

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<http://oversight.house.gov>

### MEMORANDUM

**March 11, 2019**

**To: Committee Members**  
**Fr: Majority Staff**  
**Re: Hearing on “2020 Decennial Census”**

On **Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Committee will hold a hearing with Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Census is required by the Constitution and occurs once a decade. The decennial census counts every resident in the United States, and data collected by the census is used to determine the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives and the distribution of federal funds to communities across the country.

The census requires years of planning and development to ensure a complete and accurate count. The 2020 Census will be the first decennial census to ever be conducted online. In preparation, the Census Bureau has designed and implemented many new technologies and systems that require additional oversight.

On March 26, 2018, Secretary Ross announced his decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census in response to a request from the Department of Justice on December 12, 2017.

#### **II. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF HEARING**

The hearing will discuss the ongoing preparations for the 2020 Census and the addition of a citizenship question.

#### **III. WITNESS**

**The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.**  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Staff contacts: Tori Anderson and Russell Anello at (202) 225-5051.