

# Alaska Census Working Group Lunch Meeting

Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

October 21, 2022

- Good afternoon, everyone. I am Robert Santos, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- I want to particularly thank the co-chairs of the Alaska Census Working Team, Laurie Wolf and Mike Walsh, both for their past support for the census in Alaska and for hosting this lunch meeting.
- It's so important for the Census Bureau to receive input from the communities that use our data, and I look forward to listening to your thoughts and feedback during this conversation.
- We want you to know that these sessions are very important to us at the Census Bureau.
- We recognize that we need to listen more and to listen continually. Our work with you is of the highest importance, and we seek to strengthen our positive relationships with partners gathered here today.
- We're committed to producing data that reflects an accurate portrait of America. We know that your communities need quality data and it was great to see the work that Foraker has done in the past with our data.
- We are committed to engaging with and actively listen to the full diversity of our stakeholders in the United States, which of course includes you. Stakeholder feedback is critical to understanding the needs of our data users. We plan to strengthen existing partnerships and identify new partners. This includes advocacy organizations, folks in philanthropy, state and local jurisdictional officers, community-based organizations, scientific and other professional associations, and so on. The idea is to create a continuous partnership to build trust to aid in public participation in our research endeavors and apprise partners of the value of Census Bureau data.
- We are working to develop new ways to collect data that are more accurate, timely, relevant and most of all meet the needs of the public. We continuously engage in improving how we measure equity and diversity.
- We are constantly assessing how we can improve our statistical programs to better serve and represent underserved groups. We continuously research strategies for improving respondent understanding of questions we ask and the accuracy of the data we produce.
- We deeply value your participation as an American Indian and or Alaska Native data partner and your feedback on our data products.
- For example, I would also like to note that we are in the early stages of planning for the 2030 Census and your input is critical. I want to encourage you to provide feedback now, through a Federal Register Notice that posted on August 17, 2022.
- Your input will help inform our decisions for the next census, including our research, testing and design. With ideas from the tribes and other communities across America, we are aiming to better reach and count historically undercounted people, overcome challenges and encourage everyone to respond to the 2030 Census.

- We're confident that by working together, we can make progress in a way that meets your needs and helps the Census Bureau produce useful statistics about the Alaska Native population. I welcome future invitations and opportunities to talk with you about how our data can better serve your communities.
- Once again, thank you so much for having me. I appreciate your support and look forward to our round table discussion and listening to your lessons learned from 2020 and your input for 2030.