



www.wyominglww.org
info@wyominglww.org

December 4, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso
U.S. Senator

Copy of a letter sent through Sen. Barrasso's website
Copies send by email

Dear Senator Barrasso:

The LWV of Wyoming hopes you will sign on the nonpartisan S. 4571, the 2020 Census Extension Act as a co-sponsor. I won't repeat the argument in Virginia Kase's or Janet Boyd's letters. I did notice that senators from Alaska and Montana are already co-sponsors. Smaller, western states will benefit from the extension. The census is so important that it should be done accurately from the beginning rather than having a quick report that may be to be corrected. Or would the rush job stand as the 2020 census hereafter? And what confusion would be created when different results were reported later? Would there then be demands for further redistricting? Law suits?

We don't expect the new census to affect Wyoming's representation in Congress, but we do know that the information in it will be used for redistricting in Wyoming. The confusion created by an earlier, inadequate report and a later more accurate one is unnecessary when an extension is possible. In addition, an accurate census count ensures that Wyoming gets its fair share of federal dollars for senior centers, libraries, transportation, education, cities and towns, COVID relief, etc.

As a retired librarian, senior center board president, and state president of the League of Women Voters, I can tell you that those federal dollars make a difference. With our current economic climate and the governor proposing additional cuts (10% more in November on top of July's), the federal dollar becomes even more important to our citizens. Please support having a more accurate count by postponing the deadline 120 days.

Thank you,

/s/

Susan M. Simpson
President

C: Janet Boyd, LWVUS
Brad Bunning, Senate Staff