



2020 Census Technical Meeting

with the Navajo Nation

FINAL REPORT

Issued Winter 2020

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Acknowledgments

We extend our gratitude to the Navajo Nation leadership who attended the meeting, who included members of the Navajo Nation Complete Count Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, Navajo Nation Land Department, and the *Naa'biik'iyati'* Committee. The Census Bureau thanks them for their advice and written comments, which are summarized in this report. Special thanks to Arbin Mitchell and Norbert Nez for their support in organizing and facilitating this meeting.

Dee Alexander (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma), Tribal Affairs Coordinator, had primary responsibility for this meeting and the final report.

The Census Bureau contracted with Kauffman & Associates, Inc., an American Indian-owned firm, to provide logistical support for the 2020 Census tribal consultations and meetings with tribes and develop the final reports, including this report.



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Executive Summary

The Census Bureau strives to build partnerships with tribal nations and engage with tribes individually to ensure accurate counts of tribal citizens. In October 2019, the Census Bureau and Navajo Nation convened for a technical meeting to discuss several topics of concern to the tribe, which included:

- ◆ Special data tabulations for the Eastern Navajo Agency to ensure the Census Bureau counts Navajo households on non-trust lands
- ◆ Tools and materials for promoting the decennial census to Navajo constituents
- ◆ Residence criteria for Navajo citizens temporarily living away from the reservation
- ◆ The Census Bureau's approach to defining housing units
- ◆ Limitations of the printed census form to record detailed race data for all members of large households

This report summarizes the dialogue between Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau on each topic and identifies additional tribal recommendations. These recommendations include:

- ◆ Instating the special tabulation for the Eastern Navajo Agency as a permanent data product and expanding it to apply to census data in addition to American Community Survey data
- ◆ Tabulating data at the chapter level for Navajo Nation
- ◆ Providing funds to support Navajo Nation's outreach to its constituents about the census

The report concludes by outlining action items identified during the meeting. Detailed notes from the meeting and official comments from the Eastern Navajo Land Commission are attached as [Appendices A](#) and [B](#). For further information regarding the special tabulation request for the Eastern Navajo Agency, the Census Bureau's letter regarding its decision is included as [Appendix C](#), and the tribal resolution through which Navajo Nation originally requested the tabulation is included as [Appendix D](#).

The 2020 Census Tribal Engagement Process

Strong partnerships with tribal nations are the foundation for achieving an accurate count of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people in the decennial census. To honor the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribes, determine the most effective approaches to counting AIAN people, and incorporate tribal input into the design and execution of the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau held 17 tribal consultations in 2015 and 2016. This series of consultations included a one-on-one tribal consultation with Navajo Nation in September 2016.

In fall 2019, the Census Bureau conducted two additional tribal consultations to inform tribes about updates regarding the upcoming census and receive tribal feedback on the proposed disclosure avoidance system for the 2020 Census. During this time, the Census Bureau also held a technical meeting with Navajo Nation to follow up on outstanding items from the 2016 tribal consultation and discuss updates.

2020 Census Technical Meeting with Navajo Nation

Attaining accurate counts for all tribal entities in the United States is a priority for the Census Bureau. Navajo Nation's geography spans an immense area across three states and 13 counties. The tribe has a large constituency and a complex governance structure that comprises five agencies, which are made up of chapters. To accurately enumerate Navajo people and develop useful data products from that count, the Census Bureau has partnered with the tribe to accommodate special considerations to the greatest extent possible. On October 20, 2019, the Census Bureau and Navajo Nation convened in Albuquerque, NM, for a follow-up meeting to discuss the status of action items identified during the 2016 tribal consultation and updates on the 2020 Census.

Census Bureau Headquarters Support

The Census Bureau partnered with Navajo Nation to set up this technical meeting. 2020 AIAN Program staff from Census Bureau headquarters, as well as Denver Regional leadership and staff, participated in the meeting.

Contractor Support

The Census Bureau contracted with Kauffman & Associates, Inc., (KAI) an American Indian-owned professional services firm, to assist with meeting logistics and develop the final report.

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda, developed in partnership with Navajo Nation, focused on addressing outstanding items from the tribal consultation, which included:

- ◆ Special tabulations to count Navajo households on non-trust lands
- ◆ Locally customizable public service announcements to promote the census
- ◆ Residence criteria for those temporarily living away from home

The agenda also included clarification discussions regarding:

- ◆ The Census Bureau's approach to defining housing units
- ◆ The census question on race

Meeting Participants

Twenty-two Navajo Nation delegates attended the meeting, including members of the Navajo Nation Complete Count Commission, representatives of the Land Department and the Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and council delegates from the *Naa'biik'iyati'* Committee. Ten Census Bureau representatives participated, including headquarters and regional staff.

Meeting Themes

This portion of the report summarizes, by topic, discussion between Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau on each agenda item.

Data Tabulation

During the 2016 tribal consultation, Navajo Nation raised concern about the exclusion of non-trust lands from data tabulations for the Eastern Navajo Agency. The tribal council issued a resolution requesting the Census Bureau to tabulate all land within the Eastern Navajo Agency boundary as a collective land base. (The resolution is attached as Appendix D.) The Census Bureau approved the request for a special tabulation using American Community Survey (ACS) data. (The letter notifying Navajo Nation of the decision is attached as Appendix C.) In late 2017, the Census Bureau provided the first Eastern Navajo Agency tabulation from ACS data to Navajo Nation and will continue to provide these data products through 2020.

Navajo Nation requested that the Census Bureau permanently instate the special tabulation as a data product for census data and 5-year ACS data summaries. The Eastern Navajo Land Commission submitted this request at the technical meeting via written comment to the Census Bureau. (The written request is included in this report as [Appendix B](#).)

Navajo Nation indicated that tabulations by chapter would also be helpful. To support the Census Bureau in creating accurate chapter-level tabulations, Navajo Nation discussed forming a tribal oversight committee to oversee the development of a single map that outlines all chapter boundaries. A tri-party memorandum of understanding with Navajo Nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Census Bureau could help ensure alignment of boundaries recognized by each of the three entities.

Promotion of the Census

The Census Bureau developed a variety of public service announcements (PSAs) and other materials, which the Census Bureau will share digitally. Tribes can download these materials and tailor them to their communities to encourage constituents to participate in the census. Navajo Nation underscored the importance of featuring Navajo people in the PSAs to achieve local buy-in. They also noted that tribes would benefit from additional resources for boosting outreach about the census.

Residence Rules

During the 2016 tribal consultation, Navajo Nation raised concerns about the practice of enumerating college students within off-reservation student housing, even though most of these students plan to return to the Navajo Reservation. Since there are few higher education opportunities on the reservation to draw in young adults to compensate for those who left to attend college, the result is a dip in the Navajo Nation's young adult population. The skewed number of young adults makes it difficult for the Navajo Nation to justify funds for education programs.

The Navajo Nation had requested that the Census Bureau consider instituting an exception to the residence criteria for Navajo college students who attend college off reservation, and instead count them at their permanent homes. The Census Bureau decided to continue to count college students where they reside the majority of the time, which is often at student housing.

For situations in which Navajo citizens may need to leave the reservation to temporarily reside in group quarters, such as nursing homes, the Census Bureau will send enumerators to group quarters to ask people where they normally reside. However, prisoners will be counted at the detention facility, not at their usual homes. Navajo Nation observed that county jails, which typically accommodate inmates only for short stays, should not count as permanent residences. The Census Bureau will clarify this policy and follow up with the tribe.

Housing Unit Definition

The Census Bureau and Navajo Nation discussed how the Census Bureau defines a housing unit. The Census Bureau counts any structure in which someone resides as a housing unit. Enumerators will not count ceremonial units as housing units, since no one is permitted to live there. The Census Bureau hires locally to the greatest extent possible and will train enumerators to ask the appropriate questions to ensure they count only structures that serve as residences.

Navajo Nation explained that, on the Navajo Reservation, as on many other tribal lands, people live in small sheds due to a lack of housing. Counting these structures as housing units misrepresents the number of actual housing units on Navajo lands. An overcount of housing units will make the housing shortage difficult to prove, which, in turn, makes justifying housing funds difficult.

Capturing Accurate Race Details for Large Households

The printed census form asks for detailed information on the head of household and offers nine subsequent spaces for the head of household to list additional household members. After the sixth space, the question no longer asks for detailed race information. Many Navajo households contain extended families with 15 or more people. They may include family members or boarders of other races. In these cases, Navajo Nation explained that accurately capturing race data for all members of the household would be difficult.

The online form can record information on as many as 99 people in one household. Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau discussed possible approaches to ensuring collection of detailed race responses for each member of large households. Possible solutions may include instructing enumerators to use the online form for large households or completing a second printed questionnaire for a single household. The Census Bureau will explore whether using multiple questionnaires is an option.

Summary of Recommendations

The following new recommendations emerged from the technical meeting with Navajo Nation:

- ◆ Instate permanent tabulations for ACS and census data for all land within the Eastern Navajo Agency, including non-trust lands
- ◆ Provide chapter-level data tabulations
- ◆ Offer funding to support tribes in promoting the census

Completed Follow-Up Items

During the meeting, several topics arose that required follow-up from the Census Bureau. The list below outlines the action items and corresponding responses from the Census Bureau.

- ◆ The Census Bureau provided the following response to Navajo Nation's inquiry about the policy for counting inmates at temporary detention centers.
 - ▶ People in federal and state prisons, federal detention facilities, and local jails and other municipal confinement facilities on Census Day are counted at those facilities. Residents of correctional residential facilities, such as halfway

houses and restitution centers, are also counted at the facility if they are living there on Census Day. Staff members of any of these facilities are counted where they live and sleep most of the time. If they do not have a usual home elsewhere, they are counted at the facility.

- ◆ The Census Bureau provided the following response regarding whether large households can complete more than one printed census form to capture detailed race information for all household members.
 - ▶ The questionnaire collects information on up to 10 household members. The form includes all census questions, including race, for the first six of these 10. The best way to ensure all characteristics of a large household are collected is for the household to self-respond online or call Census Questionnaire Assistance.
- ◆ Navajo Nation has designated a census tribal liaison who will work with the Denver Regional Office tribal partnership staff to receive updated 2020 census information and share it with others in the tribe.

Conclusion

The technical meeting between Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau helped to clarify a variety of technical issues related to the 2020 Census and resulting data products. The Census Bureau collected feedback on how to build on its efforts to accommodate Navajo Nation's data needs and unique considerations. The meeting furthered the partnership between the Census Bureau and Navajo Nation, which will serve as a foundation for an accurate count of Navajo people in the 2020 Census and other Census Bureau surveys.



Appendix A. Meeting Notes

2020 Census Meeting with Navajo Nation

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel
Albuquerque, NM

Attendees

Navajo Nation

- ◆ **James Adakai**, President, Oljato Chapter; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Kathleen Arviso**, Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Mario Atencio**, Legislative District Assistant for Council Delegate Daniel Tso
- ◆ **M.C. Baldwin**, Rural Addressing/GIS Coordinator, Navajo Nation Addressing Authority
- ◆ **Everytt Begay, Sr.**, GIS Supervisor, Navajo Land Department
- ◆ **Byron Bitsoie, Sr.**, GIS Analyst, Navajo Land Department
- ◆ **Robert Black**, Executive Director, Navajo-Hopi Land Commission
- ◆ **Francine Bradley-Arthur**, RM
- ◆ **Marilyn Craig**, Cornfields Chapter
- ◆ **Martha Ellison**, Legislative Advisor, Office of Legislative Services
- ◆ **Lena Fowler**, District 5 Supervisor, Coconino County Board of Supervisors; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Mark Freeland**, Navajo Nation Council Delegate
- ◆ **W. Mike Halona**, Department Manager, Navajo Land Department
- ◆ **Jamie Henio**, Navajo Nation Council Delegate; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Ramona Nelson**, Legislative Assistant, Office of Legislative Services
- ◆ **Norbert Nez**, Information Technology Manager, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, and Census Liaison
- ◆ **Barbara O'Keefe**, Legislative District Assistant for Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie
- ◆ **Larry Rodgers**, Executive Director, Eastern Navajo Land Commission
- ◆ **Byron Shorty**, Senior Public Information Officer
- ◆ **Jesse Thompson**, District 2 Supervisor, Navajo County Board of Supervisors; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission
- ◆ **Daniel Tso**, Navajo Nation Council Delegate
- ◆ **Edison J. Wauneka**, Council Delegate; Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission

Census Bureau

- ◆ **Dee Alexander**, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
- ◆ **Joshua Coutts**, Geographer, Geographic Standards Criteria and Quality Branch, Geography Division
- ◆ **Michael Hawes**, Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy, Research and Methodology
- ◆ **Cathy Lacy**, Denver Regional Director
- ◆ **Sergio Martinez**, Tribal Partnership Coordinator
- ◆ **Arbin Mitchell**, Tribal Partnership Specialist
- ◆ **Vince Osier**, Branch Chief, Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch, Geography Division
- ◆ **Roberto Ramirez**, Assistant Division Chief for Special Population Statistics, Population Division
- ◆ **Amadeo Shije**, Tribal Partnership Coordinator
- ◆ **Madeline Sovich**, Geographer, Partnership Education and Outreach Branch, Geography Division

Opening Remarks

Edison Wauneka provided an opening prayer.

Arbin Mitchell welcomed the attendees to the meeting. He announced that the Census Bureau will hold a tribal consultation the following day in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference. The Navajo Nation Council's fall session also begins that day, so it will be helpful to have an update on the 2020 Census.

Follow-Up Items from 2017 Tribal Consultation Report

Mr. Mitchell explained that the Census Bureau has a long-standing partnership with Navajo Nation. In 2016, the Census Bureau held a tribal consultation with Navajo Nation. The Census Bureau developed a report that summarized the tribal consultation, which they distributed in 2017. During this 2019 meeting, the Census Bureau will provide updates on some of the outstanding report items and general updates regarding the 2020 Census. From the community level to the tribal council level, Navajo Nation relies on Census Bureau data for planning and justifying funds from federal programs.

Request for Special Tabulation

The Navajo Nation Eastern Land Commission passed a resolution requesting the *Naa'bik'iyati'* Committee (NABI) to pass a subsequent resolution in which they asked the Census Bureau to produce tabulations for the Eastern Navajo Agency. Previously, the Census Bureau only tabulated data for tribal lands and trust lands within Navajo Nation boundaries. These tabulations did not include individual allotment lands, state lands, or BLM lands within the tribe's boundaries. Since the Eastern Navajo Agency is a checkerboard of lands with different statuses, Navajo Nation requested that the Census Bureau tabulate data for all people within the agency boundary.

Dee Alexander sent a letter to Navajo Nation on behalf of the Census Bureau notifying them of the Census Bureau's decision to move forward with the special tabulation for the Eastern

Navajo Agency from American Community Survey (ACS) data. In late 2017, the Census Bureau provided the first Eastern Navajo Agency tabulation from ACS data to Navajo Nation and will continue to provide these data products through 2020.

Navajo Nation expressed their gratitude to the Census Bureau for agreeing to produce the special tabulation. Navajo Nation chapters compose five agencies. Receiving tabulations for all five agencies and by Census Designated Place is helpful for Navajo Nation chapter planning committees, so Navajo Nation requested that the Census Bureau continue to tabulate data at these geographic levels. Of the 31 Navajo chapters, 30 are checkerboarded. Navajo Nation does not deny services to its citizens who live on allotment lands, so it makes sense to include all Navajo citizens within a chapter's boundaries in the census count. The last time a special tabulation was done to include all households in a chapter boundary, the population count increased by 8,000 people. This number of citizens makes a significant difference for funding allocations.

The Eastern Land Commission will provide written comments to the Census Bureau formally requesting to make the special tabulation for the Eastern Navajo Agency permanent for future censuses and 5-year ACS summaries. The ongoing special tabulation should count Navajo citizens living on Hopi Partition Land, non-trust land within Navajo Nation boundaries, and within the Eastern Agency. The Census Bureau should also tabulate data for individual chapters. Navajo Nation would like to have as many Navajo people as possible counted within the tribe's geography. When counties receive funding for tribal citizens, those funds do not flow to the tribes, which typically provide the services to tribal citizens.

The Census Bureau responded that receiving updated chapter boundaries from Navajo Nation would be the first step toward ensuring it can accurately tabulate chapter data. In the decennial census, the Census Bureau cannot map Hopi lands as part of Navajo Nation. Anyone living on Hopi lands who self-identifies as Navajo will be counted toward the overall Navajo Nation count, but cannot be tabulated within a Navajo Nation geography. Many of the complex geographical issues Navajo Nation and other tribes face cannot be resolved soon enough to affect the 2020 Census.

The Census Bureau noted that it follows BIA guidance for how to map tribal lands, which is to count reservations and tribal trust lands as tribal geography. Initially, the Census Bureau based its maps on tribal boundaries provided by BIA. However, within the federal definition of Indian Country, the definition of dependent Indian communities is nebulous. It is unclear whether restricted fee lands that overlap with dependent communities qualify as dependent lands. An official opinion from BIA could help clarify the issue, but may take a long time to receive. Another issue is discrepancies in mapping of tribal lands between BIA maps and Census Bureau maps. The Census Bureau updates its maps based on boundaries provided by tribes through the annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). The Census Bureau supplies that information to BIA, but BIA does not update tribal boundaries without first conducting a BLM-certified survey of the lands. There is a massive backlog of BLM surveys, especially on tribal lands, which leads to many BIA files growing out of date.

Any policies the Census Bureau develops for Navajo Nation must apply equally to all tribes. Mapping tribal service areas for tribes poses a challenge because, in many cases, one tribe's service area would likely overlap with the service area of at least one other tribe. For example, if the Census Bureau mapped urban areas with high Navajo populations, such as Flagstaff, AZ, this area would likely overlap with Hopi Tribe's service area. The Census Bureau has met with tribes and federal partners to determine if mapping tribal service areas is possible, and can continue to work with tribes to determine the best solution and reach an agreement among overlapping tribes. Redesigning the federal systems to accommodate this new data approach would be expensive, so the directive would need to come from leadership within the federal government. Another challenge is that different federal funding programs define service areas differently, so the Census Bureau would need specific guidance regarding which service areas to maintain.

Navajo Nation responded that it is aware of the need to internally resolve geography issues. The Navajo Nation map approved by the tribal court in 1978 is the closest thing to an official map, even though some of the boundaries are not considered official. Navajo Nation needs to digitize these boundaries and create a single map that outlines all Navajo chapter boundaries. An oversight committee instituted by the Navajo Nation government would help move this project forward and ensure Navajo Nation geography concerns are addressed. A Navajo Nation delegate recommended a tri-party memorandum of understanding with Navajo Nation, BIA, and the Census Bureau to work toward significant geography corrections for the 2030 Census.

The Participant Statistical Areas Program and BAS programs will each do one more round of boundary updates prior to the 2020 Census. If tribes have boundary updates effective by January 2020, the Census Bureau can update those boundaries before the census.

Navajo Nation noted that they requested a formal response from BIA Navajo Region Director Bartholomew Stevens regarding the treatment of the Eastern Navajo Agency boundary as Indian Country, but Mr. Stevens has not responded. Navajo Nation discussed requesting an update from BIA, and noted that they would seek out Mr. Stevens at the NCAI convention and request that the region meet with Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau to discuss geography issues.

Locally Customizable PSAs

During the 2016 Census Bureau tribal consultation with Navajo Nation, the Census Bureau indicated that it would provide public service announcements (PSAs) regarding the 2020 Census that tribes can customize and share with their citizens. Throughout the region, the Census Bureau is working with entities to help them tailor the PSAs to their own communities. If Navajo Nation is interested, the Census Bureau can provide a variety of examples to support them in customizing PSAs for Navajo citizens.

Unlike the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau cannot provide local media grants for tribes to promote the census. The Census Bureau will provide all materials, and the tribe will be responsible for co-branding and distributing those materials. G&G Advertising, the

subcontractor of the Census Bureau's advertising contractor, is developing PSAs for Indian Country. They will present some approved ads at the NCAI conference. NCAI is awarding small grants to tribes and tribal complete count committees to support their 2020 Census outreach efforts.

Navajo Nation noted that, because tribal people are difficult to count, tribes would benefit from additional resources for boosting outreach regarding the census. Navajo Nation is not a member of NCAI and, thus, may be ineligible for NCAI grants. A Navajo delegate asked if G&G Advertising is developing any ads that feature Navajo people specifically. Ms. Alexander responded that she will inquire with G&G Advertising.

Residence Rule

In the 2016 Census Bureau tribal consultation with Navajo Nation, tribal delegates raised concerns about the counting of Navajo college students within off-reservation student housing. Since Navajo Nation offers few higher education opportunities, many young adults leave the reservation to attend college, but intend to return home to the Navajo Reservation after graduation. Similarly, Navajo Nation is concerned about how the Census Bureau counts traveling union workers, prisoners, and patients staying at skilled nursing facilities. How can Navajo Nation and the Census Bureau ensure that Navajo citizens who are temporarily staying off reservation are counted toward the tribal lands where they live the majority of the time?

The Census Bureau announced that they decided to continue to count college students where they reside the majority of the time; in many cases, this means they will be counted at student housing. The Census Bureau will instruct enumerators to count everyone who the head of household reports as living there the majority of the time, even if they are temporarily away on Census Day. Further, the Census Bureau will send enumerators to group quarters, such as nursing homes, to ask people where they normally reside. If a person cannot speak for themselves, the enumerator will consult the facility's administrative records to determine where to count the person. For prisons, the enumerators will consult administrative records, meaning the prisoners will be counted at the detention facility, not at their usual homes.

A Navajo Nation delegate inquired about county jails. Since the intention of county jails is not to imprison people, but to release them after a short stay, she observed that those in county jails should not be counted as living there the majority of the time. Ms. Lacy responded that she will clarify the policy for counting inmates at temporary detention centers.

Housing Unit Definition

Navajo Nation explained that, on the Navajo Reservation, as on many other tribal lands, people live in small sheds due to a lack of housing. Navajo Nation inquired about whether the Census Bureau will count these structures as housing units, since doing so would misrepresent the number of actual housing units on Navajo lands. An overcount of housing units will make proving the housing shortage, and thus justifying housing funds, difficult.

The Census Bureau responded, if someone lives in a structure, they will count the structure as a housing unit. If the Census Bureau is told no one lives in a structure, they will not count it as a housing unit. The same goes for ceremonial housing units—if the Census Bureau is told the unit is ceremonial, meaning no one can live there, they will not count it as a housing unit. The Census Bureau will hire locally to the greatest extent possible and train enumerators to ask the appropriate questions to ensure they count only structures that serve as residences.

Question on Race

Roberto Ramirez elaborated on the census race question. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines the race and ethnicity categories for all federal agencies, including the Census Bureau. Under OMB guidance, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) are defined as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.”

Based on insights gathered through research, tribal consultation, and focus groups, the Census Bureau has updated the question on race to better capture details of AIAN identity, including increasing the number of characters the write-in space can capture. Since the race question relies on self-identification, it is important for tribal governments to educate their citizens on how to appropriately self-identify. The Census Bureau maintains an extensive list of AIAN write-in responses and how to code each response, including many ways in which a respondent may self-identify as Navajo.

Navajo Nation asked how the Census Bureau captures detailed race responses for members of large households. The census form asks for detailed information on the head of household and offers five subsequent spaces for the head of household to provide detailed information about additional household members. However, the printed forms only contain enough spaces for 10 household members, and after the sixth space, the question no longer drills down to detailed race information. Many Navajo households contain extended families, with 15 or more people in the household. They may include family members or boarders of other races. In these cases, it will be difficult to accurately capture race data for all members of the household. A possible solution is to train enumerators specifically on how to deal with these situations and perhaps instruct them to use the online form in these cases to ensure the appropriate level of detail for all household members. Ms. Lacy said she will verify whether the online form allows for more detail to be captured for the seventh household member and beyond.

Upcoming Tribal Consultation on Proposed Data Products and Disclosure Avoidance System

Ms. Alexander announced that the Census Bureau will hold a tribal consultation in conjunction with the NCAI convention the next day, October 21, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

A primary point of discussion for the tribal consultation is to update tribes on the proposed Census 2020 data products and disclosure avoidance system. The Census Bureau is modernizing its privacy protections to better guard confidentiality and would like to gather input from tribes on what types of data products they need to ensure it can optimize disclosure avoidance to provide tribes with helpful data while protecting individual privacy.

Ms. Alexander will share more information with Mr. Nez, who can distribute it to others so Navajo Nation can provide input.

Action Items

- ◆ The Eastern Land Commission will provide written comments to the Census Bureau formally requesting to make the special tabulation for the Eastern Navajo Agency permanent for future censuses and 5-year ACS summaries.
- ◆ Ms. Alexander will ask G&G Advertising whether they are developing any ads that feature Navajo people specifically.
- ◆ Ms. Lacy will clarify the policy for counting inmates at temporary detention centers.
- ◆ Ms. Lacy will verify whether the online form allows for more detail to be captured for the seventh household member and beyond.
- ◆ Ms. Alexander will share more information with Mr. Nez on the new disclosure avoidance approach to distribute for feedback to others within Navajo Nation.

Appendix B. Eastern Navajo Land Commission Written Comments

Comments to the U.S. Census Bureau

2020 Census Tribal Consultation Session: October 20, 2019

Submitted by Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC)

Main Objective:

The Commission requests the continued treatment of tabulation of population counts as contained in tribal resolutions ENLCD-09-15 and NABIN-94-16 for Census 2020 and Five-Year ACS Summaries. The Commission further requests that the US Census Bureau explore “permanency” of this tabulation method, and if necessary - create a statistical delineation category in respect to Navajo Nation ENA Chapter areas whereas “tribal subdivisions” are already defined and acknowledged by the Census Bureau.

Responses to Sub-Questions Under Question 11: Regarding Importance of AI/AN Demographic and Housing Characteristics

General: Population and housing distribution data by the various Navajo Nation geographic levels is very important for analyses and planning. The Navajo Nation is divided into five (5) agencies, 23 “grazing” districts, 24 political districts, and 110 chapters. The decennial census data has been used in the Navajo Nation Council reapportionment in the last thirty years. Census data is the most official and reliable data for research, analyses, and planning at all levels of Navajo government.

1. **Alone and Alone-in-Combination data:** Both sets of data are important. Since the Navajo Nation requires 1/4th blood quantum for tribal enrollment, mixed race/ethnicity data is essential.
2. **Levels of Geography:** Block Group, Tract, CCD, CDP, and tribal subdivision data are all useable for use by Navajo Chapters and Navajo government. It would be advantageous if the USCB could consider tabulation of Agency level data as well. Most federal and state government funded services are allocated and administered at the Agency levels.
3. **Programmatic, Statutory, or Legal Uses:** The Navajo Nation interfaces with Federal and State funding requirements which are based on those particular authority’s statutory guidelines. The Navajo Nation itself distributes funding to Navajo Nation chapters by a population funding-formula.
4. **How much funding:** A thorough review of all funding received would aid in answering this question which is the responsibility of the Navajo Office of the Controller. For example, NAHASDA (HUD) and Employment and Training funding are based on populations among American Indian Reservations.
5. **Why Use of Decennial Census:** As indicated above, the Census data is the most reliable set of data for numerous uses. The Navajo Nation itself does not have the resources to conduct its own periodic population and housing census or surveys.

Submitted by:



Edmund Yazzie, Chairman



Larry Rodgers, Executive Director

Appendix C. Letter from Census Bureau on Special Tabulation Decision

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Russell Begaye President of the Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President
100 Parkway • P.O. Box 7440 • Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear President Begaye:

This is a follow up to let you know that the request for a special tabulation of social, economic, and housing data for all parts of all 31 Eastern Navajo Area (ENA) Chapters, to include tribal trust and non-tribal trust land has been completed. This request was quite complex and required a lengthy period of time to accomplish. All special tabulations incur costs that help to cover time and work of assigned project staff. A memorandum was presented to former Director John Thompson requesting this work be done at no cost to the Navajo Nation, which he approved before his departure in June 2017.

On June 12, 2017, email correspondence was sent to the Navajo Nation in care of Mr. Norbert Nez, from the U.S. Census Bureau informing you of our approval to begin work on the special tabulation. In this email, it explained that the tabulation would be based on the latest data set for release on July 2017, entitled 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Selected Population Tables (SPT) and American Indian and Alaska Native Table (AIANT). It also included information that this special tabulation would involve several divisional staff and would need to be reviewed and approved by Census Bureau leadership to have this work produced at no cost. It was conveyed that the tabulation was planned to be finalized by the end of the calendar year 2017, and that our Disclosure Review Board would make the decision on whether this special tabulation can be done.

I am glad to say that this task has been done and our staff will be following up with further information regarding Margins of Error (MOE). Our initial work of population data counts is attached. Staff will be requesting approval from our Disclosure Review Board to produce housing unit counts and occupancy status counts, as well as additional estimates throughout the year. The current files were the most difficult and time consuming to generate. However, with the completion of that work, other estimates can be produced more quickly, provided the approval of the Disclosure Review Board.

Our point of contact for this information is Nicholas Spanos, Branch Chief, Data Products Development Branch, of the American Community Survey Office. He can be reached at (301) 763-6841 or at Nicholas.M.Spanos@census.gov.

I am pleased that we were able to accommodate your request. We look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration with the Navajo Nation, and working with your designated Tribal Government Liaison, Norbert Nez. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix D. Resolution of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Resolution of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission of the Navajo Nation Council

Approving Recommendation to the *Naa'bik'iyati'* Committee of the Navajo Nation Council to Request the United States Bureau of the Census to Consider Combined Tabulation of Tribal Trust and Non-Tribal Trust Parts for Eastern Navajo Agency Chapters

Whereas:

1. Pursuant to 2 NNC § 861 (B) (3), the Eastern Navajo Land Commission ("the Commission") is established as a Commission of the Navajo Nation Council within the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation Government to resolve land ownership status and use issues throughout the Eastern Navajo Agency by coordinating efforts with the federal, state, county, and other local authorities and private interests; and
2. The *Naa'bik'iyati'* Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is invested authority to deal with other governmental entities including United States governmental units, agencies, and entities; and
3. The United States Bureau of the Census ("Census Bureau") is in the process of seeking input from American Indian Tribes through the United States through a series of consultation meetings and special meetings towards the next decennial Census of 2020; and
4. The Navajo Nation has several concerns which can be enumerated in the *Naa'bik'iyati'* Committee legislation, of special concern to the Commission is the tabulation and presentation of data from the Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) provided to the Navajo Nation upon the census count and "rolling census" surveys for the ACS. The data represented is only for "tribal trust areas" which include tribal trust lands and individual allotment lands, thus not including data relating to non-tribal trust parts of the 31 Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Chapter areas; "Chapters" known to the Census Bureau as "Tribal Sub-divisions"; and
5. The Commission agrees and would find beneficial that all population, social, economic, and housing data be fully compiled and tabulated for all parts of the 31 ENA Chapters involving tribal trust and non-tribal trust lands and the results for all of ENA are also included in all Navajo Nation-wide tabulations.

Now, therefore be it resolved that:

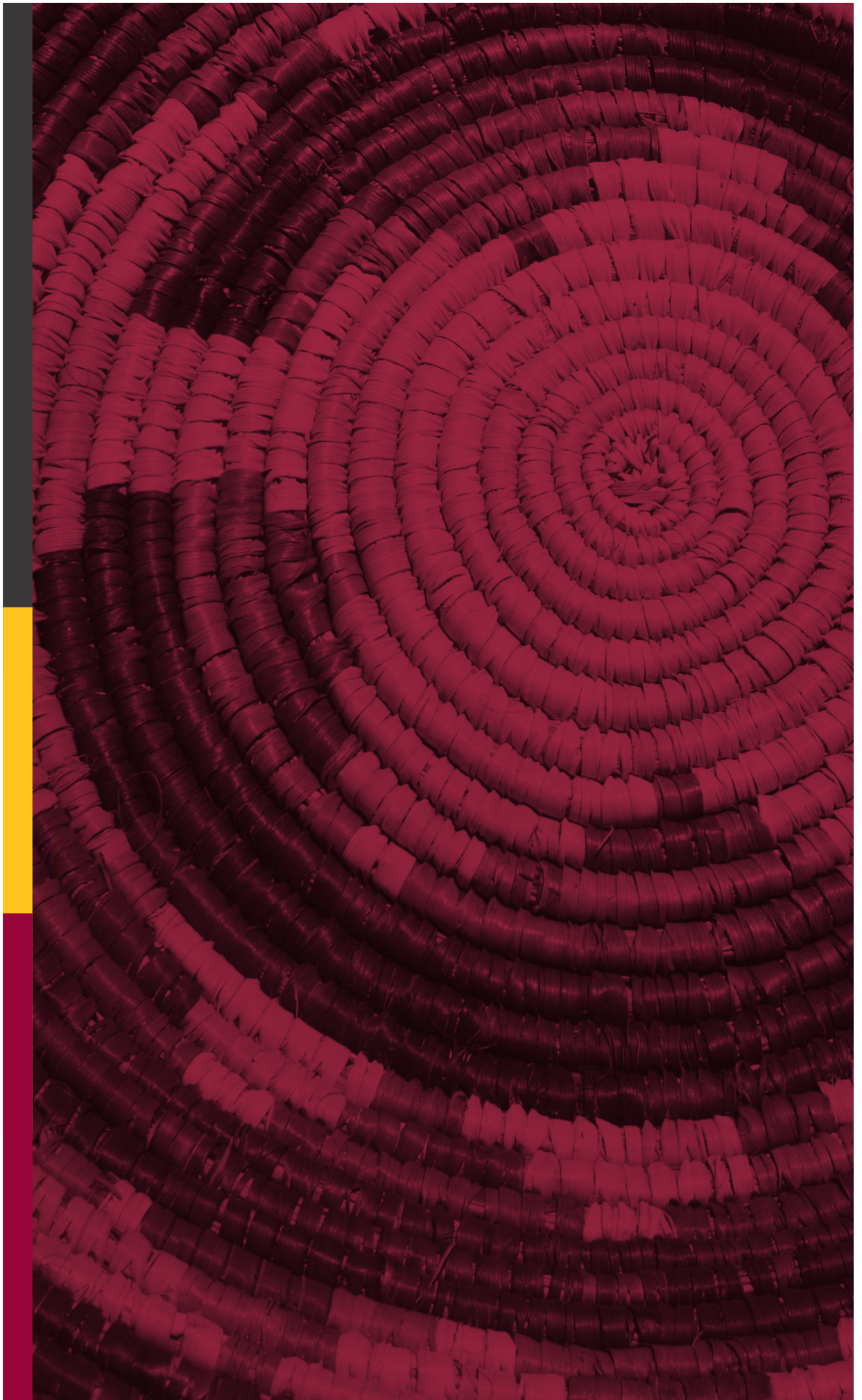
The Eastern Navajo Land Commission of the Navajo Nation Council, hereby approves recommendations to the *Naa'bik'iyati'* Committee of the Navajo Nation Council to request from the United States Bureau of the Census to consider combined tabulation of Tribal Trust and Non-Tribal Trust parts for Eastern Navajo Agency Chapters.

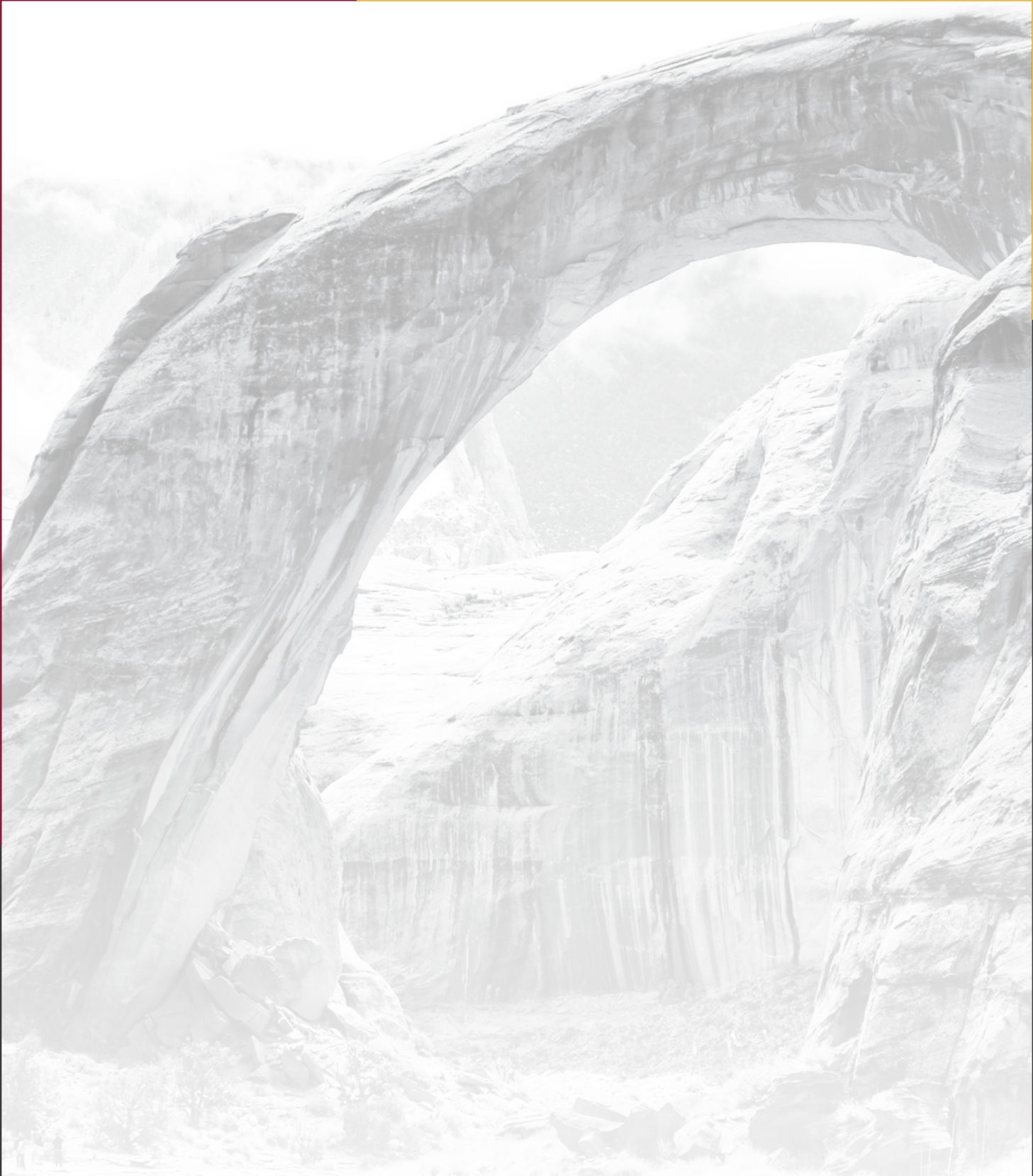
Certification

I hereby certify that the forgoing resolution was duly considered by the Eastern Navajo Land Commission at a duly called meeting in Church Rock, Navajo Nation (NM), at which a quorum was present, and the same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, this 18th day of December 2015.

Leonard Tsosie, Chairperson
Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Motion: Jonathan Perry
Second: Danny Simpson





Prepared for the U.S. Census Bureau by:

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