

Autonomy: a view from the inside

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It's complicated

- Threats to the autonomy and scientific integrity of the 2020 Census are well documented.
 - Citizenship Question, EO 13880, COVID schedule, role of imputation
- But administration officials were helpful as well.
 - Increase in budget
 - Assistance with Device as a Service and Print Contracts
 - Assistance in keeping GSA “on schedule” for opening Area Census Offices
- At the end of the day, the Census Bureau was able to get the job done.

How can we do better?

- Several recent recommendations could help:
 - Citro et. al. 2022
 - FTAC report
 - Maloney bill
- Unlikely that these will all come to fruition.
- Professionalism of Career Staff is Critical – Especially Senior Leadership
- Need to cultivate stakeholders in both parties.

Thank You