

## **American Statistical Association Supports Nomination of Robert Groves as Census Director**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA, APRIL 3, 2009** – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, has joined six other scientific organizations in supporting President Obama's nomination of Robert Groves as the next director of the U.S. Census Bureau. In the statement released Thursday, the six organizations urged Groves' immediate confirmation to the post.

The complete text of the statement follows:

"We, the organizations in the scientific and statistical community, concerned with a fair and accurate census, applaud President Obama's nomination of Robert M. Groves as the next director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Dr. Groves is a highly respected leader in the social science and statistical community who has distinguished himself in academia and in public service. As the director of the Survey Research Center at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and as the head of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, Dr. Groves has demonstrated the scientific capacity and leadership to run the 2010 Census and the other programs at the Census Bureau. He has been a visiting scholar at the Bureau on two occasions.

"His scientific colleagues have acknowledged his expertise and leadership by selecting him to lead the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate Advisory Committee and the current National Research Council of the National Academies' review of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In addition, his peers have given him numerous distinguished awards, and selected him for many national committees to evaluate programs and to provide advice.

"The issue of a statistical adjustment raised by some is spurious! Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, who will be Dr. Groves' boss, has assured the Congress that there will be no statistical adjustment in the 2010 count. The Supreme Court has also weighed in against such adjustment for reapportionment cases. In 1990, this was a debatable issue with then-President George H.W. Bush's Census Director in favor of such an adjustment.

"The taking of a decennial census is the largest peacetime mobilization that occurs in the United States. The 2010 count is less than a year away. It is time for a leader to take charge and get this count done. Dr. Robert Groves is that leader.

"We urge his confirmation as soon as possible!"

In addition to ASA, organizations signing the statement are:

- Consortium of Social Science Associations
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
- American Sociological Association
- Population Association of America
- Association of Population Centers
- AAPOR: the American Association for Public Opinion Research

### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and

industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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**For more information:**

Rosanne Desmone  
703.302.1861 (direct)  
703.946.3820 (mobile)  
[Rosanne@amstat.org](mailto:Rosanne@amstat.org)