

Dear California colleagues,

We at Philanthropy California and The League of California Community Foundations have come together with an important request – **sign onto our joint letter opposing the inclusion of the citizenship question on the 2020 Census.**

On March 26, 2018, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that he had directed the Census Bureau to add an untested and unnecessary question to the 2020 Census form, which would ask the citizenship status of every person in America. This decision will result in a serious undercount that will negatively impact our communities and our state.

The Commerce Department has invited the public to comment on the paperwork associated with the 2020 Census. The public has 60 days – until August 7 – to submit comments.

This is one of the few opportunities for philanthropy to make its case that the citizenship question should be removed from the Census questionnaire. Public comment establishes an important record for the public, Congress, and the courts to consider.

Many of you already have signed on to a group letter about the Census—and others have sent letters of your own. **However, we hope you will sign on to our letter and encourage other funders to do so as well.** If you are interested in signing on, please email us at [Info@Philanthropyca.org](mailto:Info@Philanthropyca.org) with the name of your institution; the name and title of your signer (i.e., the CEO, the board chair, or both) no later than **Friday, August 3, 2018.**

If your organization has not already done so, **we also strongly encourage you to submit its own letter.** We have uploaded two sample letters on our site (one for funders; one for community foundations) that you can customize as you wish. To access both templates, please click [here](#). To submit your own letter, go to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and click on the button that says “Comment Now.” You can upload your letter or enter your comment directly on the website. Follow the instructions to preview what you post and then accept the submission. **All letters and comments must be submitted by August 7, 2018 to count.** Members of NCG, SCG, and SDG, please submit copies of your letter to Karla Mercado ([Karla@Philanthropyca.org](mailto:Karla@Philanthropyca.org)) as well.

For LCCF members, please be sure send a copy of your letter to Mary O’Connell ([mary@lccf.org](mailto:mary@lccf.org)) and Cara Brumfield ([cb1542@georgetown.edu](mailto:cb1542@georgetown.edu)) at the Georgetown Center for Poverty and Inequality so we can track submissions.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to ensuring a Complete Count.

Best,

Philanthropy California and League of California Community Foundations

*As a reminder, submitting comments calling for the removal of the citizenship question is NOT lobbying. Private foundations are permitted to submit such letters.*