



OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 24, 2020

[MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S MEMORANDUM ATTEMPTING TO BAN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. FROM THE CENSUS COUNT]

MARC ELRICH CALLS TRUMP'S MOVE TO EXCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED FROM CENSUS 'UNCONSCIONABLE,' URGES EVERYONE TO RESPOND

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich has rejected President Donald Trump's memorandum that intends to prevent undocumented immigrants in the United States from being counted in the 2020 census for the purpose of determining U.S. House seats, calling it an "unconscionable and divisive move that will surely, and must, be challenged in the courts."

"This is yet another attack by Trump to fire up his ever-shrinking base as he continues his attacks on immigrants and people of color," Elrich said of the presidential action. "I will not, I cannot, remain silent, as the leader of the largest county in Maryland, with a population that is one-third foreign-born." Montgomery County's population exceeds 1.1 million.

Elrich stated that "the U.S. Constitution says House districts should be based on the 'whole number of persons in each state,' which courts have interpreted to mean all people regardless of immigration status."

A 2016 Supreme Court ruling said the Constitution requires the use of total population to allocate House seats among the states. Undocumented immigrants have previously been counted to determine representation in the House.

Elrich said he supported The American Civil Liberties Union's vow to challenge the policy in court and agreed with their statement that the president can't select those he wants to count in the census.

"Everyone in Montgomery County needs to know that they are supported 100 percent by their County Executive and is urged to complete their 2020 Census as soon as possible, regardless of their immigration status. Remember, there is no question on immigration status on the 2020 Census. The importance of an accurate census count will be key in receiving the essential resources that provide for the best possible local schools, hospitals, public transportation...even something as critical as the number of doses of vaccine that will be available to us, once it is developed. I think it is very clear to all of us that the President is attempting to suppress the response to the census and to silence the voices of immigrant communities. Let's respond to the 2020 Census to ensure we all are counted and send a message to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue that his tactics will not succeed.

"I will do everything in my power at the local level to maintain the integrity of the U.S. Census, this crucial count that brings federal funds to our county and state for schools, hospitals, public safety, and our representation in the U.S. House of Representatives."

Take 10 minutes to be counted now – our future depends on it! 2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020