



League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

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Editor, The Record

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To the Editor:

When Commerce Secretary Ross announced that the Census Bureau would include a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census, he made a decision that will have a negative impact on residents of *San Joaquin County* and in communities around this country.

This invasive and unnecessary question will raise concerns about the confidentiality of personal information, causing participation in the Census to plummet. The result will be an inaccurate Census report that will have lasting consequences on all our county's residents.

Our leaders rely on Census data to allocate resources for public assistance programs including money for public safety planning and disaster response, such as flood control, levee strengthening and maintenance. Funding for education, hospitals, transportation needs, and Veteran's assistance programs including the proposed Veteran's clinic and hospital, will be affected. Our business developers also use Census data to make investment decisions that would boost economic growth for all of **San Joaquin County**.

The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County calls on **Congressmen McNERNEY and DENHAM and our local government officials including our Mayors, City Councils and the Board of Supervisors**, to speak out and oppose the citizenship question in the 2020 Census. We must send a strong message to Congress to reverse this decision and remove the citizenship question from the Census.

The stakes are too high to allow this unnecessary question to derail the count.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Casenave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Casenave, President
League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County