



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**HJ 06 Redistricting and Reapportionment – Population Count – Citizenship Status**

**POSITION: Support**

**DATE: March 2, 2020**

The League has worked for decades to encourage full participation in the Census across the country. In 1996 and 1998, LWVUS worked against congressional attempts to adopt “English-only” legislation that would have effectively repealed the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act as it related to the Census and reapportionment. In 2009, the League spoke out against attempts to cut certain members of the population out of the reapportionment process by only counting registered voters, or only those citizens who were voting age. And in 2020, the League engaged in efforts to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census through the courts and by lobbying Congress, emphasizing the damaging effects such a question would have for the ability to diverse communities around the country to be fairly and effectively represented.

This joint resolution affirms that all practical efforts should be made to ensure that, for the 2020 census, every Maryland resident is counted once and in the correct place according to where they live on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Moreover, the joint resolution strongly encourages all Maryland residents to participate fully in the 2020 census.

We believe that our government should represent all of the population living within this state, and to do so, every person must be included. This is essential not only for the purpose of fair representation based on reapportionment, but for fair distribution of federal grants, and for planning by local, state and federal agencies.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on HJ 06.