

**LOCAL LAWS
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR 2026**

No. 9

Introduced by Council Members Menin, Avilés, Dinowitz, Feliz, Brooks-Powers, Banks, Louis, Schulman, Abreu, Cabán, Gennaro, Zhuang, Ung, Hanif, Narcisse, Nurse, Hanks, Ayala, Marte, Moya, Gutiérrez, Joseph, Lee, Powers, Ossé, Won, Williams, Mealy, Brewer, Hudson, Stevens, Sanchez, Riley, Krishnan, Bottcher, Restler and the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams).

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the New York city charter, in relation to establishing an office of the census

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of the charter of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 20-t to read as follows:

§ 20-t. Office of the census. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Director. The term “director” means the director of the office.

Office. The term “office” means the office of the census.

Regional office. The term “regional office” means the New York regional office of the United States census bureau.

b. Establishment of office. The mayor shall establish a temporary office of the census. Such office may be established within any office of the mayor or as a separate office of any department the head of which is appointed by the mayor. Such office shall be headed by a director, who shall be appointed by the mayor or, if the office is established within an agency other than the office of the mayor, by the head of such agency.

c. Term. The mayor or such agency head as authorized by subdivision b of this section shall appoint a director no earlier than 30 months before, and no later than 24 months before, each federal decennial census. The director's term shall end no later than 6 months after the United States census bureau ceases data collection field operations for the federal decennial census. The office shall conduct its business only during the director's term.

d. Powers and duties. The director shall have the power and duty to:

1. Serve as the primary liaison between the city and the regional office and collaborate with such regional office to encourage full participation by all city residents in completing the federal decennial census, to the extent requested or permitted by such regional office;

2. Identify hard to count areas and populations, and community leaders in such areas and populations, by working with the department of city planning, office of immigrant affairs, the New York city housing authority, the New York city commission on human rights, and any other relevant office or agency;

3. Create and carry out a multilingual public awareness campaign to promote awareness of the federal decennial census in hard to count areas and populations;

4. Provide language assistance services to limited English proficient individuals, including, but not limited to, providing such individuals with materials created by the office or regional office in their preferred language and providing interpretation or translation services to facilitate completing the census forms; and

5. Work with leaders from all sectors across the city, such as businesses, cultural and education institutions, religious and social organizations, community-based organizations, labor unions, and disability advocacy groups, to promote awareness of the federal decennial census.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on December 4, 2025 and returned unsigned by the Mayor on January 5, 2026.

MICHAEL M. McSWEENEY, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

I hereby certify that the form of the enclosed local law (Local Law No. 9 of 2026, Council Int. No. 1225-A of 2025) to be filed with the Secretary of State contains the correct text of the local law passed by the New York City Council, presented to the Mayor, and neither approved nor disapproved within thirty days thereafter.

SPENCER FISHER, Acting Corporation Counsel.