Charter of the National Latino Commission on Census 2020

A fair and accurate Census 2020 is critical to ensure the strength of our representative democracy, the effective distribution of government resources, the enforcement of civil rights protections, and sound decision-making in the public and private sectors. Latinos are the nation’s second largest population group, and our nation cannot achieve a fair and accurate Census 2020 without an accurate count of the Latino community and its national origin- and sub-groups.

However, the 2020 Census is at grave risk. Our preparations for the 2020 Census are occurring at a moment when the Bureau intends to implement major operational changes to the enumeration process, and Congress has failed to adequately fund the activities needed to effectively test and implement new approaches. In addition, several significant policy developments have emerged which are exacerbating the risk of an unfair and inaccurate Census.

The NALEO Educational Fund is establishing the National Latino Commission on Census 2020 to compile crucial information about the impact of the challenges facing Census 2020 on achieving a fair and accurate count of the Latino community and all of our nation’s residents. The findings of the Commission will also include recommendations and best practices to address these challenges, and will be used to inform the future work of policymakers, elected officials, civic and community leaders, and other stakeholders.

Official Designation: The National Latino Commission on Census 2020

Establishment: NALEO Educational Fund established the Commission to help ensure a fair and accurate count of Latinos and all of America’s residents in Census 2020.

Objectives and Scope of Activities: The Commission’s purpose is to highlight 1) the challenges posed by on-going and emerging policy developments to a fair and accurate count of the Latino community and all of America’s residents in Census 2020; and 2) national and local policy recommendations and best practices to ameliorate those challenges.
Objectives and Scope of Activities (cont.):
The Commission shall carry out the foregoing activities in part by convening five to seven regional field hearings to solicit testimony from public officials, community organizations, and other stakeholders who are familiar with hard-to-count communities in the region, about the following:

- The impact of the Bureau’s Census 2020 operational plans on Latinos and other hard-to-count communities, including the changes from approaches used in Census 2010;
- The impact of the addition of a question on citizenship to Census 2020, including the effect on Latino participation in the Census;
- Assessment of community members’ experiences with the Bureau’s communications and outreach activities;
- Best practices for reaching and engaging Latinos to participate in Census 2020, including recommendations for ameliorating the undercount of very young Latino children (under 5) which occurred in Census 2010; and
- Any other issues relevant to the purpose of the Commission.

The Commission shall prepare a final report with its findings, and NALEO Educational Fund will disseminate the report to national and local policymakers, civic and community leaders, the media, and other stakeholders.

Membership and Qualifications:
The Commission shall be composed of five-seven members appointed by the NALEO Educational Fund in consultation with the Chair of the Board of the NALEO Educational Fund and the President of NALEO. To the extent possible, the membership of the Commission shall reflect the gender, national origin and sub-group, and geographic diversity of the Latino community. Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission, and have the qualifications as set forth below.

Members of the Commission shall be individuals who:

- Are of recognized standing in the Latino community with a background in elected office, other public service, or civic engagement; and
- Have experience with or expertise on census issues.

The Commission may invite Guest Commissioners to join the Commission at each regional hearing.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:
The Commission shall hold five to seven regional field hearings for the duration of Commission. The Commission shall determine the frequency of other meetings to discuss Commission matters, including findings from the hearings and the preparation of the Commission’s report. These meetings can be conducted telephonically or through other telecommunications technology.
Responsibilities of Commissioners:

All Commission members are expected to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to open discussion and sharing of ideas with fellow Commission Members and individuals who testify or submit testimony to the Commission.
- Review materials distributed prior to Commission hearings and meetings;
- Attend hearings and meetings prepared to listen carefully to testimony, raise questions, and provide input and make recommendations on the issues discussed.
- Provide feedback on the Commission report and other Commission issues as requested.

Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service, but will be reimbursed for any reasonable travel expenses incurred for Commission activities.

Office Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support to the National Latino Commission on 2020 Census:

NALEO Educational Fund is responsible for providing the funding, organizational and logistical support for the Commission.

This shall include designating staff to 1) work with the Commission co-chairs to schedule hearings and meetings; 2) develop meeting agendas; and 3) conduct outreach about public hearings and other Commission activities; 4) assist with the preparation of the final Commission report; and 5) conduct other support responsibilities as may be necessary.

Organizational Structure:

NALEO Educational Fund shall designate the co-chairs of the Commission. The co-chairs will determine the process for designating which Commission member(s) will preside over each hearing or meeting. The Commission shall adopt any rules it deems necessary to govern the operations of its meetings.

Termination:

The Commission shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the Commission publishes its final report.

Record Keeping:

The Commission shall keep an accurate and complete record of the actions and meetings of the body. Such record shall be made available for public inspection.