

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

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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City and County of San Francisco  
Tails  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 190952

Date Passed: September 24, 2019

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

September 24, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 190952

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/24/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

+ Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unsigned

London N. Breed  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
10/4/2019

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

  
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Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

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10/4/2019  
Date