

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 3, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **2020 Census Update**

Please see the attached article, which appeared in Ralph Garboushian's Washington Report last Friday, related to potential delays in delivery of 2020 Census data to state and local governments. As mentioned in the article, Census Bureau officials, at a meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures, said that the earliest they will deliver apportionment data to the President is early March, 2021. In an official follow up statement, the Census Bureau said that April 30, 2021 is likely when they will deliver apportionment data to the President. The apportionment data, which is used to allocate the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives among the states, was statutorily due on December 31, 2020, but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

Census Bureau officials also said that they have not determined when they will deliver more detailed population data to the states but mentioned the data should not be expected before the end of July. State and local governments use the more detailed population data for redistricting. The Census Bureau, however, has not released an official statement on any delays of delivery of detailed Census data to states. We will provide an update to the City Council if any delays are officially announced,

Currently, we continue to adhere to the Redistricting schedule as presented to the City Council on January 6, 2021. Any delays in the release of detailed Census data to the states may require us to recommend adjustments to the schedule, which we will bring back to you for consideration.

We will continue to keep you updated on Census 2020 and Redistricting. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Brett Wilkinson, Director of the Office of Government Affairs, at (469) 271-0399 or [brett.wilkinson@dallascityhall.com](mailto:brett.wilkinson@dallascityhall.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Bizer Tolbert'.

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert  
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors



## Washington Report

### Volume 27, Issue 4

### January 29, 2021

*The full report can be accessed [here](#).*

#### **CENSUS**

Census Bureau announces delayed release of apportionment and redistricting data. Addressing a meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Census Bureau officials said that the earliest they will deliver apportionment data to the President is early March. In a follow up statement, the Census Bureau said that April 30 is likely when they will deliver apportionment data to the President. The apportionment data, which is used to allocate the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives among the states, was statutorily due December 31, 2020.

Census Bureau officials also said that they have not determined when they will deliver more detailed population data to the states, but said “you should not expect it before July 30.” State and local governments use the more detailed population data to redraw federal, state, and local legislative districts. The more detailed data is also used to allocate more than \$1.5 trillion in federal funds per year. The statutory deadline for the Census Bureau to deliver is March 31, 2021.

Last spring, citing the pandemic and other disasters, the Census Bureau asked Congress for a 120-day extension of the due dates for delivery of 2020 Census data. Congress appeared poised to comply until the issue became wrapped up in political issues, most notably whether apportionment data would include undocumented residents. The delays the Census Bureau announced this week generally track that original request to extend the deadlines. They also track the late completion of the 2020 Census in mid-October, almost three months late. In addition to delays related to the pandemic and other disasters, Census Bureau officials said that they need additional time to address anomalies with some records in order to avoid double counting or other errors.

The late delivery of redistricting data most immediately creates challenges for New Jersey and Virginia. Both states hold elections for their state legislatures this November. It also creates

problems for other state and local governments that may have statutory deadlines for redistricting. The late delivery of data could even create pressure for election officials tasked with establishing precincts and other voting infrastructure ahead of congressional and state legislative primaries held in early 2022.

In her appearance before the Senate Commerce Committee, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, President Biden's choice to run the Commerce Department, which includes the Census Bureau, said she will give the Census Bureau as time to deliver accurate results, saying "I believe that we need to take the politics out of the census, and we need to rely on the experts. If they need more time, I am open to that."