

1 [Urging the United States Census Bureau to Provide Non-English Paper Questionnaires
2 for Language Groups of 100,000 or More]

3 **Resolution urging the United States Census Bureau to provide non-English paper**
4 **questionnaires for language groups of 100,000 or more in the United States**
5 **during the 2020 Census, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian.**

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7 WHEREAS, The decennial Census is one of the cornerstones of America’s
8 democracy, and a full and complete count is crucial to ensuring accurate political
9 representation and an equitable distribution of federal and other resources; and

10 WHEREAS, Inadequate language support services will lead to decreased
11 response rates and incomplete and inaccurate responses in Hard-to-Count (HTC) and
12 Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau plans for the 2020
14 Census to include the online questionnaire and telephonic support in twelve non-English
15 languages, the agency has also decided to eliminate printed questionnaires in a number
16 of languages, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian, disproportionately
17 impacting low-income, LEP communities with limited internet connectivity; and

18 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau chose to eliminate printed non-English
19 questionnaires despite the agency having already tested such questionnaires, and
20 despite the agency having testified at the House Oversight Committee that there
21 remains \$1.2 billion in unspent funds allocated towards Questionnaire Assistance
22 Centers; and

23 WHEREAS, It is notable that this elimination of non-English paper questionnaires
24 is a departure from past practice, as the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010 provided paper
25 copies of the Census in English and by request in Spanish, Korean, Chinese,
Vietnamese and Russian; and

1 WHEREAS, The elimination of non-English printed questionnaires will result in a
2 disproportionate and adverse impact in California, where 27% of the population is born
3 outside the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, The Bay Area, where residents speak over 160 different languages,
5 will acutely experience this adverse impact, resulting in a likely undercount of LEP and
6 HTC populations and the loss of Congressional representation, billions of dollars in
7 federal funding, and access to services and civil rights protections, as well as the
8 distortion of electoral districts and undermining of our democracy; and

9 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, 44% of our 850,000 residents speak a language
10 other than English at home, 35% are immigrants, and 26% of residents speak an Asian
11 language at home; and

12 WHEREAS, The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs is
13 coordinating San Francisco's 2020 Census outreach activities, and coordinating with a
14 multitude of stakeholders to ensure residents are well informed about and actively
15 engaged in the Census, with a particular focus on the city's HTC and vulnerable
16 populations; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the U.S. Census Bureau to
18 reinstate the use of paper questionnaires for the 2020 Census in non-English languages
19 for Language Groups of 100,000 or more in the United States; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges California's state
21 and federal legislative leaders to take action and compel the U.S. Census Bureau to
22 reverse its course; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges California's
2 Congressional leaders to author and support a Congressional resolution urging the
3 Census Bureau to make available non-English paper questionnaires for language
4 groups that meet the threshold of 100,000 or more households in the United States.

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