

Oregon fights Trump on census

Lawsuit over citizenship question

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, 17 other state attorneys general and six cities filed suit Tuesday to block a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

The state attorneys general are concerned the question will discourage immigrants from participating.

Rosenblum joined New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in New York City to announce the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

"The census is part of the bedrock of our democracy. The U.S. Constitution guarantees an accurate census be taken every 10 years. Adding a citizenship question to the census form has a deliberate and intended chilling effect on participation," Rosenblum said. "As state attorneys general we are committed to making sure every voice is heard, and we believe that every person in America counts."

Accuracy in the census is important for providing appropriate federal funding to states, apportioning congressional seats and Electoral College votes and drawing state and local voting districts.

Even a 1 percent undercount on the 2010 Census would have dramatically reduced Oregon's federal Medicaid funding by \$23 million, said Kristina Edmunson, a spokeswoman in Rosenblum's office.

Under the Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau has an obligation to determine "the whole number of persons



Pamplin Media Group

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum announced Tuesday that Oregon has joined 17 other states, six cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to block the new question about citizenship added to the 2020 Census by the Trump administration.

in each state." Yet demanding citizenship information in the census is expected to reduce participation among immigrants and could cause a population undercount, which would disproportionately harm states with large immigrant communities, according to a news release from Rosenblum's office.

The lawsuit against the Trump administration is based on the enumeration clause of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act, which permits courts to set aside unlawful or arbitrary and capricious agency decisions. The attorneys general argue that the citizenship question will impede an actual count required by the

Constitution.

In addition to New York and Oregon, other plaintiffs include the attorneys general of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington state, and the District of Columbia. The cities of Chicago, Philadelphia, Providence, San Francisco, Seattle and New York City and the bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors also has joined the suit.

Questions about citizenship have been part of the decennial census in the past, according to the Census Bureau.

From 1970 to 2000 it was part of a "long form" sent to 1-in-6 households. The long form was eliminated in the 2010 Census.

In 2005 the Census Bureau started the American Community Survey, an annual survey sent to about 3.5 million households each year.

The survey includes questions about the respondent's citizenship, according to the Census Bureau. But unlike the actual census, the survey is not used to apportion representation, Electoral College votes or to determine legislative districts.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Civil War: Re-enactment gets new home

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that history, in fact, may have been the driving factor in the state's decision to impose the fees.

Both organizers and those involved with the park's upkeep speculated that the state was concerned about the use of Confederate flags, which state officials have not confirmed or denied. Last summer, a deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a Confederate flag and rebel decals linked to an award-winning float at the Astoria Regatta prompted national and local debates. Both incidents took place on

'Nobody here condones what happened in the past. We also need to learn from our past and our history — and if you don't, you're doomed to repeat it.'

John Lewis
county fair's maintenance supervisor

the same day, just three weeks before the re-enactment.

The re-enactors were taunted and threatened on Facebook, prompting Warrenton police to boost patrols in the area to ensure safety.

"Nobody here condones

what happened in the past," Lewis said. "We also need to learn from our past and our history — and if you don't, you're doomed to repeat it."

Re-enactors typically stage battles, speeches and other demonstrations of battle-

field life over the three-day weekend. Participants often pay tens of thousands of dollars toward the hobby and travel lengthy distances to the events.

The fairgrounds will offer less room on the battlefield and some structures of a different era, but it will still have good sites for camping and battles, Bishop said. He also said it will feature adequate parking and infrastructure.

The council has not ruled out a return to Fort Stevens at some point, Bishop said. For now, the contract gives the re-enactment a home this year, and the fair has penciled the event in for 2019.

Port: Director to negotiate settlement with Riverwalk Inn

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found that Knight had knowingly made false representations and misled Param in the

company's failed negotiations to assume the remaining lease of troubled former hotel operator Brad Smithart.

As part of the takeover,

Param would deposit \$580,000 in an escrow account. The Port would receive \$273,180 for back-due rent and revenue sharing, the city \$115,858 for lodg-

ing taxes and the county \$4,633 for property taxes. The remainder — \$186,327 — would go to Smithart, who also owes significant amounts in taxes.

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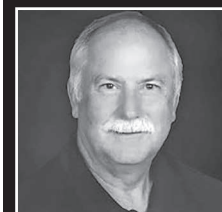
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