

Comments in Response to the Federal Register
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Voting and Registration Supplement
OMB Control Number 0607-0466

The U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce published a notice of our intent to ask the voting and registration questions in the June 3, 2020, edition of the Federal Register (see 85 FR 34177, page 34177). We received one comment in response to the notice, from which the NALEO Education Fund made several recommendations regarding the survey. Responses to the recommendations are given below.

Recommendation	Census Bureau Response
<p>The Voting and Registration Supplement should supply more high quality information about small populations by increasing sample size or by incorporating targeted oversampling.</p>	<p>In order to increase the sample size for the the Voting and Registration Supplement, Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) would have to increase the sample size for the core survey, the Current Population Survey (CPS). Census and BLS, the co-sponsors of the CPS, do not have the funding to make these changes to the CPS sample.</p> <p>In order to oversample for small populations for the the Voting and Registration Supplement, Census and BLS would have to oversample for small populations. Census and BLS, the co-sponsors of the CPS, do not have the funding to make these changes to the CPS sample.</p>
<p>The Voting and Registration Supplement should be conducted in languages other than English.</p>	<p>The Census Bureau does not have the funding needed to translate all CPS supplements into multiple languages. Census does hire interviewers with language skills other than English. If an interviewer encounters a respondent who does not speak</p>

	<p>English, and there is no one else in the household who can translate for the respondent, the case can be reassigned to an interviewer who does speak the language.</p>
<p>The Census Bureau must anticipate unique pandemic-related challenges to fielding the 2020 Voting and Registration Supplement, and ask potential voters about COVID-19's effects.</p>	<p>The Census Bureau proposes to make the following changes to the 2020 Voting and Registration questionnaire due to the COVID pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Add a response choice to question S3 about respondents' reasons for not registering to vote that reference the COVID-19 pandemic. b) Add a response choice to question S4 about respondents' reasons for not voting that reference the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>Regarding Census fielding operations, the bureau has employed the following strategies since personal visit interviews were halted on March 20, 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Attempting to contact all sample households by telephone. For sample units in the first interview, Census is providing interviewers telephone numbers from the internal Census Contact Frame and from third party sources. b) Sending all households that do not have a good telephone number or who do not answer Census calls a "Please Call Me Letter". This letter provides the name and number of the interviewer assigned to the case, and asks the respondent to call the interviewer to set up an appointment to do the interview by telephone. c) Based on current local area conditions and federal

	<p>guidance, the Census Bureau resumed limited in-person interviews for the July CPS in selected states. The above strategies will continue to be used for those areas that are still telephone only.</p>
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