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Governor Northam Issues Executive Order Creating 'Virginia Complete Count Commission'

Advisory group will focus on accurate, comprehensive survey in 2020 Census

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today issued Executive Order Twenty Seven, establishing the Virginia Complete Count Commission for the 2020 Census. The Virginia Complete Count Commission was created to improve the participation and representation of all Virginians in the 2020 Census. The Commission will facilitate the sharing of ideas and community resources regarding the 2020 Census as well as serve as a conduit between the Commonwealth and the United States Census Bureau.

“Since the beginning of my administration, we have worked to build a Commonwealth for all Virginians, no matter who you are or where you live,” **said Governor Northam**. “The 2020 Census data is extremely important for Virginia, and by establishing the Complete Count Commission we will ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth are counted—from our largest cities to our smallest towns and rural communities.”

Every ten years, the United States Constitution mandates a count of all the people living in the United States and its territories—the 2020 Census will address every household in the nation with a simple questionnaire. Data obtained by the survey will be compiled and a formal report will be submitted to the President of the United States by December 31, 2020. The data will help determine how approximately \$675 billion dollars is distributed from the federal government to state, local, and tribal governments annually. The information will also be used in the redistricting of legislative districts and the reapportionment of Congressional seats held by individual states in the United States House of Representatives.

The Commission will enlist a broad range of stakeholders and representatives of constituencies that have historically been considered “hard-to-count” populations, to educate communities and promote the census. The group will collaborate with community partners and local Complete Count Committees to ensure an accurate 2020 Census count.

“Virginians are diverse and represent a true cross-section of America,” **said Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson**. “In establishing the Complete Count Commission, Governor Northam is working to ensure those diverse voices are heard and that all Virginians are counted.”

The Virginia Complete Count Commission is comprised of up to 40 members appointed by the Governor representing a broad cross-section of the Commonwealth.

The members of the Virginia Complete Count Commission are:

- **Nony E. Abrajano** of Virginia Beach, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Filipino American Community Action Group
- **Jonathan R. Alger** of Harrisonburg, President, James Madison University
- **Vincent Ammann** of Fairfax, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Washington Gas; Vice Chair, Executive Committee Board of Directors, Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- **Suja Amir** of Henrico, Secretary, Asian Latino Solidarity Alliance of Central Virginia

- **Rev. Dr. Jonathan Barton** of Midlothian, General Minister Emeritus, Virginia Council of Churches
- **Gilbert Bland** of Virginia Beach, President and Chief Executive Officer, Urban League of Greater Hampton Roads
- **Rev. Kevin Chandler** of South Boston, President, Virginia State Conference NAACP
- **Jim Dau** of Henrico, State Director, Virginia AARP
- **Dr. James J. Fedderman** of Accomack, Vice President, Virginia Education Association
- **Caryn Foster Durham** of North Chesterfield, Durham Strategy + Consulting
- **The Honorable Michael Futrell, Sr.** of Prince William County, former Member, Virginia House of Delegates; Executive Director, Make the Future
- **Sarah Radcliffe Gross** of Richmond, President, Virginia Parent Teacher Association
- **Razi Hashmi** of Fairfax, Member, Virginia Asian Advisory Board
- **Dr. Gregory Howard** of Newport News, President, Baptist General Convention
- **Dr. Tiffany Jana** of Richmond, Chief Executive Officer, TMI Portfolio
- **Gaylene Kanoyton** of Hampton, President, Hampton Branch, NAACP
- **Steve Kast** of Poquoson, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
- **Hyun Lee** of Centreville, Director of Public Affairs, Korean American Society of Virginia
- **Eric Lin** of Chesterfield, Immediate Past Vice-Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board
- **Ashley Reynolds Marshall, J.D.** of Bedford, Executive Director, YWCA of Central Virginia
- **Sreedhar NagiReddi** of Ashburn, Director, Volunteering Together for Service
- **Giao "Genie" Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Giao** of Prince William County, President, Voice of Vietnamese Americans
- **S. Beth Nolan** of Chesterfield, KIDS COUNT Director, Voices for Virginia's Children
- **Beth O'Connor, M. Ed.** of Blacksburg, Executive Director, Virginia Rural Health Association
- **Dr. William O. O'Hare** of Cape Charles, President, O'Hare Data and Demographics Services LLC
- **Aida Pacheco** of Mechanicsville, Member, Virginia Latino Advisory Board
- **James Parrish** of Richmond, Executive Director, Equality Virginia
- **The Honorable Nancy Rodrigues** of Surry, former Virginia Secretary of Administration; Deputy Director, 2019 Commemoration: American Evolution
- **Monica Dafney Sarmiento** of Washington, DC, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights
- **Terron Sims, II** of Arlington, U.S. Army Veteran; Veteran and Military Families Advocate
- **Dr. Elda Stanco Downey** of Roanoke, Founder and Chief Executive Office, Roanoke Spanish
- **Reggie Tupponce** of Glen Allen, Member, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- **Julian Walker** of Chesterfield, Vice President of Communications, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- **Jonathan C. Zur** of Richmond, President and Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

About the 2020 Census

The decennial census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the United States Constitution. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, and to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments each year. Data will also be used to make decisions about which community services to provide.

One way to help ensure that everyone is counted is to form Complete Count Committees in communities, municipalities, cities, counties, states, and tribal governments across the country. Complete Count Committees are volunteer teams consisting of community leaders, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, media outlets, and others who are appointed by elected officials and work together to ensure entire communities are counted. The 2020 Census will implement new technology to facilitate responses; for the first time, individuals will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. Strict confidentiality laws protect the respondents and the information they provide.

To learn more about local Complete Count Committees or the United States Census, click here (<https://www.census.gov/>).

To learn more about the Virginia Complete Count Commission and read the text of Executive Twenty Seven, click here (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-27-Establishing-The-Virginia-Complete-Count-Commission.pdf>).

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