



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2020-2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“DIVERSITY, CHANGING AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHICS, AND THE 2020 ELECTION”



PRESENTED BY:

William H. Frey, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program,
Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
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WILLIAM H. FREY, PH.D. BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D.C.



William H. Frey is an internationally recognized demographer who has written widely on U.S. demographics, American political demographics, and the U.S. Census. His most recent book is *Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics Are Remaking America* (Brookings Institution Press, 2018).

Dr. Frey is Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Research Professor with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He has authored over 200 publications and several books including *America by the Numbers: A Field Guide to the US Population* (with Bill Abresch and Jonathan Yeasting); and *Social Atlas of the United States* (with Amy Beth Anspach and John Paul DeWitt).

His research has been written about in such diverse venues as *The Economist*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *The National Journal*, *The New Yorker*, and *Forbes*. His commentary and observations have been featured on broadcast media including NPR's *All Things Considered*, *The PBS NewsHour*, NBC's *Nightly News*, ABC's *World News Tonight*, CBS's *Evening News*, and C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, as well as online and print media including *Axios*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.



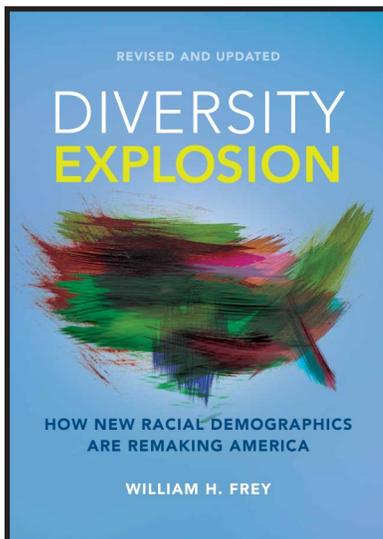
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“DIVERSITY, CHANGING AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHICS, AND THE 2020 ELECTION”



More than 50 years since the Civil Rights movement was at its peak, racial diversity in America is again on the front burner in political discourse, popular culture, and youthful activism. Yet, this is a far different time demographically than the 1960s. Racial diversity today is more central to the fabric of America.

The 2020 US Census will show that two fifths of the nation’s population will identify with a racial group other than white. This will be the case for about half of the child population.

These facts and others drawn from demographer William Frey’s book, *Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America*, underscore why the phrase “demography is destiny” is increasingly relevant for understanding the nation’s future. While America’s rapidly changing racial demography may not fully determine this destiny, these powerful demographic forces will shape it to a greater degree than ever before.

Racial minorities will power all of the growth in the US labor force as older white baby boomers continue to retire. They will make the difference between growth and decline in small towns, suburbs, and exurbs. And they will alter the nation’s electorate such that both parties cannot afford to ignore the interests of all racial groups.

Despite recent volatile politics regarding race, there are signs that America has become open to these changes. Multiracial marriages have soared. More people of color now live in suburbs than in cities. Neighborhood segregation, although still high in many areas, is declining. And while sensitive to the issues of the nation’s new diversity, younger generations are embracing it.

In this lecture, Dr. Frey will discuss the major themes of his book, and relate them to current politics. He will discuss their implications for the 2020 presidential election in light of the rise of youthful racially diverse voting blocs and the spread of racial diversity across the country, changing the politics at both the national and local levels.

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