



**Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics**  
*Advancing Excellence in Federal Statistics*

Stakeholder Update November 2017

This is the November 2017 COPAFS stakeholder update.

1. New members – We welcome one new affiliate member for November:

ProximityOne

2. December 8, 2017 Quarterly Meeting – The final [agenda](#) for the upcoming Quarterly Meeting was circulated. Initially we had proposed to hold the business meeting first. However, we have an opportunity to receive a presentation from Al Fontenot, the new Associate Director for the 2020 Census. As a result, we have gone back to the previous format of scheduling the Member Business meeting at the end of the day. We will provide an agenda for the Business meeting early this week.
3. Federal Statistical Agency appropriations – Currently there is no new information regarding these appropriations since our last update. Hopefully, we will know something by the Quarterly meeting.
4. U. S. Census Bureau – There are a number of developments and important issues that are associated with the 2020 Decennial Census:
  - a. Hearings – As mentioned in the October stakeholder update the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs had scheduled a hearing on *2020 Census: Examining Cost Overruns, Information Security, and Accuracy* for October 31, 2017. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross accompanied by Acting Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin presented testimony as did Eugene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States. You can watch the hearing and read the prepared statements [here](#).

Secretary Ross announced that full cycle cost estimate for the 2020 Census had increased from \$12.3 billion in 2015 to \$15.6 billion. In discussing the new full cycle cost estimate Secretary Ross indicated that it includes about \$500 million for Communication and \$250 million for partnership activities. Secretary Ross also stated that he is in the process of working with appropriators to move \$187 million from other Department of Commerce programs to support the 2020 census development efforts.

- b. Concerns regarding Census Bureau leadership – A story from Politico followed by many others raised concerns that Thomas Brunell was going to be appointed as the Census Bureau Deputy Director. COPAFS does not have a position on this issue, but presents the [story](#) for your information.
- c. Stakeholder support for a fair and accurate 2020 Census – There is a growing effort to provide bipartisan support for achieving a complete count of all

population groups in the 2020 Census. Corinne Yu, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, will present one such initiative at the upcoming COPAFS December 8, 2017 Quarterly meeting.

- d. The Opportunity Project – The Opportunity Project is a public private initiative that was launched in 2016. The Opportunity Project brings together federal and private sector developers as well as data providers to build digital tools that provide opportunities for local communities. This initiative has yielded dozens of new applications that help solve problems like connecting veterans and their families with jobs, connecting people experiencing homelessness with services and shelter, and rebuilding rural economies. The Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau continue to support the Opportunity Project, and hosted a demonstration of 12 new projects on November 29, 2017. You can learn more about this [here](#).
5. Bureau of Labor Statistics –
    - a. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions has scheduled a hearing on December 5, 2017 at 10:00 am on the nomination of William Beach for Commissioner of the BLS. Details may be found [here](#).
    - b. Friends of BLS – Membership has grown by 30 members since the last update in October. You can find the current list of Friends here. Recruitment efforts continue. A steering committee is also being established to meet regularly and provide strategic direction to guide the activities of the Friends of BLS.
    - c. The Friends of BLS have also sent a [letter](#) supporting the nomination of Dr. Beach to the Committee. The letter was cosigned by a number of the organizations and individuals among the Friends of BLS.
  6. Energy Information Administration – Linda Capuano has been nominated to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration. Dr. Capuano is currently a fellow at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy’s Center for Energy Studies. See the COPAFS email on this subject for more details.
  7. Bureau of Justice Statistics – Jeffrey H. Anderson has been nominated to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Dr. Anderson previously served as a professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. See the COPAFS email on this subject for more details.
  8. Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research and Policy Conference –
    - a. The preliminary conference program will be available starting on December 5, 2017 on the COPAFS website.
    - b. Reminder early bird registration continues through December 2017, and sponsorship opportunities are still available.
  9. In conjunction with the American Statistical Association and the Population Association of America, COPAFS hosted the first in a series of monthly updates with Nancy Potok,

Chief Statistician of the United States. This was a very informative meeting. Dr. Potok will be updating stakeholders at the December 8, 2017 COPAFS Quarterly meeting. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018 at the American Statistical Association offices. An invitation will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

10. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking – Good progress is being made on advancing the recommendations of the Commission. The first round of legislation (HR4174) has passed the House of Representatives. You can find the Bill [here](#), and Dr. Nick Hart, Director of the Bipartisan Policy Center Evidence-Based Policymaking Initiative, will be discussing the current status of the recommendations and next steps in the legislative process at the December 8, COPAFS Quarterly meeting.
11. COPAFS activities – COPAFS has provided updates on its activities including issues in the Federal Statistical System to a number organizations and workshops, including:
  - The Committee on National Statistics
  - The American Statistical Association Board of Directors
  - The Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan
  - American Sociological Association, Federal Statistics Working Group Meeting
  - Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School
    - Gerrymandering, Redistricting and American Democracy conference
    - Moving Redistricting Reform scholar-practitioner workshop