head: Deece Eckstein, IGR Officer

Commissioners Court Sponsor(s): Judge Eckhardt

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Background/Summary of Request and Attachments:

The decennial US Census will occur in the spring of 2020. The Census is of vital importance to our communities. First, Census data are used to determine the number of congressional districts Texas will have. Ten years ago, Texas's growth was recognized in the creation of three additional congressional districts in our state. Next year, it is anticipated Texas could gain an additional two, or even three, districts – depending on the results of the Census. Census data will also be used to redraw congressional, legislative and local districts, including those of the county commissioners, JPs and constables.

Additionally, it is estimated that approximately \$675 billion a year in federal money – for transportation, education, health and human services, and economic development – are allocated based on Census data. Another analysis estimates that for each man, woman or child missed in the Census count, our community loses \$1,500 in funding a year.

AGENDA REQUEST & BACKUP MATERIALS DEADLINE: Agenda requests and backup materials must be submitted in PDF format via email to agenda@traviscountytexas.gov by **12 noon on Tuesday** in order to be considered for inclusion in the following week's voting session.

Because the Census is so important, last year the Commissioners Court determined to take a leadership role in our regional Census effort. This item is part of a regular effort to update the Court about the community's Census effort.

Staff Recommendations:

IGR recommends adoption of the proposed Resolution supporting Travis County participation and leadership in Census 2020.

Issues and Opportunities:

A. Introduction of Census Program Manager

As part of its commitment, the Court entered into an unprecedented agreement with the City of Austin to jointly fund a temporary Census Program Manager position to energize and coordinate Census outreach and education efforts throughout our community. The City and County also decided that that position should be located within Travis County government.

We are pleased to welcome **John Lawler**, who will serve as Census Program Manager through September 2020. John has extensive experience in campaign organizing at the local level in Austin.

B. Update on Complete Count Committee activities.

This spring, Mayor Adler and Judge Eckhardt created the **Austin-Travis County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee** ("the CCC"). The CCC is composed of 32 leaders from the civic, business, educational and government communities who will give vision, energy and sweat equity into educating and inspiring people throughout Central Texas to participate in the Census. Judge Eckhardt and Commissioner Gómez both serve on the CCC. A list of CCC members is included as ATTACHMENT A.

The CCC has met three times. At its last meeting, on June 26, the members formed subcommittees that will handle a lot of the detailed outreach and planning for the Census effort next spring. One model for spreading the word is the creation of smaller CCCs, say, at a school, a non-profit or business. Our Census Program Manager will be a resource to the subcommittees and to the groups and activities they stimulate.

C. Adoption of Resolution supporting Travis County participation in Census 2020 activities.

IGR requests that the Court adopt a Resolution affirming the importance of, and expressing its commitment to, a successful Census 2020. A draft of the Resolution is included as ATTACHMENT B.

Fiscal Impact and Source of Funding:

N/A

Required Authorizations:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. IGR Office, roster of Austin-Travis County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee members, April 1, 2019.
- B. IGR Office, draft Resolution supporting Travis County participation and leadership in Census 2020, July 24, 2019.



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

The Honorable Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County Judge

The Honorable Steve Adler
Mayor, City of Austin

The Honorable Greg Casar
Councilmember, District 4
Austin City Council

The Honorable Margaret Gómez
Commissioner, Precinct 4
Travis County Commissioners Court

The Most Reverend Joe Vasquez
Bishop of Austin
Catholic Diocese of Austin

Reverend Joseph Parker
Senior Pastor
David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Paul Cruz
Superintendent
Austin ISD

Dr. Kelly Crook
Superintendent
Del Valle ISD

The Honorable Rita Jonse
Mayor, City of Manor

The Honorable Victor Gonzales
Mayor, City of Pflugerville

Dr. Greg Fenves
President,
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Colette Pierce-Burnette
President and CEO
Huston-Tillotson University

Dr. George Martin
President
St. Edward's University

Dr. Richard Rhodes
President/CEO
Austin Community College

Mr. Randy Clarke
President and CEO, Capital Metro

The Honorable Mike Geeslin
President and CEO
Central Health

Mr. Patrick Dorsey
Publisher
Austin American-Statesman

Ms. Cathy Vasquez-Revilla
Publisher
La Prensa Austin



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

Mr. Danny Lowry
Vice President and General Manager
Univision

Ms. Amy Villarreal
Vice President and General Manager
Telemundo

Mr. Alan Graham
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Mobile Loaves and Fishes

Mr. Walter Moreau
Executive Director
Foundation Communities

Ms. Angela-Jo Touza-Medina
Executive Director
YWCA of Greater Austin

Ms. Sarah Ortiz Shields
Executive Director
Austin Tech Alliance

Ms. Marina Ong-Bhargava
CEO
Greater Austin Asian Chamber of
Commerce

Ms. Denise Bradley
Vice President of Communication &
Community Affairs
St. David's Healthcare

Mr. Geronimo Rodriguez
Chief Advocacy Officer
Seton Healthcare

The Honorable Nick Chu
Justice of the Peace
Travis County, Precinct Five

Ms. Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez
Executive Director
Jolt Texas

Ms. Jill Ramirez
Executive Director
Latino Healthcare Forum

Ms. Carmen Llanes Pulido
Executive Director
Go Austin / Vamos Austin

Mr. Yannis Banks
Community Engagement Coordinator
Capital Metro

Ms. Claudia Yoli Ferla
Director of Student Outreach and
Organizing
Deeds Not Words

Mr. Jose P. Garza
Executive Director
Workers Defense Project

Resolution

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires an Enumeration of the population of our country every ten years, with the next one to occur on April 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, accurate census data help determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and often is used for the redistricting of state legislatures, commissioners courts, city councils and election precincts;

WHEREAS, an estimated \$675 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to states and communities based, in part, on census data; and,

WHEREAS, an accurate census count is vital to our community and residents' well-being by helping planners determine where to locate schools, day care centers, roads and public transportation, hospitals and other facilities, and achieving an accurate and complete count of the nation's growing and changing population; and,

WHEREAS, the census form is easy to complete and the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Travis County Commissioners Court commits to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a full and accurate count in Travis County and, as a 2020 Census partner, will:

- ★ In partnership with the City of Austin, fund a Census Program Manager position whose sole focus is to energize and coordinate a community-wide Census effort;
- ★ Support the goals and ideals for the 2020 Census and disseminate 2020 Census information to encourage those in our community to participate;
- ★ Encourage people in our community to place an emphasis on the 2020 Census and participate in events and initiatives that will raise overall awareness and ensure a full and accurate census;
- ★ Create or seek opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded groups in our community by participating in the Austin-Travis County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and by utilizing high-profile, trusted voices to advocate on behalf of the 2020 Census.

SARAH ECKHARDT
COUNTY JUDGE

JEFFREY W. TRAVILION, SR.
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 1

BRIGID SHEA
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4