

Queens 2020 Census Public Hearing

May 1, 2019

Presented by Shiuho Lin, Taiwanese American Association of New York

My name is Shiuho Lin. I am a past president of Taiwanese American Association of New York and Queens Complete Count Committee(QCCC) member. I thank Queens Borough President Melinda Katz for establishing QCCC And Population Director Dr. Joseph Salvo and Census Bureau prepare us to tackle 2020 Census challenge.

Comments about 2020 census planned questions:

In today's world, people are worry about identity been stolen and immigration status been disclosed. I have 3 comments and one question regarding 2020 census planned questions.

1. Age: Ask only age and year of birth as 1990 Census or age and year and month of birth as 1980 and 1970 census.
2. No citizenship question.
3. Race question: I like the idea of race are based on self-identification and reflect a social definition of race. It is not defined biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. Therefore, on 2020 Census, Taiwanese can write down Taiwanese in the blank under Other Asian if their self-identification is Taiwanese.

. What happen if I do not enter day of birth or do not respond to citizenship question?

How to achieve a better census count:

2020 Census has 3 ways of reporting; on-line, by telephone, and by paper. The new online reporting presents more challenge to undocumented immigrants and low income people. Queens has the most immigrant population, the most undocumented immigrants and the most Green Card holders. According to Dr. Salvo, 2010 census mail return rate: Black 52%, Asian 57%, Hispanic Foreign born 59%, Hispanic, poverty 64%, White young or old 65%. Foreign-born or poor people has lower return rate. The top source of foreign-born population in Queens is China 16%. In community Board 7 we have 3 hardest to count tracts with 2010 census response rate of 58% to 64% and Asian population of 73% to 83%. How do we outreach to foreign born Asian and educate them about census? Where do they go and whom do they trust? The answers are church, senior center, school, library, and friends. I e-blasted my Chinese version of 2020 census summary to organizations, church and spoke to seniors in small groups. I outreached to Selfhelp Senior Centers and got Director Waxman's permission to distribute the flyer to seniors. We are planning to do table outreach to distribute flyers and educate people about census. We feel talking with small group is more personal and convincing. We hope Census Bureau can produce simplified census flyer in different language outlining the importance of census, safety, when to expect it, and whom to count. Department of Education and Department of Ageing can help to distribute to students and seniors this year and then February next year to remind them 2020 census day is April 1, 2020. If community centers and churches have census worker to help online reporting, people are more willing to come to report online. With the help of small fund, work will be done more effectively.

Thank you