



**ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL PRAISES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION  
DECISION TO REINSTATE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION IN CENSUS**

(MONTGOMERY) – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall praised the Trump administration’s decision today to reinstate a question about citizenship to the national census. Attorney General Marshall requested the citizenship question be added to ensure that the U.S. Department of Commerce collects full and accurate citizenship data during the 2020 census.

“I am pleased that the Trump administration has agreed that collecting accurate citizenship data is important to all levels of government in determining compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Constitution,” said Attorney General Marshall. “It just makes sense that government has a more accurate record for the census and reinstates the practice of including a citizenship question in the next census.”

On February 23, 2018, Attorney General Marshall [wrote](#) U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross requesting that his agency resume the practice of including a citizen question in the decennial census:

*“State and local governments use census data in redistricting after the decennial census. This data allows state and local governments to draw accurate district lines that equalize population, consolidate communities of interest, and comply with the Voting Rights Act and United States Constitution. Citizenship data is especially important in redistricting because, along with voting-age information, citizenship data allows state and local bodies to identify the total potential voting population in any given district.”*

Attorney General Marshall noted the Census Bureau has historically included a citizenship question on the “long form” questionnaire sent to households during the census which is taken every ten years. However, in 2000, the long form questionnaire was replaced with the American Community Survey (ACS) which reaches fewer people.

*“The ACS does not provide citizenship data at the level of detail the States and localities need,”* Attorney General Marshall noted in his [letter](#) to Secretary Ross.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced reinstatement of the citizenship question in the 2020 census. The Department noted the citizenship question will be the same as the one included in the yearly American Community Survey.

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