



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

May 24, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

For the past few decades, Illinois has seen a troubling trend of outmigration—a trend that I committed to from day-one of my administration to help reverse. I promised the people of Illinois that I would be the state's best chief marketing officer and show the nation that there has been no better time to live in our great state. From boundless economic opportunities, to booming economic development and leading institutions of higher education, Illinois has so much to offer potential new residents.

That's why I was thrilled to learn of the findings of Census Bureau's Post Enumeration Survey<sup>1</sup> (PES) for the 2020 Census showed that Illinois is now a state on the rise with a growing population, and I commend your administration's steadfast commitment to properly and thoroughly conducting the PES to verify the population-related data contained in the 2020 Census was accurate.

The PES report released on May 18, 2022, found that Illinois, along with five other states, had its population significantly undercounted by the 2020 Census; in fact, the data shows a 1.97% undercount, equating to roughly 250,000 Illinoisans who were not represented in the 2020 Census.

As you are aware, Census population estimates help guide<sup>2</sup> roughly \$1.5 trillion worth of federal funds<sup>3</sup>, from Medicare to kids' nutrition programs, highway funding to affordable housing assistance, and small business support to homeland security programs. All that in mind, when you consider these most recent PES results and combine them with the Census Bureau's March 2022 findings<sup>4</sup> that the 2020 Census substantially undercounted Black, Latino, and other minority populations who are historically underserved and underrepresented, it is clear to see why it is of utmost importance to ensure that undercounted states like Illinois receive their correct level of federal dollars steered by Census results.

I urge you, President Biden, to continue to support the Census Bureau's review of the 2020 Census and look into every possible avenue to factor the most recent PES data into the Bureau's population estimates and ensure the local communities of Illinois receive the federal dollars that they are entitled to. The inaccuracy of the 2020 Census has already resulted in Illinois being underrepresented in

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<sup>1</sup> [2020 Post-Enumeration Survey Estimation Report](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Comprehensive Accounting of Census-Guided Federal Spending \(FY2017\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020: ILLINOIS](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Post-Enumeration Survey and Demographic Analysis Help Evaluate 2020 Census Results](#)

Congress through 2030 and while it is disappointing that these new PES numbers were not reflected in the initial count, we now have the opportunity to right this wrong by ensuring every Illinoisan receives their equitable amount of federal dollars impacted by the Census.

I commend your leadership and your administration's commitment to the Constitutional duty of providing an accurate Census count, and I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure Illinois receives its fair share of federal funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the letters "JB" being particularly prominent and connected.

Governor JB Pritzker