

Tulalip Tribes meeting

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

January 22, 2024

- Good morning, everyone. I am Robert Santos, director for the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Thank you for taking time to meet with me today. It's an honor to be here and to thank you for all your engagement with the Census Bureau and our tribal liaison, Lindsey Watkins, during the 2020 Census.
- I also want to offer my condolences on the passing of your community member, Senator John McCoy, last summer.
- Fittingly, today is the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Point Elliott, marking 169 years of nation-to-nation relationship between the Tulalip Tribes and the federal government. It's a relationship that we're appreciative of and eager to build upon.
- At the Census Bureau, our work with the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community is of the highest importance, and we seek to strengthen our nation-to-nation relationships with all tribes.
- We serve you. And our service is that of providing statistical data to help you understand your people—who you are, your challenges, your accomplishments, and your needs.
- This helps you make informed decisions on how to improve your communities. And we're committed to providing the quality data you need, data that your communities rely on.
- In fact, recently the Census Bureau announced plans to engage with AIAN stakeholders on the design of new experimental statistical products. This is an extension of our ongoing commitment to engage with tribes.
- We'll be using the tribal listening sessions as the starting point to gather AIAN stakeholder feedback to better understand their information needs.
- Until now, we have primarily published statistics that delineate AIAN as a category within larger and more generalized data products.
- Instead of limiting AIAN information to the statistics our censuses and surveys produce, we are flipping the paradigm to design products based on what information you need our statistical products to support.
- Future engagement activities are intended to yield the first ever statistical products designed specifically to meet the objectives of the AIAN community—including tribes, researchers, and federal partners. And we hope that you will be a part of those engagement activities, so that we can learn more about the data you need from us.
- 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 American Indian and Alaska Native population.
- We look forward to a continued partnership with you as we approach the 2030 Census. Thank you again for hosting me.

Background information:

- [Tulalip Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA—Census Bureau Profile.](#)
- [Information on Sen. John McCoy, Tulalip state senator who passed away in 2023.](#)