



SEP 11 4 52 PM '85

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Joseph A. Ricca
Deputy Secretary of State

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: City and Town Clerks and Election Commissioners

FROM: Joseph A. Ricca, Deputy Secretary of State

RE: Race and language questions for 1986 street listing.

DATE: September 5, 1985

As you know, chapter 165 of the Acts of 1985 requires all local registrars of voters (including election commissioners) to include, in their 1986 annual street listing, questions about each resident's race and primary language. Enclosed is the text of these questions, as approved by the Secretary. A Spanish text is also enclosed for required use in Chelsea, Holyoke, and Lawrence, and for optional use in any community with a significant number of Spanish-speaking residents.

Although you must include these exact questions on your 1986 street listing forms, you may use whatever format you wish for your forms. For example, you may print these questions on a separate page. However, you must ask these questions separately for each resident, and you must ask them for each resident regardless of age. Thus, although street-listing information usually includes residents three years of age or older, these special race and language questions must also be answered for residents less than three years old.

In other respects, usual street listing procedures apply in 1986. You should follow up your initial canvass as you usually do, by visitation or telephone. Also, you should request multi-dwelling unit owners to furnish the usual lists of their residents, including the race and language information. The usual criminal penalties apply to anyone who fails to provide the required information when asked: a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment for up to one year (chapter 56, section 4 of the Massachusetts General Laws).

To encourage residents to provide this information, Secretary Connolly's office is planning public service announcements on television and radio. In addition, we suggest you include approximately the following explanation in any cover letter or similar materials you prepare:

Memorandum
Page Two

In addition to the information requested every year, a new state law requires information about each resident's race and language to be collected in 1986 only. This additional information is primarily to assist the state Legislature in protecting the rights of minority citizens not to be discriminated against when state legislative districts are redrawn. Your cooperation in answering these additional legally required questions will be greatly appreciated.

The Secretary's Census Division will be sending you forms and instructions for reporting the results of the special race and language questions according to your new precinct boundaries, no later than June 1, 1986. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Harry J. Petrucci, Assistant Director of Elections, at (617) 727-2828 or (800) 462-VOTE.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

1. Es esta persona
(marque uno)

- ☐ blanca
 - ☐ negra
 - ☐ asiática o pacíficoisleña
 - ☐ indioamericana
 - ☐ otra (indique)
-

2. ¿ Es esta persona de origen hispano/latino
o de descendencia (por ejemplo puertorri-
queña, cubana, dominicana, mejicana/méjico-
americana/chicana, cénroamericana, o de la
América del Sur)?

- ☐ Sí
 - ☐ No
-

3. ¿ Habla esta persona una lengua además
del inglés a casa?

☐ Sí (indique una lengua primaria)

☐ No, solamente habla inglés

1. Is this person-
(check one)

- ☐ White
 - ☐ Black
 - ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
 - ☐ American Indian
 - ☐ Other (specify)
-

2. Is this person of Hispanic/Latino
origin or descent (such as
Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican,
Mexican/Mexican-American/Chicano,
Central American, South American)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Does this person speak a language
other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes (specify one primary language)
-
- ☐ No, only speaks English

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