

World News Roundup

Census

Query controversial

2020 'Census' to be printed minus citizenship question

WASHINGTON, July 3, (AP): Days after the US Supreme Court halted the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the US Census Bureau has started the process of printing the questionnaire without the controversial query.

Trump administration attorneys notified parties in lawsuits challenging the question that the printing of the hundreds of millions of documents for the 2020 counts would be starting, said Kristen Clarke, executive director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kelly Laco confirmed Tuesday there would be "no citizenship question on 2020 census."

Commerce Secretary **Wilbur Ross** said that while he respected the Supreme Court's decision, he strongly disagreed with it.

"The Census Bureau has started the process of printing the decennial questionnaires without the question," Ross said in a statement. "My focus, and that of the Bureau and the entire Department is to conduct a complete and accurate census."

President Donald Trump had said after the high court's decision last week that he would ask his attorneys about possibly delaying next spring's decennial census until the Supreme Court could revisit the matter, raising questions about whether printing of the census materials would start as planned this month.

For months, the Trump administration had argued that the courts needed to decide quickly whether the citizenship question could be added because of the deadline to starting printing materials this week.

On Twitter Tuesday night, Trump wrote that the Supreme Court ruling marked a "very sad time for America." He also said he had asked the Commerce and Justice departments "to do whatever is necessary to bring this most vital of questions, and this very important case, to a successful conclusion." He did not elaborate.

Even though the Census Bureau is relying on most respondents to answer the questionnaire by Internet next year, hundreds of millions of printed postcards and letters will be sent out next March reminding residents about the census, and those who don't respond digitally will be mailed paper questionnaires.

Defects

"The Supreme Court's ruling left little opportunity for the administration to cure the defects with its decision to add a citizenship question and, most importantly, they were simply out of time given the deadline for printing forms," Clarke said in an email.

Opponents of the citizenship question said it would discourage participation by immigrants and residents who are in the country illegally, resulting in inaccurate figures for a count that determines the distribution of some \$675 billion in federal spending and how many congressional districts each state gets.

The Trump administration had said the question was being added to aid in enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But in the Supreme Court's decision, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four more liberal members in saying the administration's current justification for the question "seems to have been contrived."

Democratic mayors and governors opposed to the question argued that they'd get less federal money and fewer representatives in Congress if the question was asked because it would discourage the participation of minorities, primarily Hispanics, who tend to support Democrats.

Attorneys general for two of the largest states controlled by Democrats praised the decision to abandon the citizenship question.

"While the Trump Administration may have attempted to politicize the census and punish cities and states across the nation, justice prevailed, and the census will continue to remain a tool for obtaining an accurate count of our population," said New York Attorney General Letitia James.

While praising the question's disappearance, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra warned that the Trump administration had underfunded the Census Bureau, making it difficult to count hard-to-reach communities.

Resources

"It's an investment of time and resources that we have not seen, and this administration is dragging its feet," Becerra said.

Top congressional Democrats hailed Tuesday's news. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it "a welcome development for our democracy," while Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer promised his party "will be watching the Trump administration like a hawk to ensure there is no wrong-doing throughout this process and that every single person is counted."

Dale Ho, who argued the Supreme Court case as director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, said, "Everyone in America counts in the census, and today's decision means we all will."

It's been another taxing term for reporters who try to forecast the outcome of high-profile Supreme Court cases.

Many of us wrote that based on arguments in late April, the court's five conservative justices would allow the Trump administration to go forward with a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

That turned out not to be true when Chief Justice John Roberts joined with the court's four liberals, in a decision announced last week, to keep citizenship off the census questionnaire, at least for the time being. The administration said Tuesday it would drop its effort to put its question on the form.

But perhaps we did not focus enough on a hint dropped by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in early June. In a speech to lawyers and judges in New York, Ginsburg described those predicting the administration would win the case as "speculators." The Merriam-Webster dictionary says a speculator may take something "to be true on the basis of insufficient evidence."

"Speculators about the outcome note that last year, in *Trump v. Hawaii*, the court upheld the so-called 'travel ban,' in an opinion granting great deference to the Executive," Ginsburg said in prepared remarks distributed by the court.

It's fair to, ahem, speculate that the 86-year-old justice could have idly dropped the word into her speech without intending to signal the case's outcome.

But this year's speech was not the first to offer some evidence that Ginsburg knows precisely what she is doing.



Ross



Mourners attend the funeral ceremony for Detective Luis Alvarez, at Immaculate Conception Church, in the Queens borough of New York on July 3. Alvarez, 53, who died after a three-year battle with colorectal cancer, fought until his final days for the extension of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund. (AP)



Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher (center), walks with his wife, Andrea Gallagher, as they leave a military court on Naval Base San Diego on July 2 in San Diego. A military jury acquitted the decorated Navy SEAL Tuesday of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive under his care in Iraq in 2017. (AP)



Harris



Trudeau

North America

New Harris endorsement: Democratic presidential hopeful Sen **Kamala Harris** picked up another endorsement Wednesday from a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, where she is competing for support with former Vice President Joe Biden.

Connecticut Democrat Jahana Hayes posted an op-ed in *Essence* on Wednesday ahead of the magazine's annual gathering this weekend in New Orleans. Hayes cited Harris' story of being abused as a young girl in Berkeley, California, which the California Democrat spoke about in last week's Democratic presidential debate.

"In that moment, I knew exactly what she was talking about - she was talking about access to opportunity that would otherwise change the trajectory of her life," Hayes said. "That resonated with me. That was me."

Hayes was among the wave of freshmen women, particularly women of color, who swept into Congress during the 2018 midterms. Hayes is the seventh member of the Congressional Black Caucus to endorse Harris. Biden has support from five CBC members. Hundreds of thousands of black women are expected to attend the *Essence* Festival and several 2020 hopefuls - including Harris, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Beto O'Rourke and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg - will address them. (AP)

Buttigieg in bid to unify US: Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg (BOO-tuh-juh) wants to increase opportunities for national service and build a network of 1 million service members by 2026.

The South Bend, Indiana, mayor introduced his national service policy on Wednesday. He says the voluntary plan would help people of different backgrounds form connections like the ones he formed while serving with the Navy Reserve in Afghanistan.

Buttigieg's plan would add funding for existing federal programs like AmeriCorps and increase the number of opportunities from 75,000 to 250,000, which would cost \$20 billion over 10 years. It also would create new service organizations such as a Climate Corps.

Buttigieg's campaign hasn't provided a cost for that part or said how it intends to pay for the plan.

The 2026 deadline coincides with the 250th anniversary of America's independence. (AP)

Navy SEAL acquitted of murder: A military jury was set to decide on Wednes-

Immigration

Show of hands on immigrant healthcare belies thorny issue

Record surge at US border eases

WASHINGTON, July 3, (Agencies): The record surge of Central American families at the US southwest border has begun to ease after tougher enforcement efforts in Mexico but conditions in migrant detention facilities remain dire, according to Mexican and US officials.

The US government's internal watchdog on Tuesday said migrant holding centers in Texas' Rio Grande Valley were dangerously overcrowded, publishing graphic pictures of cells holding twice as many people as they were built for.

But there were signs immigration authorities were reducing migration flows, as Democratic lawmakers and presidential hopefuls lashed out at the Trump administration's handling of the border humanitarian crisis.

Mexico's government, citing unpublished US data, said migrant arrests at the border fell 30% in June from the previous month after it launched a migration crackdown as part of a deal with the United States to avoid possible trade tariffs.

The Mexican government said it was now busing home dozens of Central American migrants from border city Juarez who were forced to wait in Mexico for their asylum claims to be processed under a US policy known as "Remain in Mexico."

"Mexico's effort to control the flow of migrants appears to have broken a growing trend," the country's foreign ministry said in a statement.

After migrant arrests reached a 13-year monthly high in May, immigration has arguably become the biggest issue for Trump and Democratic hopefuls vying for the 2020 presidential election.

US Senator Cory Booker would "virtually eliminate immigration detention" if he wins the White House,

his campaign said on Tuesday.

Presidential hopeful Julian Castro last week proposed decriminalizing border crossings as a step towards freeing up federal resources and eliminating thousands of cases clogging criminal courts - an initiative favored by fellow candidate Elizabeth Warren.

Trump meanwhile looked to stir up support for his policies, promising immigration raids after the July 4 US holiday to arrest migrants with deportation orders. He faced a setback on Tuesday when a federal judge in Seattle blocked an administration move to keep thousands of asylum seekers in custody while they pursued their cases.

Bond

The American Civil Liberties Union, and other immigrant rights groups, sued the government in April after Attorney General William Barr concluded that asylum seekers who entered the country illegally were not eligible for bond.

US District Judge Marsha Pechman on Tuesday ruled that people detained after entering the country to seek asylum were entitled to bond hearings.

Meanwhile, in one unanimous show of hands, Democratic presidential candidates moved to the mainstream the idea of full health insurance for people who don't have legal permission to be in the United States.

But turning that debate night moment into reality would mean reversing longstanding federal policies that have only gotten stricter. The idea is so new that independent experts say they don't have a reliable cost estimate. Politically, it wouldn't happen without a pitched battle.

President Donald Trump, doubling down on tough immigration policies as he seeks a second term, all but thanked the 10 Democrats on the debate stage

last Thursday in Miami.

"All Democrats just raised their hands for giving millions of illegal aliens unlimited healthcare," he wrote on Twitter. "How about taking care of American Citizens first!? That's the end of that race!"

Health coverage for people without legal permission to be in the country has mainly been a demand from the political left, echoed by some public health experts who say society is better protected if everyone has medical care. Think children going without measles shots.

A new CNN poll found support among roughly 6 in 10 Democratic voters for government health insurance coverage for people in the country illegally. It also highlighted a generational difference. Democrats under 45 supported coverage by 70% to 29% while those 45 and older were more closely divided, 55% to 41%.

The poll raised a general election warning flag that echoed Trump's dismissive tweet: Among all Americans, 59% were opposed, while 38% were in favor.

For now, flagship federal health programs remain off limits to all but US citizens and legal residents. That includes Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance, and the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, or ACA. Congress even forbade unauthorized immigrants from buying ACA coverage with their own money.

America doesn't slam the door completely. Federally funded community health centers provide basic medical care to the uninsured without asking immigration questions. Hospital emergency rooms are required by law to treat and stabilize all patients, with government subsidizing the cost. Some states, like California, use their own funds to cover children regardless of immigration status.

day whether to punish a US Navy SEAL platoon leader who was acquitted of murdering a captured Islamic State fighter but convicted of unlawfully posing for pictures with the detainee's dead body.

The seven-member jury found Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, 39, not guilty on Tuesday of most of the charges against him, including allegations he fatally stabbed the badly wounded Iraqi captive in the neck and shot at unarmed civilians, two of them wounded by gunfire from a sniper's perch.

The single offense of posing for unofficial

pictures with a human casualty, in this case the remains of the Iraqi whom Gallagher was acquitted of killing, carries a maximum sentence of four months' imprisonment.

Navy authorities said Gallagher gets credit for nearly seven months of time already served in pretrial custody, so he would presumably remain a free man. But he could receive other punishment, such as a demotion in rank and reduced pay.

Gallagher would have faced a possible life prison sentence had he been found guilty of murder or attempted murder.

Following Tuesday's verdict, the court



Thalia Mallol (foreground), from the Dominican Republic, and her daughter Lia Mallol, 4, join others waving American flags after taking the Oath of Allegiance, during a naturalization ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, in New York on July 2. In honor of Independence Day, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services administered the oath to 52 of America's newest citizens. (AP)

was reconvened for a brief sentencing hearing, during which two friends of Gallagher testified on his behalf as character witnesses.

The jury also heard from two doctors who specialize in brain injuries. They said Gallagher suffered repeated concussions during his combat career, putting him at high risk of brain degeneration and visual impairments that will require ongoing medical attention.

Jurors were due to return on Wednesday to the courtroom at US Naval Base San Diego to decide any penalties to be imposed.

Gallagher, who did not testify in his own defense and has declined public comment since the court-martial began, told reporters after Tuesday's proceedings, "I'm happy and thankful." He added: "Thank God, the legal team and my wife." (RTRS)

'Confident US raised issue': Canada's prime minister said on Tuesday he is confident US President Donald Trump made good on his promise to raise the cases of two detained Canadians during recent discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau's** comments come after Trump said on Saturday he did not talk with Xi about the extradition proceedings against Chinese telecommunications executive Meng Wanzhou during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan.

"I am confident that the Americans brought up the issue and President Trump brought up the issue of the detained Canadians in China," Trudeau said during a news conference in Toronto. He did not say why he was confident the matter was raised.

Relations between Canada and China remain strained after police in Vancouver detained Meng, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, on a US arrest warrant in December. (RTRS)