



Mac Warner
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

February 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Timely Release of Census Data

President Biden:

This letter is to express concern over the U.S. Census Bureau's recent announcement of up to six-month delay on the release of Census data to the states. In January, the Census Bureau extended the original deadline of March 31 to April 30. Now, the Bureau wants to extend the release to September 30. These delays place unacceptable risks on states' election administration.

West Virginia, like many states, requires the Legislature to use the most recent Census data to implement redistricting, as many ramifications flow from how districts are drawn. But, unlike most states, West Virginia anticipates losing one of our three U.S. House of Representatives positions. We are in a tough situation where delay will cause undue hardship on our election officials, candidates, and citizens at large.

Further delay in the delivery of Census data will hinder the West Virginia Legislature's ability to complete redistricting prior to state-specific deadlines to administer the 2022 Federal Election. Delay may force West Virginia and other states to violate laws dictating the redistricting process and deadlines. In this time when confidence in elections is paramount, a delay may well generate confusion for candidates and voters alike.

I respectfully ask you to avoid additional delays beyond April 30. Sharing Census data as it is available state by state may resolve the issue for a majority of states. Fair redistricting cannot take place without the timely delivery of Census information.

Sincerely,

Mac Warner
WV Secretary of State

Cc: Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Congressman David McKinley
Congresswoman Carol Miller
WV Senate President Craig Blair

Senator Joe Manchin, III
Congressman Alex Mooney
Governor Jim Justice
WV Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw