

# Primary Source: 1920 Census Poster (1919)

**Background:** This poster is from 1919, announcing the Census Enumeration of 1920. It is signed by the Department of State, on behalf of President Woodrow Wilson. It announces that all people living in cities and states in the United States will be counted. The poster is written in Yiddish, a language used by Jewish immigrants from Germany and Eastern Europe. Many Jewish Washingtonians had German and Eastern European ancestry.

**Themes:** immigration, civic participation, demographics

**Questions:**

1. What might this document have meant to the federal government?
2. What might this document have meant to people who could understand it in Yiddish?
3. What is the difference between being a citizen and being counted in the census? Why might the US want to count non-citizens in the census?

**Item Information**

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