

To Ms Jennifer Jessup and\or Whom it May Concern::

My name is Roxanne Valies and I am a board member and the South Florida representative of the Washington DC based Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS). I am also a Computer Systems Engineer, and Business Academic by trade. Below are my personal observations.

1. I support the combined question on Race and Ethnicity as an improvement the way the question was worded in the 2010 Census. It is my believe that it shows equity in the treatment of the various groups and will improve the accuracy of the count. This is given my understanding of the constraints and the research that has been done to date (AQE in 2010 and post 2010 testing)

a. Suggestion: Given that most of the responses are expected to be obtained in an electronic format, I believe that when soliciting for detailed race data on a second screen, a drop down list should be offered that lists ALL possibilities of national origin. This should be instead of a second screen that allows a selection of about 6 groups and a space to write in information. This will allow true equity and allow all subgroups to have easy access to data.

b. Unclear\concern: How is a White Latino counted who checks both boxes? Will he or she now show up as One or More races and thus not be counted as White. I believe that we will have a more accurate picture of the number of Latinos, but given that many Latinos self-identify as white, will they no longer be counted as white. Is this a case of curing one ailment and causing another.

c. Question: The MENA category is . Is it just lobbying from the MENA population that has this category added? The MENA category may be plagued with the same issues of the Hispanic category as a grouping

2. I applaud the use of digital media to capture census data, but belief it must be used appropriately to solve the . I believe we are using technology to automate a paper process. Instead we need to use technology to conduct the census.

a. My suggestion in 1a above is an example of that.

b. Concern: Adequate funding is still needed for door to door follow up. We will have people without access to technology and they must be counted. Their numbers are critical in social work areas. Progress in battling poverty and improving our economy depend on that.

c. Concern: Adequate funding is needed for initial implementation of systems. Let's not be solely concerned about using technology for cutting costs. You would have more upfront costs when you implement new systems and in the long run you would see savings . Getting the best system should not

suffer from a need to cut technology. We have to do this right and we have the opportunity now with the process change to do things the best way possible.

3. The term national origin and ethnicity seem to still warrant more research. All the more reason why we need to ensure that we are accurately funding Census research and automation.

Thank you for all the work done in this important endeavor and for engaging the community to ensure we have as accurate and complete a count as possible.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Valies
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