

National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations
Virtual Meeting on Race and Hispanic Origin Research
Working Group Recommendations
August 13, 2014

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. What is the purpose of the virtual meeting?
- A. The purpose of the National Advisory Committee's (NAC), virtual meeting is to ensure transparency within the advisory committee process, especially the public's ability to observe committee deliberations as it reviews and acts upon its Race and Ethnicity Working Group's report and recommendations. The Committee was unable to fully address these issues during the time allotted at the committee's spring 2014 meeting, and is convening a virtual, public meeting (in accordance with Federal Advisory Committee and Sunshine Act provisions), to act upon the working group's final report.
- Q. Why can't the Census Bureau wait until the 2014 Fall NAC meeting for the committee to address these issues? Why now?
- A. In preparation for the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau has undertaken an aggressive research agenda that will inform critical operational and methodological decisions the Bureau must consider prior to the decennial. As we are now approaching mid-decade, time and budget considerations are increasingly impactful.
- To this end, 2015 test plans include additional race and ethnicity research that will require extensive stakeholder engagement on proposed design features and objectives. As the Census Bureau must begin these discussions this fall, the upcoming NAC meeting presents an opportune time to seek advisory committee insight and perspectives on this next critical phase of race and ethnicity research.
- Q. How many telephone lines are there for the public?
- A. Maximum: 200
- Q. Can the public ask questions during the virtual meeting?
- A. The public can neither ask questions nor comment until the designated 10-minute public comment period begins. The public will have audio access (only) to meeting deliberations as well as the ability to view the PowerPoint presentation on-line. Otherwise, no additional interactive capability is available until the designated public comment period.
- Q. Has the Bureau arranged for the public to observe this process at Census Headquarters?
- A. The public has the option of "attending" the virtual meeting either on-line (via WebEx), or in-person at Census headquarters. Conference Room 3 is the meeting location, with an overflow area for the public in a nearby "T-room". The meeting room set-up includes a head table for

appropriate HQ staff (Director/Deputy, Designated Federal Official/DFO, DEMO, ADCOM, DEC), any attending NAC members (local), limited perimeter seating for observers, and a podium for public commenters.

- Q. Can on-site meeting attendees (in Suitland), make public comment? How will this work?
- A. The DFO will have an advanced list of individuals who have requested time to make public comment. The phone operator will facilitate the 10-minute comment period for on-line public commenters, with assistance from on-site HQ technical staff for in-person (Suitland) comments.
- Q. Can *non pre-registered* members of the public provide “walk-in” comments at Census Headquarters, during the designated comment period?
- A. Time permitting, and pending the Designated Federal Officer’s (DFO), discretion, yes, walk-in comments are permissible—for a maximum of two- minutes per public comment. Registered participants will have first priority, however.
- Q. What will happen if there isn’t enough time to hear all of the public comments?
- A. Public comments are not to exceed two-minutes. The Census Bureau provided an email address for the public to submit detailed comments. The link is open for comments a full week following the virtual meeting. Also, if committee deliberations are completed and do not exceed the allocated 1.5 hour time-frame, the DFO may allow additional time for public comment—not to exceed the 1.5 hour meeting.
- Q. Several NAC member terms have concluded since the spring 2014 meeting. Can these members still vote on the recommendations, since the Bureau postponed action on their deliverables until after their terms expired?
- A. No, these members cannot vote, however, they may comment and participate fully as Working Group members who contributed to the report as experts and advisors.
- Q. How will the Chair and Vice Chair distinguish between nonvoting former and current NAC members?
- A. OEE will advise the Chair and Vice Chair, on 8/7/14, the status of members whose terms have expired. Similarly, OEE will advise those affected members prior to the virtual meeting of their nonvoting status and incumbent limitations.
- Q. Will there be a transcript of the virtual meeting?
- A. Yes, as required by FACA requirements.
- Q. What will the Census Bureau do with all of the public comments?
- A. The Census Bureau will make all public comments a part of the meeting docket, and post them on the Census Bureau website for public viewing.