



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Evidence Shows Efforts to Thwart Latino Political Progress Drove Decision to Add Citizenship Question to Census 2020**

*Previously undisclosed documents reveal longtime Republican redistricting expert Dr. Thomas Hofeller was involved in decision to add the citizenship question*

*New memo outlined how the addition of a citizenship question to Census 2020 would ultimately benefit "Non-Hispanic Whites" while significantly harming Latino voters in redistricting*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas following the release of new evidence that shows that discriminatory redistricting motivations were behind U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's decision to add a citizenship question to Census 2020:

"These new developments confirm what we have known for some time—that political actors seek to manipulate the 2020 Census for partisan purposes that directly inflict injury on the nation's Latino community.

"We know now the full extent of the corruption and deceit that has been employed to undermine our democracy, with [new evidence](#) showing that the origin of the effort to add a citizenship question to the census was a memo drafted by longtime Republican redistricting specialist Dr. Thomas Hofeller.

"These [documents](#) leave no question that a concerted effort to undermine the political progress of the nation's second largest population group drove the goal to add the citizenship question, with evidence revealing that Dr. Hofeller outlined how its addition would facilitate the use of Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in redistricting that would benefit 'Non-Hispanic Whites' and significantly harm Latino voters.

"In light of this damning [evidence](#), we call on the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the previous rulings by the three district courts that found the addition of the citizenship question violated the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act. Given that the contents of these new groundbreaking [documents](#) also show that the claims that the addition of the citizenship question would help protect Latino voting rights were false, it is also very likely that additional laws have been violated.

"NALEO Educational Fund remains staunchly committed to a fair and accurate Census count of all persons in the United States, including all Latinos, as required by the U.S. Constitution. It is time for Congress and the nation's highest court to stand up for our democracy and act swiftly to remove the citizenship question once and for all."

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#### **About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*