



April 1, 2026

Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We are writing to express our strong concern and opposition to the U.S. Census Bureau's proposed use of the American Community Survey – which includes a citizenship question – in this year's field tests for the 2030 Census. We find any such inclusion antithetical to the goal of counting every person, particularly in cities such as New York City, which is made up of many diverse communities and mixed-status households.

New York City and New York State have already started the planning necessary for a successful 2030 Census. If this year's field tests are a precursor to an inclusion of a citizenship question in the next census, we will be forced to consider all legal options to prevent any disruptions to an accurate count of New Yorkers. We strongly urge you to drop the inclusion of a citizenship question in this year's testing and to pursue a path that follows federal law, allowing every person to be counted.

As you know, we were both involved in successful litigation challenging the first Trump Administration's bid to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census. Through the efforts of NYC Census 2020, volunteers, and community-based organizations, New York City far exceeded expectations and achieved the highest participation rate of any major city in the nation, despite the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believed then, as we believe now, that any inclusion of a citizenship question would be severely detrimental to our ability to build trust, engage communities, and make a full accounting of how many people live in our city.

The United States Census provides the opportunity for our country's states and cities to achieve an accurate count of their population, an essential task to ensure they receive their fair share of federal funding and representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Leading up to the 2030 Census, it is imperative that the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau take the necessary steps to ensure a complete count.

We stand by ready and willing to help the Census Bureau achieve that vital goal here in New York State and New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Menin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julie Menin
Speaker of the New York City Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Letitia James', with a cursive script.

Letitia James
New York State Attorney General