

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Portman
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Peters and Ranking Member Portman,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong support of the nomination of Robert Santos as director of the US Census Bureau and urge his prompt confirmation. As a long-time user of Census data and respected member of the Census stakeholder community, Santos is an outstanding nominee for director. He brings the expertise, stakeholder support, and leadership skills needed to lead the largest federal statistical agency. His expertise—which includes quantitative and qualitative research design, sampling, survey operations, and statistical analysis—matches well with the work of the census, especially in the bureau’s work to reach hard-to-count populations such as communities of color.

As an active member of the statistical and survey community for more than 40 years, Santos is well known, highly regarded, and deeply respected by the Census stakeholder community. He has held many leadership positions, including president of the ASA, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), and the Washington Statistical Society. He has also served on numerous National Academies panels and the National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors.

Santos’s leadership experience and skills will also benefit the bureau immediately upon his swearing-in if confirmed. He is currently vice president and chief methodologist at the Urban Institute and has also held executive-level positions at the University of Michigan Survey Research Center and the nonpartisan and objective research organization NORC at the University of Chicago.

We recommend the US Senate confirm Santos promptly so the bureau can benefit from his leadership as it concludes the 2020 Census, prepares for the 2030 Census, and performs its myriad other activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

National Organizations:

American Anthropological Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
American Educational Research Association
American Mathematical Society
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arab American Institute (AAI)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO)
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)
City University of New York (CUNY) Institute for Demographic Research
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics, LLC
Insights Association
Justice Research and Statistics Association
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of REALTORS®
National League of Cities
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Urban League
Nielsen
Population Association of America
Research Support Services Inc.

State/regional/local/city organizations:

MACS - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey
Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research
Public Justice Center
RLS Demographics, Inc.
The University of Chicago Survey Lab
Twin Cities Research Group