



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 15, 2018

Motion 15151

Proposed No. 2018-0184.1

**Sponsors Dembowski, Balducci, Kohl-Welles
and McDermott**

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to develop and
2 transmit an implementation plan for the county to
3 coordinate the efforts for the 2020 Census with a focus on
4 Hard-to-Count communities to ensure a complete and
5 accurate count and participation of all county residents
6 regardless of age, income, race, housing status and
7 citizenship status.

8 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires the
9 census to be conducted every ten years, and

10 WHEREAS, in addition to apportionment of House of Representative seats, the
11 decennial census is also used for: enforcing voting rights and civil rights legislation;
12 appropriating an estimated \$590 billion in federal funds to local communities from
13 sixteen large census guided programs, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition
14 Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants,
15 and Children and Section 8 Housing; and producing and publishing critical data on
16 unemployment, crime, poverty, health and education, and

17 WHEREAS, according to the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, for
18 Fiscal Year 2015, Washington state received a total of \$13.8 billion or \$1,914 per capita
19 of census guided federal funds, and

20 WHEREAS, for the 2017-2018 biennium, King County is expected to receive a
21 total of \$8 billion of direct and indirect federal funds and based on the George
22 Washington Institute of Public Policy's figures, an undercount of one percent of the Asian
23 and Hispanic/Latino populations, which compromises a large portion of the Hard-to-
24 Count ("HTC") communities, would result in the loss of \$87.8 million of federal funds to
25 King County for the next decennial, and

26 WHEREAS, good census data is fundamental to being a data-driven and equity-
27 driven government and therefore King County relies on census data to help us understand
28 community conditions, develop and implement strategies that are most responsive to
29 communities, and evaluate the effectiveness of our work, and county programs funded by
30 the best start for kids levy, such as Communities of Opportunity, and the veterans, seniors
31 and human services levy use census data to determine distribution of funds to the
32 appropriate communities and also use census data to measure outcomes to ensure
33 effectiveness of programs funded by the levies, and

34 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County, in conjunction with the King
35 County Hospitals for a Healthier Community, rely on the census data as a major data
36 source to establish the biennial King County Community Health Needs Assessment to
37 identify the greatest needs and assets of King County communities and develop plans to
38 address them and the census is also a major component of determining Community
39 Health Indicators, which offers a comprehensive overview of demographics, health and
40 health behaviors among King County residents, and

41 WHEREAS, current census data may be flawed because it does not provide an
42 accurate count by excluding HTC communities and therefore depriving HTC

43 communities of vital public and private resources due to the undercount, and

44 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Urban Research, City University of New
45 York Graduate Center, HTC communities are defined as those communities at higher risk
46 of not being fully counted in the decennial census. A census tract is considered HTC if
47 its self-response rate in the 2010 decennial census was seventy-three percent or less, or
48 all tracts nationwide that are in the bottom twenty percent of 2010 mail return rates, and

49 WHEREAS, HTC communities have been historically underrepresented in the
50 decennial census for decades and they include young children, people of color, rural
51 residents, low-income households, "linguistically isolated" households, frequent movers,
52 foreign born residents, households below the poverty line, overcrowded households, low-
53 educational-attainment households, single-parent-headed households, the homeless
54 population and those people who either distrust government authorities or have been or
55 could be targets of law enforcement or heightened surveillance, or both, and

56 WHEREAS, it is critical to leverage enumerators and census organizers that
57 reflect the experience and culture of HTC communities to ensure the success of an
58 accurate count, and

59 WHEREAS, in 2017 the U.S. Census Bureau began ramping up activities to begin
60 the 2020 Census count by focusing on the Local Update of Census Addresses, which
61 would allow local jurisdictions to submit updates by July 2018 to the Master Address
62 File, and

63 WHEREAS, the 2020 Census Operational Plan's new data-collection methods
64 propose to minimize in-person checks for address canvassing, prioritize online forms for
65 data collection, and maintain the 2010 census approach for collecting data on race and

66 ethnicity, which would create a lot of risk to HTC communities since these would include
67 households with no computer or inadequate Internet access, and

68 WHEREAS, according to King County's department of information technology,
69 sixteen percent of residents in the county do not have Internet access at home, and
70 residents who earn less than \$50,000 per year are more than five times less likely to have
71 Internet access at home, and

72 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce's decision to include collecting data on
73 citizenship for the 2020 Census would deter undocumented immigrants and even
74 documented immigrants from participation and possibly undermine the validity of the
75 next decade of health statistics and programs, which relies on data of all residents
76 regardless of citizenship status, and

77 WHEREAS, the March 2018 adopted Fiscal Year 2018 federal budget
78 appropriated \$2.8 billion to the Census Bureau, \$1.1 billion more than the Department of
79 Commerce's adjusted request for Fiscal Year 2018. However, based on analysis from the
80 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the increase for Fiscal Year 2018 combined with
81 the department's request for \$3.8 billion for Fiscal Year 2019 will still be much lower in
82 comparison to spending trends of prior decennial census and exacerbate the risk of an
83 undercount, and

84 WHEREAS, in 2010, the county established the complete count committee to
85 coordinate efforts for 2010 Census. However, focus on engaging the HTC communities
86 were limited, and

87 WHEREAS, it is critical that King County continue to focus on Local Update of
88 Census Addresses and also begin coordinating efforts now to ensure a complete and

89 accurate count of HTC communities and to strive for the highest level of participation by
90 county residents regardless of age, income, race, housing status and citizenship status;

91 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

92 A. The executive is requested to develop and transmit an implementation plan for
93 the county to coordinate efforts for the 2020 Census with a focus on Hard-to-Count
94 ("HTC") communities. The plan shall consider the following:

95 1. Need for new processes that are inclusive and open, and in particular raise the
96 voices and power of those in the community who have been historically sidelined by
97 those who have traditionally exercised power;

98 2. Commitment to community partnerships that are equally rooted in the
99 principle that those affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-
100 making process. Therefore, the plan shall be developed in collaboration with
101 stakeholders that reflect the experience and culture of HTC communities to ensure
102 outreach and messaging is culturally competent, translated and interpreted, is provided by
103 the best messengers and incorporates lessons learned from similar census efforts in the
104 past. The executive shall prioritize considering community-based organizations as
105 stakeholders for collaboration since they are poised to facilitate access to decision-
106 making for historically underrepresented communities and provide the expertise needed
107 to remove barriers of race, cultural norms and practices, disability and language, in order
108 to foster full and equitable civic participation;

109 3. Leverage advances in the work done by the county with HTC communities
110 since the last decennial census, such as the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan,
111 Communities of Opportunity, Affordable Care Act enrollment and the establishment of

112 the King County immigrant and refugee commission; and

113 4. Solidify existing partnerships and establish new relationships with those
114 stakeholders listed in section C. of this motion.

115 B. The plan shall also include, but not be limited to:

116 1. The county's role as convener to engage all county stakeholders listed in
117 section C of this motion to establish the county's "complete count committee" to perform
118 the following:

119 a. act as liaison to the census bureau, and coordinate with the bureau to apply
120 its authority, knowledge, and techniques to King County communities;

121 b. align messaging to educate, motivate, and activate respondents;

122 c. coordinate training and recruiting local, trusted enumerators;

123 d. employ enumerators and census organizers that reflect the experience and
124 culture of HTC communities;

125 e. utilize and share county resources including translation tools and services;

126 f. leverage census bureau and county expertise and technical support; and

127 g. coordinate resource sharing amongst the stakeholders;

128 2. Identification of HTC communities in King County;

129 3. Strategies to focus on engagement and outreach to HTC communities;

130 4. Identification of gaps and challenges to HTC communities as a result of the
131 new data collection methods, such as minimizing field canvassing, online forms and
132 similar methods, and strategies to resolve the gaps and challenges;

133 5. Consideration of hiring a temporary full time employee to direct and
134 coordinate the county's efforts to engage HTC communities for the 2020 Census and

135 related county budget implications;

136 6. Consideration of using county moneys and existing resources to fully
137 implement the plan and related county budget implications, if any;

138 7. Assessment of risk to undocumented immigrants who participate in the 2020
139 Census and strategies to minimize such risks;

140 8. Strategies on advocating the King County's federal legislative delegation on:

141 a. urging the Department of Commerce to rollback its decision to include the
142 question of citizenship as part of the 2020 Census;

143 b. including combining the two separate questions on "race" and "ethnicity"
144 into a single "race and ethnicity" question to minimize confusion and provide more
145 accurate data for the Hispanic, Latino and Spanish" and the Middle Eastern or North
146 African communities; and

147 c. affirming the anonymity of the census to protect undocumented residents
148 and ensure they participate;

149 9. In consultation with the King County prosecuting attorney's office and legal
150 advocacy organizations in the community, identify federal legal strategies to address
151 possible equal protection and civil rights violations for deliberate undercounting of HTC
152 communities from including the question of citizenship to the 2020 Census and limiting
153 federal funding for 2020 Census operations compared to prior decennial census. In
154 addition, identify federal legal strategies to monitor protection of respondents'
155 information and ensure the information remain anonymous, private and secure; and

156 10. Timeline including major activities and key milestones of the coordination
157 efforts included in the plan.

158 C. The executive is requested to engage and collaborate with various
159 stakeholders in King County to develop the plan. Stakeholders shall include, but not be
160 limited to, philanthropic organizations, community-based, nonprofit and social
161 organizations, faith-based organizations, school districts, higher education organizations,
162 local jurisdictions including tribal governments, the King County immigrant and refugee
163 commission, the King County civil rights commission, all relevant county departments
164 under the executive's jurisdiction, Public Health - Seattle & King County, the King
165 County Library System, King County regional committees, the U.S. Census Bureau,
166 businesses and the state of Washington.

167 D. The executive shall transmit the plan, and a motion approving the plan by
168 September 1, 2018, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy to the clerk of
169 the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all

170 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, the policy staff director and the lead staff for
171 the committee of the whole, or its successor.

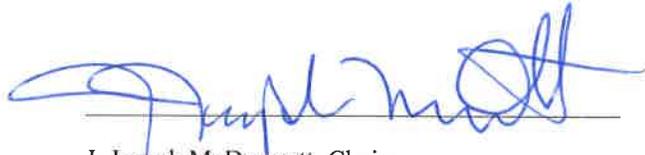
Motion 15151 was introduced on 4/2/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/14/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

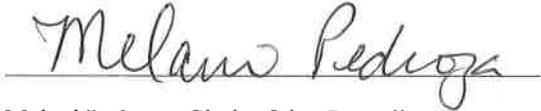
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



Attachments: None