

# Attachment A

## Citizen Petition

2018 APR 18 PM 7:37

As citizen of the City of Phoenix, I request for the Phoenix City Council to review the below petition, and act upon it within 15 days, as required per the city charter.

Regarding the 2020 Census, the Office of Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has expressed that it has no interest in following the lead of numerous states and municipalities in filing suit in opposition to the addition of a question specifically asking census-recipients to check a box describing their citizenship status.


Due to the current political climate, there is large-scale fear in minority communities across the country that the addition of this question – the first time this question will be asked of all census-recipients since 1950 – will be used as a back door to potential increased deportation efforts in these communities.

It is largely suspected that regardless of intent, this fear will lead many recipients to fail to complete and return the census, and thus will provide an incomplete and invalid population count. The purpose of the census is not to account for all citizens; it is to account for the entire population, regardless of their citizenship status.

But this isn't just a question of fairness; the addition of this question will adversely affect the funds distributed to the Phoenix community, which, per the Pew Research Center, had a population of an estimated 250,000 undocumented immigrants as of 2014 – the 10<sup>th</sup> largest population of all metropolitan areas.

I request via this citizen petition that the Mayor and Council vote to instruct city staff to perform an analysis on the likely reduction in census funds distribution due to the addition of this citizenship question to the census, and provide subsequent recommendation(s) to not only the council, but also the public, regarding any and all options available to protect the interests of the City of Phoenix, as well as the community, in relation to this issue.

Submitted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.



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Shawn Severud  
Citizen of Phoenix