

State of New Jersey

Governor Phil Murphy

ICYMI: New Jersey's Complete Count Commission Meets, Focuses on Increased Participation for 2020 Census

01/10/2019

From the New Jersey Department of State:

TRENTON - On Wednesday, January 9, 2019, New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way chaired the first meeting of the New Jersey Complete Count Commission at the War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey. The Commission was established by a bill signed into law by the Governor on August 24, 2018, and tasked with developing, recommending, and assisting in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 federal decennial census.

"A fair and accurate census is the most fundamental measure of democracy in our State," **said Governor Murphy**. "Despite efforts across the country to suppress an accurate count, New Jersey has begun the hard work of ensuring full participation and avoiding undercounting in communities."

"As chairperson of the Commission, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure New Jerseyans are counted," **said Secretary of State Tahesha Way**. "This is of paramount importance as the census will determine congressional representation and the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding for services within our communities. It is a formidable task, but we are determined to see the Garden State receives its fair share."

The Commission is tasked with creating a strategy to ensure an accurate and complete count of New Jersey's population with a particular focus on hard-to-count populations including African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Asian Americans, non-native English speakers, the homeless and indigent, college students, children under age 5, men aged 18 – 49, and the elderly, among others.

The 27-member commission represents various municipalities, civic and community organizations, and other groups from across the Garden State. In addition, no more than 14 members of the bipartisan commission can come from the same political party.

At Wednesday's meeting, Way administered the oath of office to the commissioners and Jeff Behler, Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau, gave a presentation on the role of Complete Count Committees and discussed census confidentiality, the citizenship question, and hard-to-count community outreach.

The Commission's intent is to submit a report to Governor Murphy within six months of its organizing meeting and then a final report no later than June 30, 2019.

The commission members include:

The Hon. Tahesha Way, Chair

The Hon. Jon Bramnick

The Hon. Nia Gill

The Hon. Verlina Reynolds Jackson

The Hon. Yvonne Lopez

The Hon. Gabriela M. Mosquera

The Hon. Nilsa Cruz-Perez

The Hon. Nellie Pou

Theodore Conrad

Len Preston

The Hon. Douglas R. Cabana

The Hon. James L. Cassella

Reverend Kenneth Darryl Ray Clayton

Sara Z. Cullinane, Esq.

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The Hon. Maura R. DeNicola

Maria Bonita Duncan

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Gail B. Gordon, Esq.

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Michele N. Siekerka, Esq.

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