

Gov. Little forms new census committee

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Gov. Brad Little, center, on Monday announced the creation of the State Complete Count Committee, focused on the 2020 census. The committee is co-chaired by former state legislator Wendy Jaquet (left) and Secretary of State Lawrence Denney (right).

Submitted by Gov. Brad Little's Office

BOISE — Idaho was one of the top performers for individual response rates during the 2010 census count, and Gov. Brad Little is hoping for the same accomplishment during next year's census, according to Little's office.

To assist federal partners in completing the 2020 national census, which takes place every 10 years, Little on Monday announced the creation of a new State Complete Count Committee and proclaimed June 24 as "Census Day."

“The 2020 Census Count is a top priority for our state and country, and I encourage Idahoans to participate,” Little said in a press release. “The State Complete Count Committee I am assembling will ensure we achieve a fair, accurate, and complete Census count, with special emphasis on enumerating members of historically undercounted population groups.”

Census results from the U.S. Census Bureau help determine the allocation of federal funds and electoral redistricting, and they help inform business and policy-making decisions, the release said. American households will receive an invitation to participate by April 2020.

“Maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of citizen information will remain at the forefront of the 2020 Census Count in Idaho,” Little said in the release.

Secretary of State Lawrence Denney and former legislator Wendy Jaquet will co-chair the committee, which will include members representing many groups and organizations, including the Conservation Voters of Idaho, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, the Association of Idaho Cities and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, among others.

The committee’s first meeting will be this summer. After that, it will meet periodically leading up to next spring.

Little’s announcement comes as the U.S. Supreme Court weighs in on whether the Trump administration can include the controversial citizenship question on the 2020 census. [According to the Associated Press](#), a federal judge wrote on Monday that new evidence paints a “disturbing picture” that racial discrimination may be the motive behind the push to ask everyone in the country about citizenship status.

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision this week.