



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

## RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 20-13

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

DATE: December 5, 2019

### 2020 Census Citizenship Data

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Demographer is leading a regionwide effort on 2020 Census Concerns of the Northern Virginia Demographers representing Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, the City of Alexandria, the City of Fairfax; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court issued an opinion on June 27, 2019 to exclude the citizenship question, in part, because it would result in relatively lower response rates among noncitizen households. As stated in the legal opinion, this "would cause [those households] to be undercounted and lead to many of the injuries respondents asserted—diminishment of political representation, loss of federal funds, degradation of census data, and diversion of resources."; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States issued a citizenship data executive order on July 11, 2019. The executive order directs the U.S Census Bureau to link non-census administrative records to the census data. The U.S. Census Bureau has been directed to provide citizenship data derived from non-census administrative records with the results from the 2020 Census, which will be released as part of the 94-171 Redistricting Data File if requested. This will give each state the ability to exclude segments of the population for redistricting purposes; and

WHEREAS, the region's Demographers have significant concerns about citizenship data executive order. Details of the concerns are found in the document entitled "Summary Sheet: Citizenship and the 2020 Census". Issues identified by the Demographers include the executive order leading to an undercount of the region's and state's population, inaccurate Census data for the region and state, discrimination of residents, and compromising data privacy of residents; and

WHEREAS, accurate data is essential for local governments to plan and implement programs effectively. Local jurisdictions receive federal dollars based on the population of their jurisdiction. A Census undercount would lead to receiving less funding; and

WHEREAS, the data that the Federal Government is requesting from federal and state agencies is personally identifiable information that will lead to the ability to identify illegal citizens and use their citizenship status against them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorizes the Chair of the commission or the NVRC Executive Director to communicate with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, expressing the region's concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recommend that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia issue an executive order to all state agencies not to disclose administrative information to the Census Bureau in order to fulfill the President's executive order if data has not already been provided to the Census Bureau; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recommend that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia issue an executive order not to receive redistricting files that include citizenship data.

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on December 5, 2019.

  
ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER

