

## **Testimony for New York State Complete Count Commission Hearing**

May 1, 2019

Thank you to NYS Complete Count Commission for convening this hearing. My name is Jia Xing Hou (Fulton) and I'm currently a 2nd year graduate student at the New School for their program in public and urban policy. As part of my final project, I've been working in partnership with the Queens Borough President's Office regarding strategizing for Census 2020. Prior to working on this project, I had understood the importance and implications of this Census especially given the event surrounding the Citizenship question. Since conducting research and looking at best practices for outreach, I've feel even more strongly now of the importance of making sure that there is an accurate count of every individual in the country, especially here in Queens.

Part of my work has been involved with looking at hard to count tracts and populations and what that necessarily entails. Since there are various ways to determine this, I used data from the U.S. Census Bureau Planning database along with American Community Survey and evaluated the tracts of Queens County taking in consideration all the mail return rate from 2010, the low response score, and the household percentage without internet access.

### **Criteria:**

Queens Census Tracts were counted with a priority point if they had the following:

1. Census self response from Census 2010 of below 70%
2. A low response score above the national average 20.7
3. Above the average in households without internet access

## Findings:

Table 1. Community District Priority Levels

Community District	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	None (0)
1	13	26	18	5
2	15	14	6	1
3	3	12	21	2
4	7	11	10	0
5	6	25	24	11
6	12	6	2	11
7	15	17	19	18
8	9	19	5	12
9	12	30	13	0
10	4	21	7	1
11	9	0	0	24
12	0	34	46	2
13	12	32	6	12
14	1	9	9	5

- Community Districts 2 and 7 had the most Census tracts of highest priority
- Community Districts 13, 9, and 1 had the most combined tracts of high and medium priority.

Additionally, out of the 669 Census Tracts in Queens,

- 287 Tracts had more than the borough average percentage of non-citizens (roughly 19% per tract)
- 296 Tracts had more than the borough average percentage of those who spoke another language and spoke English less than well (roughly 24% per tract)

## Recommendations:

There is a need for additional funding across the board that will help with:

- Conducting further analysis as to the specific hard to count tracts/populations
- Supporting community organizations who can build trust with those most vulnerable
- Providing further language access through outreach and other materials