

**Private**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Attendance

Date	05/05/2021	Martha Coleman	X
Time	02:00:27 PM to 04:59:01 PM	Moussa Diawara	X
Place	SCR 354	Paula Espinoza	X
This Meeting was called to order by	Carly Hare	Jason Kelly	X
This Report was prepared by	Elizabeth Burger	William Leone	*
		JulieMarie Shepherd	X
		Macklin Danny Moore	X
		Lori Schell	X
		Simon Tafoya	X
		Elizabeth Wilkes	X
		Jolie Brawner	X
		Carly Hare	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

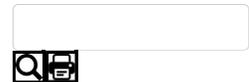
Hearing Items	Action Taken
Presentation from the State Demographer	Committee Discussion Only
Presentation from the U.S. Census Bureau	Committee Discussion Only

02:01:36 PM

Chair Hare reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://coleg.box.com/s/1f4bk6cggbbq93cg8vstq40shr34bjy2c> (<https://coleg.box.com/s/1f4bk6cggbbq93cg8vstq40shr34bjy2c>)

## Presentation from the State Demographer - Committee Discussion Only

- 02:04:20 PM Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer, began the presentation by noting the three takeaways for Colorado in the last decade are an aging population, concentrated growth, and a change in race and ethnic diversity. She discussed the recent release of Census population data and the increase in population in the state over the last decade. Ms. Garner discussed which states gained and lost population and congressional seats. She discussed county population in Colorado, and noted that 19 counties have lost population over the last decade. She further described natural population change and net migration within the state. She further noted that Colorado's population is aging, and discussed Colorado's population change and distribution by race and ethnicity.
- 02:14:45 PM Commissioner Wilkes asked Ms. Garner to elaborate on concentrated growth and areas in the state that are experiencing high amounts of growth. Ms. Garner noted that concentrated growth is occurring along the northern front range of the state. She further responded to questions from the commission regarding the increase in Colorado's population aged 65 and older, and the increase in the population of various ethnic and racial groups. In response to questions from the commission, she discussed the aging of Colorado's population.
- 02:35:33 PM Ms. Garner continued by discussing differential privacy (DP). She explained the purpose of DP, and how privacy concerns were addressed in previous census counts. She noted that the only numbers that will be invariant (as enumerated) will be total state population, and total housing units, number of group quarters and block group quarter type by block. She explained that users have been able to review the methodology, and she discussed the issues with the methodology. She responded to questions from the commission regarding DP and the accuracy of the 2020 census data.
- 02:47:35 PM Ms. Garner continued to respond to committee questions regarding the size of data errors in the census data to which DP was applied and the possibility of making adjustments to census data to account for DP. Commissioner Leone asked asked about the value in using data from the State Demographer's Office (SDO) for redistricting as opposed to census data. Ms. Garner further responded to questions from the commission about the census' ability to make additional changes to the DP methodology.
- 03:05:36 PM Ms. Garner continued by discussing the data that is provided by the SDO, including population estimates, housing units, and persons per household. The office collects data by county, municipality, unincorporated areas, and conservation trust fund special districts. She noted that the geographies cover the entire state, but not at the block level. She explained how the office creates the estimates by starting with a base year population, addressing births, deaths, and net migration, and following that same process ever year throughout a decade. She discussed how municipal estimates are created.



- 03:23:49 PM Ms. Garner explained that the office will be creating draft 2020 July county and municipal population estimates using the 2010 base. Following that process, the office will rake county and municipal data to April 2020 count. She responded to questions from the commission regarding the timing of this process and the accuracy of the estimates produced by the office. She discussed the American Community Survey (ACS) and its potential use for redistricting. She explained the disadvantages of using the ACS, including that it is a survey with a relatively small sample size as opposed to a census count. She said it is a good source, but it will be different from the census count and that it is designed to provide demographic information, rather than total population information.
- 03:34:47 PM Ms. Garner discussed available commercial data and how it compares to SDO data, noting that, in general, the errors in the data increase as the population size reduces. She responded to questions from the commission regarding U.S. Postal Service data.

## Presentation from the U.S. Census Bureau - Committee Discussion Only

- 03:36:34 PM James Whitehorne, U.S. Census Bureau, began his presentation by discussing Census geography. The types of census boundaries include legal boundaries (states, counties, county subdivisions, tribal areas); statistical (regions, divisions, county subdivisions, places, tribal areas, census tracts, block groups, tabulation blocks, metropolitan areas, and urban areas) and election (precincts and school districts). He noted that the census block is the smallest level of geography for which basic demographic data are available, and are the building blocks for all geographic boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau tabulates data for.
- 03:40:46 PM Mr. Whitehorne continued by discussing the relationship between Census blocks, block groups, and tracts. He continued by discussing the Redistricting Data Program, and the differences between the apportionment and redistricting data. He discussed the census delay and the new dates for delivery of the census data. He further explained the requirements of Public Law 94-171, which concerns the delivery of data to states for redistricting.
- 03:55:11 PM Mr. Whitehorne further explained the format in which the data will be delivered, and the various components of the data. He described how the redistricting data is processed.
- 03:59:04 PM Mr. Whitehorne noted the challenges with the delivery of the redistricting data, and describe the legacy format summary files. He acknowledged that the data requires additional handling to properly extract, and explained that the legacy data is the source data for the product that will be delivered in September. He explained the Census geocoding service, the data that the service will provide, and the amount of data available to states through the service.
- 04:06:53 PM Mr. Whitehorne discussed other Census data, including ACS one-year and five-year estimates.
- 04:11:22 PM Mr. Whitehorne responded to questions from the commission regarding census delays, the availability of census geography data, and the reallocation of the incarcerated persons. Louis Pino, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, commented on the process of reallocating incarcerated persons. Mr. Whitehorne responded to questions regarding the number of census blocks in Colorado and the process of revising census geographies.
- 04:19:50 PM Michael Hawes, U.S. Census Bureau, began the presentation regarding DP. He discussed how U.S. Census data can potentially be vulnerable to privacy breaches.
- 04:28:37 PM Mr. Hawes defined DP, saying it is not a disclosure avoidance "method" as much as it is a framework for defining and then quantifying privacy protection. He explained that when combined with "noise injection," DP allows the U.S. Census Bureau to precisely control the amount of private information leakage in published statistics. He discussed the implications of DP for the 2020 census, and explained that the U.S. Census Bureau's Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee will be making decisions about DP in the 2020 census data release.
- 04:40:01 PM Mr. Hawes continued by discussing the testing involved with the DP approach and the demonstration data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The final test data with the actual production code and settings that will be used for the 2020 census will be released in September. He discussed how to submit feedback to the U.S. Census Bureau about DP.
- 04:48:53 PM Mr. Hawes responded to questions from the commission regarding privacy leakage for population data, how to assess the accuracy of data to which DP has been applied, and racial and ethnic data. He further responded to questions about how the DP calculations will be applied across the data.
- 04:59:01 PM The committee adjourned.

