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July 17, 2015

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: Residence Rule and Residence Situations, 80 FR 28950

Dear Ms. Humes:

I am writing in response to your federal register notice regarding the Residence Rule and Residence Situations, 80 FR 28950 (May 20, 2015).

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 last 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.

Furthermore, it is an inaccurate way to account for voters. The right to vote is sacred; counting me in one town when I was registered in another is a poor example of how to we protect a citizen's most treasured right.

Because I believe in a population count that accurately represents my community and counts voters where they are actually registered, I urge you to count incarcerated people at their home address, rather than at the particular facility that they happen to be located at on Census day.

Sincerely,


Chandra Bozelko