

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AFFIRMING)	RESOLUTION NO. 19-4982
METRO’S DEDICATION TO AN)	
ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS COUNT)	Introduced by Councilor Sam Chase,
)	Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez and
)	Councilor Christine Lewis in concurrence
)	with Council President Lynn Peterson

Whereas, the decennial census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and has been conducted every ten years since 1790 to produce an accurate count of federal, state, and local populations that leads to informed decision-making by elected representatives; and

Whereas, Census data is critical to a variety of Metro functions including the Urban Growth Management process, federally mandated transportation planning work, Data Resource Center, market research for the venues, legislative districting and federal funding formulas, and our efforts to advance racial equity; and

Whereas, census data is utilized for the redrawing of congressional maps that assure proper representation based on population, and that with a proper and accurate census count, Oregon is expected to gain one seat in the House of Representatives due to growth; and

Whereas, census data has a direct impact on the allocation of approximately \$13.5 billion in annual federal funds, grants and supports to Oregon, including Medicaid, Medicare, highway planning, supplemental nutrition assistance, housing vouchers, school lunch, and countless others; and

Whereas, it is known that communities of color, immigrant and refugee populations, non-English speakers, and other marginalized groups have historically been hard to count and therefore underrepresented in our democratic system of government and in the funding received by cities, counties, schools and other public agencies seeking to serve their entire populations; and

Whereas, in order to encourage public involvement and ensure a complete count of communities, individual census records are confidential and protected for 72 years; and

Whereas, Metro staff are in close coordination with representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau, State of Oregon, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, and will continue to be to collaborate on efforts aimed at ensuring an accurate census especially for hard to count populations; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council supports the goals and ideals of the census, and will support our regional partners in conducting robust public awareness and educational campaigns up to, on, and after the nationally-recognized "Census Day" on April 1, 2020.

1. General populations will be urged to take the census online, which lowers the overall cost of conducting the census and encourages participation.
2. Members of historically hard to count populations will be specifically reached out to in order to ensure that they participate and are confidentially yet fully recognized as members of the community.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 4th day of April 2019.



Lynn Peterson, Council President

DEPUTY PRESIDENT
SAM CHASE ON
BEHALF OF

Approved as to Form:



Nathan A. S. Sykes, Acting Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-4982, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AFFIRMING METRO'S DEDICATION TO AN ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS COUNT

Date: April 5, 2019

Prepared by: Ernest Hayes
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BACKGROUND

Accurate and complete census data is essential to ensure that people are counted in our region. This information impacts all Metro lines of business and is a critical tool in the Strategy to Advance Racial Equity. It is the basis for a wide variety of federal funding formulas impacting the daily lives of greater Portland residents.

The State of Oregon, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties are working with Metro staff to create a regional collaborative to support the work of census data collection particularly for hard to count populations.

Metro's involvement in a regional collaboration will help to convene a well-represented support system to get the best results from the 2020 census count. This is also important for Metro districting, and the potential for an additional federal delegate based on count numbers, among the many other benefits.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** None
2. **Legal Antecedents** Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution; Title 13 of the U.S. Code; Metro Charter Chapter VI, Section 31; Metro Resolution 83-392; Metro Resolution 14-4502.
3. **Anticipated Effects** Metro will participate in efforts to increase the accuracy of census 2020 counts for the region.
4. **Budget Impacts** None related to this Resolution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that Metro Council approve Resolution 19-4982 in support of our regional partners in affirming efforts to assure an accurate count from the 2020 Census.