

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
HILDA SOLIS

April 4, 2023

SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ARMENIAN CHECKBOX IN THE 2030 CENSUS

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenian Americans in the United States. However, meaningful and comprehensive data on the Armenian American population of Los Angeles County is currently lacking. This is in part due to the lack of inclusion in the United States Census process, which has severe impacts on the representation, quality of life, and rights of Armenians in the United States as a whole and within Los Angeles County.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently released a new draft questionnaire for the 2030 Census that includes a new Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) category with subcategories, such as Lebanese, Syrian, Iranian, and other populations. Armenian Americans constitute a transnational group across MENA and are historically one of the largest and most impacted groups of immigrants in the United States from the MENA region. They have long histories of immigration, refugeehood, and racialization, as well as legal, educational, workplace, and linguistic marginalization.

For almost thirty years, Armenian Americans have fought for more accurate Armenian representation on the U.S. Census and overwhelmingly support the inclusion of an Armenian checkbox. The inclusion of the MENA category and a specific Armenian checkbox within the MENA category of the 2030 Census would provide Los Angeles County with more accurate data on all its residents, which would ultimately bring more support for the County's underserved populations.

Armenian organizations, such as the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region and the Armenian American Action Network are advocating for the inclusion of the Armenian checkbox within the MENA category for the 2030 U.S. Census. In addition, the City of Glendale recently passed a resolution to send a letter to the OMB in support of these efforts.

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MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
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HAHN	_____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to send a five-signature letter to the Office of Management and Budget expressing Los Angeles County's support for the inclusion of an Armenian checkbox under the proposed MENA category in the 2030 Census and explain the importance of this inclusion for the Armenian American community of Los Angeles County and the United States as a whole.

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KB: nvg