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Supervisor Valero calls for eviction moratorium

■ District 4 Supervisor Eddie Valero says statewide orders do not go far enough to protect county's most vulnerable residents

By Reggie Ellis
Ivanhoe Sol

Tulare County has not moved forward on a request to pass a local eviction moratorium saying that three recent statewide orders have already done the job for them. But one county supervisor says the Governor's office and court system's orders have not gone far enough.

District 4 Supervisor Eddie Valero said a local eviction moratorium would provide protections for the county's most vulnerable residents, including farmworkers, undocumented workers and those without checking accounts. He said the county had an opportunity to protect Tulare County residents by securing their homes to comply with the Governor's order to shelter in place, to prevent them from becoming homeless and without access to utilities to adhere to health guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

"Many residents live paycheck to pay-

check or are one paycheck away from homelessness," Valero said. "Many have been furloughed and are at risk of being evicted from their home if they cannot pay their rent. This is a real opportunity to protect our most vulnerable residents."

Valero made his plea at the March 26 meeting but two weeks later the matter had not progressed and had yet to be scheduled for an upcoming meeting. The issue of evictions hit home for Valero who said he understood the issue from both sides. He shared that his cousin recently lost her job and was unable to pay rent and that his parents were local landlords whose primary income comes from rent checks.

"Things are changing every day but we are required to move forward as the storm rages on," Valero said.

Order confusion

The debate is over two separate yet connected executive orders and a related court order. On March 16, the Governor signed an order allowing local jurisdictions to halt evictions. On March 27, the Governor built on that by signing another order which banned the enforcement of

Supervisor Valero llama por moratoria de desalojo

■ El Supervisor del Distrito 4, Eddie Valero, dice que las órdenes estatales no llegan lo suficientemente lejos como para proteger a los residentes más vulnerables del condado

Por Reggie Ellis
Ivanhoe Sol

El Condado de Tulare no ha avanzado en una solicitud para aprobar una moratoria de desalojo local diciendo que tres órdenes estatales recientes ya han cumplido trabajo para ello. Pero un Supervisor del condado dice que las órdenes de la oficina del gobernador y del sistema judicial no han llegado lo suficientemente lejos.

Valero hizo su petición en la reunión del 26 de marzo, pero dos semanas después el tema no había progresado y aún no se había programado para una próxima reunión. El tema de los desalojos llegó a casa para Valero, quien dijo que entendía el tema desde ambos lados. El compartió que su prima reciente perdió su trabajo y no pudo pagar el alquiler y que sus padres eran propietarios locales cuyos ingresos principales provienen de los cheques de alquiler.

"Las cosas están cambiando todos los días, pero estamos obligados a avanzar a medida que avanza la tormenta," dijo Valero.

Confusión de órdenes

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hogar y sin acceso a servicios públicos para adherirse a las pautas de salud para detener la propagación de COVID-19.

"Muchos residentes viven de un sueldo a otro y están a un sueldo de personas sin hogar", dijo Valero. "Muchos han sido suspendidos y corren el riesgo de ser desalojados de su hogar si no pueden pagar el alquiler. Esta es una oportunidad para el condado de proteger a nuestros residentes más vulnerables."

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El Supervisor del Distrito 4, Eddie Valero, dijo que una moratoria de desalojo local brindaría protección para los residentes más vulnerables del condado, incluidos los trabajadores agrícolas, los trabajadores indocumentados y aquellos sin casas permanentes. Dijo que el condado tuvo la oportunidad de proteger a los residentes del condado de Tulare asegurando su hogar para cumplir con la orden del Gobernador de refugiarse en el lugar, para evitar que se quedaran sin

Supervisor chairman apologizes for racial remark

■ Tulare County Board of Supervisors chairman Pete Vander Poel opens meeting with public apology to Eddie Valero for saying he "wants another bite at the tortilla"

By Paul Myers
Ivanhoe Sol

District 2 board supervisor, and chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Pete Vander Poel opened last Tuesday's board meeting with a public apology to comments he made at the previous Tuesday's meeting.

"I'd like to formally apologize to my colleague Supervisor Valero and anyone who might have been offended by my choice of words at last week's meeting," Vander Poel said. "I take great pride in representing this diverse county. I do understand the insensitivity and know that I will continue to improve myself going forward. I take great pride in the fact that even though I've been doing this 12 years there isn't a day that goes by that I don't learn something new."

Vander Poel sparked controversy in the county two week ago when supervisors received

See REMARK on page 13

Supervisor presidente se disculpa por comentario racial

■ El presidente de la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Tulare, Pete Vander Poel, abre el martes una reunión con disculpas públicas a Eddie Valero por decir que "quiere otro bocado de la tortilla"

By Paul Myers
Ivanhoe Sol

Supervisor de la junta del Distrito 2 y presidente de la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Tulare, Pete Vander Poel abrió la reunión de la junta del martes con una disculpa pública por los comentarios que hizo en la reunión del martes pasado.

"Me gustaría disculparme formalmente con mi colega, el Supervisor Valero, y con cualquiera que se haya ofendido por mi elección de palabras en la reunión de la semana pasada," dijo Vander Poel. "Me encantaría representar a este condado tan diverso. Entiendo la insensibilidad y sé que continuaré mejorando en el futuro. Me enorgullece el hecho de que a pesar de que he estado haciendo esto durante 12 años, no hay un día que pase que no aprenda algo nuevo."

Vander Poel provocó controversia en el condado la semana pasada cuando los

Tulare County funding counting on residents

■ Tulare County urges residents to complete their Census or jeopardize millions in federal funding for its poorest residents

By Reggie Ellis
Ivanhoe Sol

Few California counties count on the U.S. Census more than Tulare County. The influx of nearly \$200 million in federal funding makes ensuring a full census for a variety of programs that benefit its poorest residents. But Tulare County is missing out on even more federal dollars by not having all of its residents accounted for in the decennial census.

As Tulare County incomes continue to fall behind the rising cost of housing, Tulare County will count on the 2020 Census more so than the nationwide population polls of the past. This year, an undercount would mean Tulare County could lose a proportionate amount of the \$115 billion in federal spending programs. That would hit the county particularly hard as more than a quarter of residents (27%) live in poverty.

Tulare County has the highest share of residents enrolled in Medicaid (55%), highest rate of food stamps (26%), one of the

highest participation rates for free and reduced priced school lunches (76%), and is reliant on many other federal programs including section 8 housing vouchers, Pell Grant education grants, Head Start, Supplemental block grants for public safety, and Title I funding for schools, which covers everything from curriculum to counseling.

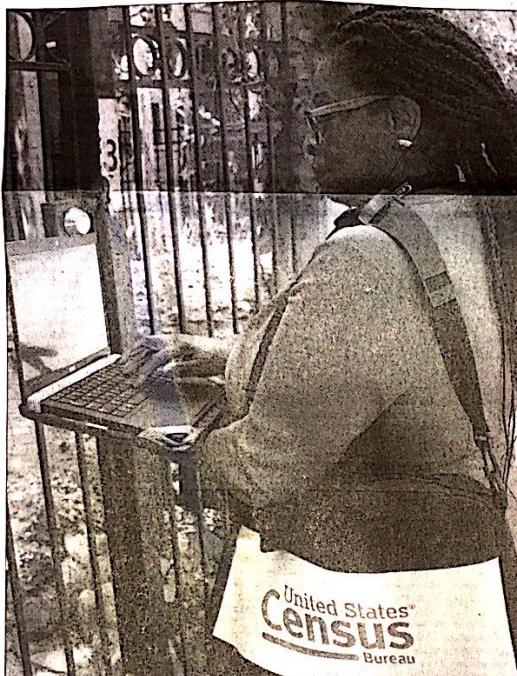
In addition to funding Census counts help local governments plan where future schools should be built, which roads should be widened and shifted to accommodate growth patterns. It also helps determine political representation in the California State Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Our job is to explain how important it is because a lot of people don't think it's a big deal," Tulare County Supervisor Eddie Valero said. "If we want funds coming back to our community then we need to take this very seriously. People need to stand up and be counted."

Online response

This year's Census began at an inopportune time, just a week before the Governor's shelter-in-place order went into effect. About 95% of Tu-

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granas federales que incluyen

vales de vivienda de la sección 8, fondos de educación Pell Grant, subvenciones globales de desarrollo comunitario para seguridad pública y fondos de Título I para escuelas, que cubren todo, desde el planeamiento hasta el asesoriado."

Aemás de la financiación, los datos del censo ayudan al plan del gobierno local a construir futuras escuelas, a ampliar las carreteras ya caminadas, las rutas de los autobuses para seguir los patrones de crecimiento. También se usa para determinar la representación política en la Legislatura del Estado de California y de los Estados Unidos.

"Nuestro trabajo es explicar lo importante que es porque mucha gente no cree que sea un gran problema," dijo el supervi-

sor del condado de Tulare, Eddie Valero. "Si queremos que los fondos regresen a nuestra comunidad, entonces debemos tomar esto muy en serio. La gente necesita ponerse de pie y ser contada."

Respuesta en línea

El Censo de este año comenzó en un momento crucial, solo unas semanas antes de que entrara en vigor la orden de refugio en el lugar del Gobernador. Alrededor del 95% de los hogares del condado de Tulare comenzaron a recibir una carta con correo el 12 de marzo invitándolos a responder al formulario en línea del Censo 2020. Se suponía que el 5% restante se entregaría en mano en áreas que solo tienen P.O. Cajas o simplemente no reciben ningún correo, como Traver, Lemon Cove, Earlimart, Rich-

grove, Three Rivers y otras comunidades remotas de montaña, pero las operaciones de campo se suspendieron el 28 de marzo. En lugar de necesitar un código de identificación de censos de 12 dígitos, la Oficina del Censo ahora está alejando a todos los hogares, especialmente aquellos sin correo, a quienes respondan al Censo en línea en 2020Census.gov o llamen sus respuestas. Cualquier persona que necesite asistencia para completar un cuestionario puede llamar al número gratuito (844-348-2020), o el número (844-474-2020) para idiomas chino, vietnamita, tagalo, árabe, coreano, polaco, francés, haitiano, criollo y japonés. También hay una línea de teléfono

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM / MENSAJE DEL EQUIPO EDITORIAL

As we enter the second full month of the COVID pandemic we have seen major tragedies and impressive examples of devotion to community and the planet. As issues like drought, COVID, and racism affect the community of Ivanhoe, the Ivanhoe Sol remains steadfast in our commitment to serve as a vital resource to the community and region. For any story suggestions or questions, please contact us at theivanhosesol@gmail.com or through our Facebook Page.

Al entrar en el segundo mes completo de la pandemia de COVID, hemos visto grandes tragedias y ejemplos impresionantes de devoción a la comunidad y al planeta. Los temas como la sequía, el COVID y el racismo afectan a la comunidad de Ivanhoe, el Ivanhoe Sol se mantiene firme en nuestro compromiso de servir como un recurso vital para la comunidad y la región. Para cualquier sugerencia o pregunta sobre historias,

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Ivanhoe PUD to accept online payments in May

■ Public utility district says customers will be able to pay their utility bills online beginning in May

By Reggie Ellis
Ivanhoe Sol

Working remotely, having children homeschooled and asking the elderly not to leave their homes has forced many to even the most technologically challenged to learn to do what keep us connected to our family, friends and coworkers. It has also forced our public institutions to reexamine how they do business.

Ivanhoe Public Utility District (IPUD) told the Ivanhoe Sol last week that it now has the capability to take payments through its web site. Beginning in May, customers will be able to pay bills online at www.IvanhoePUD.com. Office manager Carol Fina said customers can either pay the amount of the current bill, or set up an automatic payment for a certain amount. Any overpayments will be credited to their account.

The new payment option is part of the district's plans to completely overhaul its web site. The site was up and functioning but some features remain a work in progress.

Fina also wanted to remind residents that IPUD is still not set up to take payments by phone, something the district continues to work on. As always, residents can leave payment in the drop box on the west side of the district office, 15859 Azalea Ave. in Ivanhoe. IPUD accepts checks or money orders, but not cash payments. The district's lobby remains open to customers and has maintained regular hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Last month, IPUD announced it would suspend disconnections for 60 days. Fina is now saying that the suspension will be extended until the Governor lifts the statewide emergency order or until the district's board of directors vote to reinstate disconnections. Fina said the district will also not be charging any late fees until after the emergency order has been lifted. Customers still owe the amount billed but will not have to work out payment plans until after the pandemic has passed.

But some of the consumer protections implemented by water systems during the pandemic are now permanent, thanks to a new law that took effect on April 1. More than a year before anyone had ever heard of COVID-19, Sen. Kern signed Senate Bill 995 into law in August 2018. Authored by Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa), the bill mandates that water systems serving more than 200 connections approve permanent changes to their water service disconnection policies for low-income residents struggling to pay their bills.

The new policy prohibits shutoffs for at least 60 days following a delinquency and requires water providers to give advance written notice and make direct contact with the residents before service can be discontinued. It also requires water providers, such as cities, public utility districts and community water systems provide for deferred payments, alternate payment schedules, and an appeals process.

Other protections under the policy include halting shutoffs for medically fragile residents or if a local health agency deems the shutoff as a serious threat to the residents' health and safety. Lastly, if service is disrupted, the bill requires that people are told how to restore service, and it waives reconnection fees and reduces interest rates for low-income households, those with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level, or less than \$52,000 for a family of four.

The policy adds reporting requirements for water providers to post the policy, as well as the number of annual discontinuations of residential service for inability to pay, on its web site.

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Ivanhoe PUD aceptará pagos en línea en Mayo

■ El distrito de servicios públicos dice que los clientes podrán pagar sus facturas de servicios públicos en línea a partir de mayo

Por Reggie Ellis
Ivanhoe Sol

Trabajar de forma remota, hacer que los niños sean educados en el hogar y pedirles a los vecinos que no salgan de sus hogares ha obligado a muchos de los más tecnológicamente desafiadados a aprender a usar la tecnología que nos mantiene conectados con nuestra familia, amigos y compañeros de trabajo. También ha obligado a nuestras instituciones públicas a reconsiderar cómo hacen negocios.

El Distrito de Servicios Públicos de Ivanhoe (IPUD) le dijo a Ivanhoe Sol la semana pasada que ahora tiene la capacidad de aceptar pagos a través de su sitio web. Como parte de mayo, los clientes podrán pagar facturas en línea en www.IvanhoePUD.com. La gerente de la oficina, Carol Fina, dijo que los clientes pueden pagar el monto de la factura actual o establecer una paga automática por un monto determinado. Cualquier sobre pago se acreditará en su cuenta.

La nueva opción de pago es parte de los planes del distrito para revisar completamente su sitio web. El sitio web está en funcionamiento, pero algunas características siguen siendo un trabajo en progreso.

Fina también quería recordar a los residentes que el IPUD todavía está configurado para recibir pagos por teléfono, algo en lo que el distrito continúa trabajando. Como siempre, los residentes pueden dejar los pagos en el buzón ubicado en el lado oeste de la oficina del distrito, 15859 Azalea Ave. en Ivanhoe. IPUD acepta cheques o giros postales, pero no pagos en efectivo. El vestíbulo del distrito permanece abierto para atender a los clientes, y ha mantenido su horario habitual de 8 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. De lunes a viernes.

El mes pasado, IPUD anunció que suspenderá las disconnects por 60 días. Fina ahora dice que las suspensiones se extenderán hasta que el Gobernador levante la orden de emergencia estatal o hasta que la junta directiva del distrito vote para restablecer las desconexiones. Fina dijo que el distrito no tiene cobrado ningún cargo por atraso hasta después de que se haya levantado la orden de emergencia. Los clientes aún deben el monto facturado, pero no tienen que elaborar planes de pago hasta que haya pasado la pandemia.

Pero algunas de las protecciones al consumidor implementadas por los sistemas de agua durante la pandemia ahora son permanentes, gracias a una nueva ley que entró en vigencia el 1 de abril. Más de un año antes de que alguien hubiera oido hablar del COVID, el gobernador Gavin Newsom firmó la Ley 995 del Senado, en agosto de 2018. Creado por el senador Bill Dodd (D-Napa), el proyecto de ley exige que los sistemas de agua que sirven a más de 200 conexiones aprueben cambios permanentes en sus políticas de desconexión del servicio de agua para los residentes de bajos ingresos que luchan por pagar sus facturas.

Las protecciones bajo la política incluyen detener los cierres después de una muestra y exigir que los proveedores de agua notifiquen por escrito la anticipación y se pongan en contacto directo con los residentes antes de que se pueda suspender el servicio. También requiere que los proveedores de agua, como las ciudades, los distritos de servicios públicos y los sistemas de agua comunitarios proporcionen pagos diferidos, horarios de pago alternativos y un proceso de apelación.

Otras protecciones bajo la política incluyen detener los cierres para residentes médica mente frágiles o si una agencia de salud local considera el cierre como una amenaza grave para la salud y la seguridad de los residentes. Por último, se le permite a los servicios el proyecto de ley requiere que se les dé a las personas como restaurar el servicio, y renuncia a las tarifas de recompra y reduce las tasas de interés para los hogares de bajos ingresos, aquellos con ingresos familiares per debajo del 200% del nivel federal de pobreza, o menos de \$ 52,000 para una familia de cuatro.

La política agrega requisitos de informes para que los proveedores

CENSUS:

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than other counties in the region."

Tulare County is the second most undercounted counties with the exception of Imperial County," Valero said.

That trend seems to be holding true as Tulare County is again lagging behind the state in the census rates. As of April 22, the most recent data available as of press time, Tulare County's response rate was 49.3%, better than Kern County (47.4%), about the same as Kings County (48.6%) and just behind Fresno County (51%) and the state (53.2%). Ivanhoe was right in line with the county response rate at 47.8%.

Those who do not respond online, by phone or by mail will be visited by an enumerator sometime after June 1, depending on when the shelter-in-place order is lifted by the Governor.

If a resident is living someone in their home, they can contact a Census employee by name on their badge into the Census Bureau's Staff Search, www.census.gov/csg-bin/main_email.cgi, or by calling the California Regional Office at 213-314-6500 or toll-free at 800-923-8282. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department. It is a federal crime to impersonate a federal official, and anyone who violates that law is subject to imprisonment.

To avoid scammers, the U.S. Census Bureau said its employees will never ask for the following: Payment to fill out the questionnaire. Social Security number, financial information, such as bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations. Additionally, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

No question on citizenship

Most of the questions in the Census are demographic, including the number of people in the household, familial relationships between those people, sex and sexual orientation, race and home ownership. Even the question about a resident's country of origin is not related to citizenship or immigration status; it is simply to determine the ethnic makeup of the United States.

The question that has grabbed the most headlines won't appear on the Census. President Donald Trump

first posed the idea of adding a citizenship question to the Census last spring. After a series of district court decisions blocking the question, the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately remanded the case to the Department of Commerce, which oversees the Census Bureau.

"There is no question asking residents for their citizenship or immigration status [on the Census]," said Barbara Pilegard, associate regional planner for the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG).

Pilegard, as well as TCAG principal planner Robert Brady, are spearheading the efforts of the Tulare County Complete Count Committee, whose goal is to accurately count the number of people living in the state.

A major battle over participation in this year's Census is the fear that a citizenship question remains. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies. In other words, the FBI, CIA, Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cannot use any personal information collected by the Census Bureau to target any individual,家庭, or organization.

The Census is a count of every person living in the United States, not every citizen in the United States, said Dr. Valero.

The Census Bureau takes precautions to using your data by adding noise to the data, making it impossible to connect any personal information to an address," Quezada said. "After it is collected, that information is aggregated and becomes anonymous."

Once data collection is complete, the Census Bureau will begin a lengthy, thorough and scientifically rigorous process to produce the apportionment counts, redistricting information and other statistical data products that help guide hundreds of billions of dollars in public and private sector spending per year.

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census, the Bureau has asked Congress for an additional 120 days to deliver final apportionment counts. The extension through Oct. 31, 2020 would allow residents more time to respond and give enumerators more time to follow up with those that don't. Data could then be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021 and redistricting data to the states no later than July 31, 2021.

linea, por teléfono o por correo serán visitados por un enumerador en algún momento después del 1 de junio, dependiendo de cuándo el Gobernador levante la orden de refugio en el hogar. Una vez que el visitante deje su puerta, puede confirmar que es un empleado del Censo ingresando el nombre en su credencial en la Búsqueda del personal de la Oficina del Censo, https://www.census.gov/csg-bin/main_email.cgi, o llamando a la Oficina Regional del Censo de California al 213-314-6500 o sin cargo al 800-923-8282. Si se determina que el visitante no trabaja para la Oficina del Censo, comuníquese con el departamento de policía local. Es un delito federal hacerse pasar por un funcionario federal, y cualquier persona que viole esta ley está sujeta a prisión.

Para evitar estafadores, la Oficina del Censo de EE. UU. Dijo que sus empleados nunca pedirán lo siguiente: Pago para completar el cuestionario. Número de seguridad social, información personal, números de cuentas bancarias o tarjetas de crédito, dinero o documentos. Además, la Oficina del Censo no se comunicará con usted en nombre de un partido político.

Ninguna pregunta sobre ciudadanía

La mayoría de las preguntas en el Censo son demográficas, incluyendo el número de personas en el hogar, las relaciones familiares entre esas personas, el sexo y la orientación sexual, la raza y la propiedad de la vivienda. Incluso la pregunta sobre el país de origen de un residente no está relacionada con la ciudadanía o el estado migratorio, es simplemente determinar la composición étnica de los Estados Unidos.

La pregunta que ha captado la mayor atención de los titulares de la publicación, la tasa de respuesta del condado de Tulare fue del 48.3%, mejor que el condado del Valle de San Joaquin (47.4%), casi lo mismo que el condado de Kings (48.6%) y justo detrás del condado de Fresno (51%) y el condado de Fresno (52.2%). Ivanhoe estaba en línea con la tasa de respuesta del condado de Imperial.

"No hay duda de pedir a los residentes su ciudadanía o estatus migratorio [en el Censo],"

underscored the importance of the Census to Latino residents who benefit the most from federal programs tied to population data based on the decennial Census. The report stated that a Valley-wide undercount of Latino immigrants could decrease the Census 2020 for an area by about 188,000 persons, costing the eight-county region about \$200 million per year simply from the Latino undercount and possibly more than \$2 billion over the next decade.

Quezada is currently an employee for The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, which announced \$3.8 million in Census outreach funding for 15 community-based nonprofits in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Kern and Inyo counties earlier this year. The group is focused on reaching "hard-to-count" Census tracts, where there are barriers to language, literacy, internet access and transportation. These tend to be rural areas where multiple families may be living under one roof. Those families are particularly hard to count due to concerns with citizenship, immigration status, financial stability, identity theft and more violent crimes.

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"The Census Bureau takes precautions to using your data by adding noise to the data, making it impossible to connect any personal information to an address," Quezada said. "After it is collected, that information is aggregated and becomes anonymous."

Once data collection is complete, the Census Bureau will begin a lengthy, thorough and scientifically rigorous process to produce the apportionment counts, redistricting information and other statistical data products that help guide hundreds of billions of dollars in public and private sector spending per year.

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census, the Bureau has asked Congress for an additional 120 days to deliver final apportionment counts. The extension through Oct. 31, 2020 would allow residents more time to respond and give enumerators more time to follow up with those that don't. Data could then be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021 and redistricting data to the states no later than July 31, 2021.

