

# Roadmap to 2030: Census & Democracy

## Virtual Convening: Speaker Bios



**Saundra Mitrovich**, *Director of External Engagement, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)*

Saundra Mitrovich, she/her, Tyme and Yahomee Maidu, is serving as the National Congress of American Indians Director of External Engagement. In her current role, she works in coalition with National Native serving organizations, Tribal Nations, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) individuals to strengthen voter access, education, and engagement across Indian Country and advancing AIAN data equity. Saundra serves in various task force groups to enhance and promote civic education, data collection, and election protection as part of NCAI's mission to enhance, promote, and protect tribal sovereignty.



**Nicole Borromeo**, *Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)*

Nicole provides opinions and advice to the President of the organization on all Alaska Native legislative and litigation matters, including subsistence rights, voting rights, and public safety rights. Prior to joining the Alaska Federation of Natives, Nicole worked as attorney for several law firms and organizations, providing legal advice on issues, such as governmental affairs, healthcare services, and low-income housing. Nicole has a strong background in Alaska Native law and policy.



**Meeta Anand**, *Senior Director, Census and Data Equity Program, The Leadership Conference Education Fund*

Meeta Anand most recently served as census consultant to The Leadership Conference Education Fund. Prior to this role, she served as New York Immigration Coalition's Census 2020 Senior Fellow where she spearheaded the organization's efforts to ensure a fair and accurate count of New Yorkers, particularly immigrants, in the 2020 Census. In this capacity she also served as the facilitator and convenor of New York Counts 2020, the statewide coalition of CBOs engaged in the 2020 Census. She also recently served as Board Chair for Sakhi for South Asian Women, an organization dedicated to addressing gender-based violence in the South Asian community of NYC. Anand spent over 10 years working at the law firm White & Case, where she was an associate in the project and asset finance group and headed business development for the same group.  
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Prior to that, she clerked at the Court of International Trade, interned at the Division of Appeals and Opinions at the New York State Office of the Attorney General, worked as a commercial banker at Banco Santander, interned at the Bureau of Human Rights at the State Department, and assisted research in economics at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. She received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.A from the The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a B.A. from Tufts University in Political Science and Economics, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa.



**Iheoma U. Iruka**, *Census Advisor for the National Urban League (NUL)*

Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D., is a Special Advisor for the Census for the National Urban League and also serves on the National Advisory Committee for the U.S. Census Bureau. Dr. Iruka is an award-winning Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy and the Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Iruka is leading projects and initiatives focused on ensuring that minoritized children and children from low-income households, especially Black children, thrive through the intersection of anti-bias, anti-racist, and culturally grounded research, program, and policy. Dr. Iruka has authored over 100 books and papers and has given over 300 talks addressing systemic inequities and advancing research and action on the well-being of children and families. She serves on numerous national and local boards and committees, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs, the National Science Foundation, and the Lancet Commission on Racism and Child Health. Dr. Iruka is the recipient of the 2022 American Psychological Association Mid-Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Benefit Children, Youth, and Families, the 2023 Association of University Centers on Disabilities Leadership for All award-winner, and a 2023 American Psychological Association (APA) Fellow.

Iheoma Iruka is pronounced EE-OMAH EE-ROO-KAH



**Arturo Vargas**, *Chief Executive Officer of National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund*

Arturo Vargas is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization that strengthens American democracy by promoting the full participation of Latinos in civic life. NALEO Educational Fund's programmatic activities include U.S. citizenship outreach and assistance, civic participation and integration, voter engagement, technical assistance to elected and appointed Latino officials, research on Latino demographic and electoral trends, and policy analysis and advocacy on access to the democratic process. *continued...*

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Headquartered in Los Angeles, NALEO Educational Fund is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors; maintains offices in Houston, New York, and Washington, D.C.; and has an annual budget of \$13.5 million. Arturo also serves as the CEO of NALEO, an affiliated national membership organization of Latino policymakers and their supporters, which is governed by a 36-member Board of Directors.



**Terry Ao Minnis**, Vice President of Census and Voting Programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Terry Ao Minnis is the Vice President of the census and voting programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. Mrs. Minnis was part of the litigation team in *LUPE v. Ross* (D. Md. and 4th Cir.) (LUPE I) that challenged the administration's attempted addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 decennial census. The team, including Mrs. Minnis, went back to court in *LUPE v. Ross* (D. Md.) (LUPE II) to challenge the administration's plan to collect and provide incomplete citizenship data to the states for purposes of redistricting; the subsequent Presidential memorandum seeking to exclude undocumented immigrants from the constitutionally mandated apportionment; and the Census Bureau's announced plan to end the counting of non-responsive individuals a month earlier than scheduled as an unconstitutional and racially discriminatory scheme intended to deprive Latinos, Asian Americans, and noncitizens of equal representation. Mrs. Minnis' experience on the census spans two decades, having served as a leading authority on census campaigns in 2010 and 2020. Currently, Mrs. Minnis co-chairs the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Census Task Force. In addition, she was part of the U.S Department of Commerce's 2010 Census Advisory Committee from 2002 through 2011 and the Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations for two terms from 2013 through 2019.



**Caroline Medina**, Director of Policy at Whitman-Walker Institute (WWI)

Caroline Medina (they/them) is the Director of Policy for the Whitman-Walker Institute, which leverages cutting-edge research, policy, and education to advance health equity nationwide, particularly LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV. The Institute is affiliated with Whitman-Walker Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center with more than 50 years of service to diverse communities across the D.C. area and beyond. Caroline's portfolio of work focuses on enhancing data collection on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics to advance intersectional research agendas and evidence-based policymaking to promote health equity for underserved communities.  
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Prior to joining Whitman-Walker Institute, Caroline was the Director of LGBTQI+ Policy at the Center for American Progress think-tank where they worked to expand legal and lived equality for LGBTQI+ people. Before moving to D.C., Caroline worked as Legislative Director and Chief of Staff to State Representative Kay Khan, House Chair of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. Caroline earned their Master of Public Administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science with a focus on social and economic policy and their B.A. from Amherst College.



**Tho Vinh Banh**, *Special Counsel, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement, Disability Rights California (DRC)*

Tho Vinh Banh (pronounced “Soulwing”) is Special Counsel for Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement (SPACE) at Disability Rights California (DRC) where she works with the Executive Director and the Director of Public Policy to support DRC’s community goals and represent DRC in strategic partnerships with disability and other civil rights leaders, community members, and organizations.

She has a background in advocacy work related to policy issues and legislation that impact access to equitable services and supports of individuals with disabilities from underrepresented and underserved communities. She led DRC’s Multicultural Affairs Outreach Unit as a Supervising Attorney ensuring individuals with disabilities have the same opportunities for information about their rights and services.

As a refugee from Viet Nam, and a person with a visual disability, Tho Vinh lives at – and cares about – the intersection of race, disability, gender, language and culture, among others issues, and how it shapes and impacts people’s lives and opportunities. Tho Vinh was a Governor Appointee to the California Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census, chairing their Committee’s Access and Outreach Working Group. Tho Vinh received her law degree from the University of California Law San Francisco (formerly U.C. Hastings). She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in Political Science and Psychology.



**Maya Berry**, *Executive Director of Arab American Institute (AAI)*

Maya Berry is executive director of the Arab American Institute (AAI). In 1996, she established AAI’s first government relations department, which she led for five years before becoming a legislative director for U.S. House of Representatives Minority Whip David Bonior, where she managed the congressman’s legislative strategy and developed policies on international relations, human rights, immigration, civil rights and liberties, and trade. *continued...*

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With a deep knowledge of public policymaking, Maya has helped expand AAI's work on combating hate crime, protecting the rights of securitized communities, and strengthening our democracy. In her personal capacity, Maya is a long-time Democratic Party activist who served as a member of the 2016 Democratic National Convention's Platform Standing Committee and has attended all but one Democratic National Convention as a Delegate, Alternate or Standing Committee Member since 1992.



***Elena Langworthy***, *Deputy Director of Policy at State Voices*

Elena Langworthy is the Deputy Director of Policy at State Voices. In this role, Elena leads work around civic representation and programmatic support for the national Election Protection coalition. Elena comes to State Voices from the Virginia Civic Engagement Table where she ran advocacy organizing and civic engagement programs. When not at work, she can be found on the local trails with her family.