


# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: April 5, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 19-0002-S44  
Assignment No. 19-04-0310

SUBJECT: Resolution (Wesson-Buscaino-Martinez) to SUPPORT Additional State Funding for Census Activities, and SEEK AMENDMENTS that would further increase funding and ensure funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Wesson-Buscaino-Martinez) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the additional Census funding proposed in the 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, which would allocate an additional \$50 million for Census activities, and SEEK AMENDMENTS that would further increase funding for Census 2020 programs and ensure funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.

## SUMMARY

Resolution (Wesson-Buscaino-Martinez), introduced March 19, 2019, notes that the Decennial Census is one of the most important events in the American political process, as it determines political representation at all forms of government and distribution of billions of dollars in federal and State funding. A lack of funding support for the Census would increase the risk of the City experiencing an undercount, which would hinder the City's political representation and funding; however, there is a substantial budgetary shortfall for Census 2020, which the Government Accountability Office estimates will cost \$15.6 billion.

The Resolution notes that the Governor's 2019-2020 Budget proposes an additional \$50 million for Census activities, bringing the total to \$140.3 million to fund programs in California to improve Census 2020 participation. However, the Governor's Budget does not include an increase in funding and an assurance of funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City. The Resolution therefore requests that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the additional Census funding proposed in the 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, which would allocate an additional \$50 million for Census activities, and SEEK AMENDMENTS that would further increase funding for Census 2020 programs and ensure funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the nation's population every ten years in order to provide an accurate population count and demographic information of residents of the U.S. The

next census will occur on April 1, 2020. According to the Government Accountability Office, the 2020 Decennial Census will cost an estimated \$15.6 billion, for which there is a substantial budgetary shortfall. Such lack of funding support for the Census could increase the risk of the City experiencing an undercount, which would hinder the City's political representation and funding for the next decade. Further, this is the first Census to rely on online response forms, a new and untested technology.

To assist with preparation for the 2020 Census, the 2017-2018 California State Budget allocated \$3 million for 2020 Census outreach planning, as well as \$7 million toward local assistance for the Local Update of Census Address Program (LUCA). The funds for LUCA allowed local governments to review and revise the U.S. Census Bureau's address list for local jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. The LUCA Program helps ensure accurate census results by providing all addresses in a jurisdiction, which results in those addresses receiving census information.

The 2018-2019 California State Budget allocated \$40.3 million dollars over the next two years for Census 2020, with \$3 million set aside for all local governments to develop and implement Complete Count Committees. A Complete Count Committee is a volunteer committee established by tribal, state, and local governments, and/or community leaders, to increase awareness about the census and motivate residents in the community to respond. Complete Count Committees are funded through state government, local government, or community-sponsored allocations.

The Governor's 2019-2020 Budget proposes an additional \$50 million for Census activities, bringing the total to \$140.3 million to fund programs in California to improve Census 2020 participation. However, due to concerns over the Census Bureau's outreach efforts, and the new technologies being employed, it is essential that the State provide adequate funding to support local outreach efforts to ensure full participation in the count. To that end, the Governor's Budget should include an increase in funding and an assurance of funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City. These local programs are essential for engaging with hard-to-count populations, which in turn decreases the risk of an inaccurate Census and the potential hindrance of the City's political representation and funding.

The Resolution therefore requests that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the additional Census funding proposed in the 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, which would allocate an additional \$50 million for Census activities, and SEEK AMENDMENTS that would further increase funding for Census 2020 programs and ensure funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.



Alex Whitehead  
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Wesson-Buscaino-Martinez)

RESOLUTION **RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Decennial Census is one of the most important events in the American political process as it determines political representation at all forms of government and distribution of billions of dollars in federal and State funding; and

WHEREAS, according to the Government Accountability Office, the 2020 Decennial Census will cost an estimated \$15.6 billion, for which there is a substantial budgetary shortfall; and

WHEREAS, a lack of funding support would increase the risk of the City experiencing an undercount, which would hinder the City's political representation and funding; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced the 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, which proposes an additional \$50 million for Census activities, bringing the total to \$140.3 million to fund programs in California to improve Census 2020 participation; and

WHEREAS, a majority of this proposed allocation will be distributed to counties who have the highest hard-to-count population, minority population outreach, public private partnerships, and to assist the creation of complete count committees across the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget does not include an increase in funding and an assurance of funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, with concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the additional Census funding proposed in 2019-2020 Governor's Budget, which would allocate an additional \$50 million for Census activities, and SEEK AMENDMENTS that would further increase funding for Census 2020 programs and ensure funding support for local outreach and education programs in the City.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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