



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Citizenship Question Case Marks Milestone Moment for U.S. Supreme Court and Latino Community**

*No other issue before the U.S. Supreme Court will have more direct consequences for the nation's Latino community than the census case*

*Accuracy of a full Latino count and our democratic values are on trial*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas regarding oral arguments in the 2020 Census citizenship question case (United States Department of Commerce v. New York) before the U.S. Supreme Court:

“On trial is not only the accuracy of a full Latino count, but also the foundation of our democracy. No other issue before the Supreme Court will have more direct consequences for the nation’s Latinos than the one before the Court today regarding the 2020 Census.

“The Census case will result in one of the most impactful decisions the Court will make affecting the Latino population. The 2020 Census, which is taking a place at a time of [unprecedented and widespread fear](#), will be the first in the nation’s history in which Latinos make up the nation’s second largest population group. An undercount of the Latino population due to the unlawful inclusion of this untested and ill-intentioned question would mean a failed Census for the country.

“The evidence in this case is clear. Three federal courts have already found that the addition of the citizenship question was done in violation of federal law and would result in an undercount of Latinos and immigrants, with U.S. District Court Judge Furman writing in the New York case ruling that the Secretary [‘failed to disclose his true rationale’](#) and that the decision to add the citizenship question was for [‘reasons entirely unrelated to VRA enforcement’](#).

“At issue before the Court is more than just whether Secretary Wilbur Ross’ actions violated federal law, the integrity of our Constitution and democratic principles are at stake. If the Court finds that the three district judges erred in finding that Secretary

Wilbur Ross violated the Administrative Procedures Act, future Cabinet members will be free to make 'arbitrary and capricious' decisions at will.

"The clock is ticking. Now is the time for the nation's highest court in the land to give the U.S. Census Bureau the clarity and certainty it needs to execute the 2020 Census by removing the citizenship question once and for all. By dismissing the citizenship question, the Court can uphold the Bureau's integrity and reputation and make clear that politics has no home in the hallways of one of the most preeminent scientific agencies in the world."

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**About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*