



## Counting on the Census?: Race, Group Identity, and the Evasion of Politics (Hardback)

By Peter Skerry

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, United States, 2000. Hardback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book. Since the U.S. Constitution first instructed that a slave be counted as only three-fifths of a person, the census has been caught up in America s racial dilemmas. Today it is torn by controversies over affirmative action, evolving racial identities, and minority undercounts. In Counting on the Census? Peter Skerry confirms the persistence of minority undercounts and insists that racial and ethnic data are critical to the administration of policies affecting minorities. He rejects demands that the census stop collecting such data. But Skerry also rejects the view that the census is a scientific exercise best left to the experts, and argues that it is necessarily and properly a political undertaking. To those advocating statistical adjustment of the census, Skerry insists that the consequences of minority undercounts have been misunderstood and exaggerated, while the risks of adjustment have been overlooked. Scrutinizing the tendency to equate census numbers with political power, Skerry places census controversies in the broader context of contemporary American politics and society. He traces our preoccupation with minority undercounts to the pervasive logic of an administrative politics that emphasizes the formal representation of...

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