



King County

John Wilson
King County Assessor

News Release

July 24, 2017

Wilson Calls for Full Funding of 2020 Census; Says Trump Budget “Puts an Accurate Census at Risk.”

Speaking at the annual conference of the National Association of Counties in Columbus, Ohio, King County Assessor John Wilson yesterday called on county officials to work with members of Congress to ensure full funding of the 2020 census.

“The budget for the Census Bureau proposed by the Trump administration is completely inadequate and puts an accurate census at risk,” said Wilson. “Nearly \$600 billion annually in federal funding is driven by census data, including programs related to health, housing, nutrition, employment, and education. County officials must contact members of Congress and urge them to fully fund the 2020 census.”

The Trump 2018 budget for the census proposes to spend \$140 million less than what the Census Bureau requested for **2017**. In past decades the budget for the census has sometimes doubled between the year ending in 7 and the year ending in 8 as it ramps up for the decennial count.

Wilson made these remarks on Sunday, July 23, as part of a panel of county officials discussing the census. Wilson has a long history of leadership on this issue. He had been invited to be a panelist on the Census by both the National Association of Counties, and the International Association of Assessing Officials. In 2010 the Census Bureau asked Wilson, as King County’s Chief Deputy Assessor, to participate in a pilot program in support of their new TIGER system, which was designed to describe land attributes

such as roads, buildings, rivers, and lakes. Wilson also met with Census Bureau officials in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

“An accurate 2020 Census count is essential for counties,” said Wilson. “The most important use of the Census is for apportionment of representatives in Congress, but Census data are used for planning and allocation of billions of dollars in federal and non-profit funding each year. In terms of fairness, democracy, opportunity and addressing the many issues the nation faces, a fair and accurate Census is paramount, and that won’t happen without adequate funding.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Bailey Stober, Assessor’s Office, 206-263-2271