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FEATURED NEWS

2020 Census to Ask About Citizenship; COSSA Releases Statement and Action Alert

On March 26, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross [directed](#) the Census Bureau to include a question about respondents' citizenship in the 2020 Decennial Census. The decision was made in response to a [request](#) by the Department of Justice to add the question in order to support its enforcement of the *Voting Rights Act*, although it is unclear why current data is inadequate. Citizenship was last asked as part of the decennial census in 1950; since then it has been included on the census "long form," which later became the American Community Survey (these differ from the decennial census in that they are sent to a sample of the U.S. population, not every household). In a [memo](#) outlining his decision, Ross stipulated that the question be asked last on the Census form. While the decision was [reportedly](#) made over the objections of the experts at the Census Bureau, the citizenship question was on the [list of planned questions](#) submitted to Congress on March 29.

The decision has raised concerns for those in the scientific community because the question was not part of the extensive research and testing the Census Bureau routinely conducts in the years leading up to a decennial census. The Bureau carefully evaluates all proposed changes to design and wording of the census to ensure that they do not affect the quality of the responses received. Asking about citizenship could alienate respondents in the immigrant community and potentially deter them from responding to the Census at all or answering inaccurately, resulting in an undercount of these populations and affecting the accuracy and integrity of the Census data. The Bureau is currently conducting the last major test of the 2020 Census operation, the 2018 End-to-End Test in Providence, RI, which is being administered without a citizenship question. Because the Bureau will not have been able to evaluate the impact of the question, we will not know how the question will affect responses until the 2020 Census is in the field. Given that the Census Bureau has a Constitutional obligation to count every member of the U.S. population, an increase in non-response would greatly increase the costs of the count, as more enumerators would need be sent to collect responses in person, at far greater expense than planned mail or internet outreach.

The decennial census is an irreplaceable source of data for researchers across the social sciences who use it to generate valuable findings about the U.S. population that can be used to inform evidence-based policies. In addition, information from the decennial census undergirds numerous other surveys and data sets at the Census Bureau and beyond, so a problem at the source would have far-reaching implications across the statistical system. **COSSA strongly opposes the Department of Commerce's decision and released a [statement](#) to that effect on March 27. In addition, COSSA issued an [action alert](#) to enable COSSA members to easily write to their Members of Congress and ask them to support legislation to remove the question. In addition, other COSSA members, including the [American Statistical Association](#), the [Population Association of America](#), and the [Social Science Research Council](#) have released statements criticizing the decision.**

At this stage, the only avenues to removing the question are legislation or a court ruling. Two bills ([H.R. 5359](#) and [S. 2580](#)) have been introduced by Democrats in Congress that would bar the Census from asking about citizenship, but neither has bipartisan support, making passage unlikely. In addition, more than one [law suit](#) has been filed against the Administration, arguing that asking about citizenship is an attempt to depress the count of minority populations.

COSSA IN ACTION

Science Policy Conference Program Taking Shape; Hotel Block Extended to April 6

More sessions and speakers have been announced for the [COSSA 2018 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day](#). The conference will feature a keynote address delivered by Sian Beilock, President of Barnard College, plenary panels on "Reestablishing Trust in Social Science & Data" and "Post Truth: Communicating Facts, Not Fiction" and topical breakout sessions on the theme "Why Social Science?" covering National Security, the Opioid Epidemic, Natural Disasters, and Criminal Justice. Check the [preliminary agenda](#) for the full lineup of presenters announced so far. Registration for the Conference is still open. Members and students are entitled to discounted registration-email jmilton@coffa.org for details. The conference hotel block deadline was extended until April 6, so this is your last chance to take advantage of our discounted rate. Use [this link](#) when booking or use the group code **COSSAM** to receive the block rate. Check [our website](#) for the latest on the Conference.

COSSA to Present 2018 Distinguished Service Award to Rep. Dan Lipinski, NIH's Bill Riley

COSSA has named U.S. Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Dr. William (Bill) Riley, Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as the recipients of its 2018 [Distinguished Service Award](#). The COSSA Distinguished Service Award recognizes leaders who have gone above and beyond to promote, protect, and advance the social and behavioral science research enterprise. Awardees are chosen by the COSSA Board of Directors, which represents COSSA's governing member associations. The 2018 Distinguished Service Award will be officially presented at a [reception](#) on April 30, 2018 as part of COSSA's [2018 Science Policy Conference](#). Read the press release [here](#).

[Read on](#) for more details.

COSSA Seeking Undergraduate Summer Interns

COSSA is accepting applications for its 2018 summer internship. The opportunity is open to undergraduate students who wish to learn about advocacy/lobbying, policy impacting social science, and/or non-profit organizations. Responsibilities include conducting research to assist COSSA staff with their lobbying activities and coverage of events, such as Congressional hearings, federal agency advisory committee meetings, community and coalition events, which may result in a written product, such as a newsletter article. More information is available in the [internship description](#). Applications will be evaluated as they are received, so apply now!

The American Statistical Association Answers "Why Social Science?"



This month's *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the American Statistical Association, who writes about how social scientists use federally collected data to provide the public with intelligence and insight to make smart decisions. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

Letters & Statements

- 3/27/2018: Friends of AHRQ Letter on FY 2019 Funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, [House/Senate](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Congress Approves Fiscal Year 2018 Funding; Cochran Retires

On March 23, President Trump signed the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018* into law, finalizing appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2018 nearly six months after the fiscal year began. The omnibus bill includes all 12 individual appropriations bills and will fund the federal government through September 30, 2018. This bill came after a bipartisan deal was reached to [raise spending caps](#), which resulted in increases for many programs across the government - including those important to the social and behavioral sciences. The omnibus also served as a last hurrah for Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, who announced that he will retire effective April 1 after serving in the Senate for 40 years. Cochran's successor will be Alabama Senator Richard Shelby, who has most recently served as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's full analysis of the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill.

House Members Join Together to Support NIH, Title VI International Education in Dear Colleague Letters

As Congress begins deliberations on fiscal year (FY) 2019 spending, groups of Representatives have joined together to express their support for federal programs, including those important to the social and behavioral sciences. A [bipartisan group of 82 representatives](#) signed on to a "Dear Colleague letter" in support of the Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays and Title VI international education programs. The letter calls for at least \$72.16 million for the two programs. Separately, [a bipartisan group of 209 Representatives](#) also joined together to express support, and request \$38.4 billion, for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Office of Management and Budget Releases President's Management Agenda

On March 20, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the [President's Management Agenda](#), which is a broad framework for bring additional efficiency to the federal government. Goals include accomplishing agency missions more effectively, better serving those receiving services from the federal government, and being better stewards of taxpayer dollars. To accomplish these goals, the Administration will first focus in information technology modernization across the government, data accountability and transparency, and modernizing the federal workforce. Progress on the President's Management Agenda goals can be tracked online at performance.gov/PMA. The President's Management Agenda is expected to inform [agency reorganization plans](#) that will be released in the coming months.

Nomination Opportunities

- CDC: [Board of Scientific Counselors, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#) (Closes: June 1, 2018)
- AHRQ: [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) (Closes: May 15, 2018)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH/NIGMS: [Training Modules to Enhance the Rigor and Reproducibility of Biomedical Research](#) (Closes: June 29, 2018)
- **NEW:** NIFA: [Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program](#) (Closes: May 24, 2018)
- **CANCELLED:** NIJ: [FY 2018 Comprehensive School Safety Initiative](#)
- NIJ: [Research and Evaluation on Hate Crimes](#) (Closes: May 3, 2018)
- NIJ: [W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Crime FY 2018](#) (Closes: April 30, 2018)
- NIJ: [Research and Evaluation on Gangs and Gang Violence](#) (Closes: April 24, 2018)
- NIJ: [Research and Evaluation in Corrections](#) (Closes: April 23, 2018)
- NSF: [Future of Work at the Human - Technology Frontier: Advancing Cognitive and Physical Capabilities](#) (LOI due: April 16, 2018; Closes: June 4, 2018)
- NIJ: [Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence](#) (Closes: April 12, 2018)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NSF: [Request for Public Comment on New Reporting Requirements Regarding Findings of Sexual Harassment, Other Forms of Harassment, or Sexual Assault](#) (Closes: May 4, 2018)
- NIH: [Request for Information: Soliciting Input for the National Institutes of Health Strategic Plan for Data Science](#) (Closes: April 12, 2018)

Recent Reports

- **NEW:** NCSES: [Definitions of Research and Development: An Annotated Compilation of Official Sources](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AERA & AAPSS Briefing Focuses on Inequality and Public Education

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS) and the American Educational Research Association (AERA), both COSSA members organizations, hosted a Congressional briefing on March 22 entitled, [In the Age of Inequality, Does Public Schooling Make a Difference?](#) The event discussed the effects of public schooling since the "Coleman Report" of 1966, a groundbreaking and controversial study that found schools have little influence on inequality in America, and instead students' growth is determined by their socioeconomic status and race. AAPSS and AERA welcomed four panelists who discussed their research on public schooling's influence on the opportunities of underserved youth. AERA Executive Director Felice Levine introduced the event's four panelists, many of whom were featured in the [November 2017](#) volume of AAPSS's scholarly periodical *The ANNALS*, a special issue focused on "The State of Unequal Educational Opportunity."

[Read on](#) for more details.

Nomination Opportunities

- CASBS: [Nominations Open for 2018 SAGE-CASBS Award](#) (Closes: May 7, 2018)
- ASA: [Links Lecture Award](#) (Closes: May 1, 2018)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- NASEM: [Workshop on the Criminal Justice System and Social Exclusion: Race, Ethnicity](#)

- [NAASW: Workshop on the Criminal Justice System and Social Exclusion: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender](#), April 3-4, 2018, Washington, DC ([register](#))
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 4-7, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 5-8, 2018, Chicago, IL
- [American Psychological Association Conference on Technology, Mind, and Society](#), April 5-7, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Grave Consequences: Why Some Americans Are No Longer Living Longer](#), April 9, 2018, Washington, DC
- [American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting](#), April 10-14, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), April 11-14, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Annual Meeting](#), April 12-14, 2018, Minneapolis, MN
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 13-17, 2018, New York, NY
- [The Lab @ DC: Why Child Care Costs More than College](#), April 19, 2018, Washington, DC
- [NCA: \(Mis\)Communicating Science](#), April 19, 2018, Washington, DC
- [The Lab @ DC: Big Data Policing: Tech, surveillance, and the future](#), April 26, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), April 26-28, 2018, Denver, CO
- [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 26-28, 2018, Philadelphia, PA
- [COSSA Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day, April 30-May 1, 2018, Washington, DC](#)
- [NIH/OBSSR: Screening and Referral for Social Determinants of Health: Innovative Health Care Applications and Future Directions](#), May 3, 2018, Bethesda, MD
- [CNSF Exhibition & Reception](#), May 9, 2019, Washington, DC
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 16-19, 2018, Denver, CO
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 29-June 1, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), June 7-10, 2018, Toronto, Canada

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
 American Association for Public Opinion Research
 American Economic Association
 American Educational Research Association
 American Political Science Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Society of Criminology
 American Sociological Association
 American Statistical Association
 Association of American Law Schools
 Law and Society Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Midwest Political Science Association
 National Communication Association
 Population Association of America
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology
 Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Fielding Graduate University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Indiana University
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
 Johns Hopkins University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Michigan State University
 New York University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
 Ohio State University, The

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
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University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
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University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

COSSA

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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