

CHANDRA A. BOZELKO
183 WILD ROSE DRIVE
ORANGE, CONNECTICUT 06477
203-795-9640 TEL
203-795-0894 FAX

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Karen Humes
Chief
Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Room 5H174
Washington, DC 20233
(sent via email to POP.2020.Residence.Rule@census.gov)

Re: Proposed "2020 Census Residence Rule and Residence Situations" 81 FR 42577

Dear Ms. Humes:

I am writing in response to your federal register notice regarding the 2020 Census Residence Rule and Residence Situations, 81 FR 42577 (June 30, 2016).

I wrote to you in May 2015 to inform you that I support counting incarcerated people at their home address rather than the location of the prison/jail in which they are incarcerated.

Now my support for counting prisoners in their hometowns has grown even stronger because I have researched the topic even more. I authored an oped on the topic for the *Connecticut Mirror* newspaper on April 1, 2016.

My personal experience is a perfect example of how counting prisoners as residents of the facilities in which they reside corrupts our democracy.

I was incarcerated at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, Connecticut from December 7, 2007 to March 18, 2014. Knowing my convictions remained on appeal and were, therefore, legally stayed, the local registrar of voters in my hometown of Orange, Connecticut never removed my name from the town's list of registered voters.

Because of the current residence rule, during the 2010 Census I was counted as if I were a resident of Niantic, the town containing the prison where I was incarcerated, despite the fact that I was actively registered to vote in another town: Orange, Connecticut. This was not fair to my community, nor to any community in Connecticut that didn't have a prison in it.

It is inconceivable to me that the Census Bureau would consider continuing to conduct the Census in this way after a Federal District Court Judge in Florida, in a case captioned Calvin v. Jefferson, held that counting inmates in a way that violates the "one person, one vote" principle in our democracy was patently unconstitutional. Certainly the Census Bureau isn't seeking to violate the United States Constitution. Yet, by maintaining your current counting practices, the Census Bureau is doing exactly that.

I urge the Census Bureau to rethink its decision on how to count prisoners on Census Day.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,


Chandra Bozelko