during the U.S. Census 2010 count that resulted in four new Asian-majority state legislative districts and the first Asian-plurality congressional district in the state.

Today, Choi leads the intensive, grassroots effort New York Counts 2020. Obstacles to an accurate count remain, he says, despite the Supreme Court’s ruling against the Trump administration’s effort (which the NYIC helped fight) to add a citizenship question to the census form. Widespread fear is making people reluctant to participate, he continues, especially as “the administration continues to use its tools and levers in the redistricting process—attempting to make sure that only citizens count in drawing political districts, instead of all people as the Constitution requires.”

The proposed legal-counsel legislation raises similar questions about fundamental rights. Losing an immigration case can be as dire as a prison sentence, he maintains—and expecting people to navigate the legal and bureaucratic systems on their own “is farcical.” As for children “trying to ‘represent’ themselves in court? It’s flat-out unconscionable.”

Choi also co-chairs the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM), which has spearheaded issues especially relevant to young people caught up in the crisis, like DACA and the Dream Act, and would love to see comprehensive immigration reforms. Ideally, on the federal level, he’d prioritize saving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Dream Act, and would love to see comprehensive immigration reform, but could re-envision what immigration enforcement looks like.

Beyond that, and probably most crucial to narrowing the political divisions over immigration policy, is the need for “a radical re-envisioning of what immigration enforcement means,” Choi adds. “The fact is that our system is gargantuan, bloated—filled with private prisons operating for huge profits with a force of agents—who see themselves as cops, and immigrants as ‘criminals,’” he continues, and “a court system where judges are...politicalized instead of being part of the third branch and the separation of powers.”

Such fundamental reforms seemed at least possible in 2013, he points out, when the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive reform bill, by a 68-32 vote margin, with 14 Republicans in favor. Some form of a bipartisan “grand bargain”—a citizenship path in exchange for more effective border and other enforcement—appeared viable. “Were we 100 percent behind the bill? No,” he says. “Did we feel it was important to move the comprehensive bill forward and get it passed? Absolutely. In hindsight, the fact that people on either side of the aisle were talking about a path to immigration reform...” he trails off, then continues: “We would have been glad to engage in that dialogue and push that process forward. That was a substantive, and real, conversation.”

Now, he says, it’s highly unlikely, even with a Democratic president, that anything like those or other reforms discussed during the past two decades could be broached. But the truth is, “whether Donald Trump gets re-elected or not, the issue of how we treat immigrants—our fellow Americans and future citizens—is only going to get more important,” Choi argues. “Will we reaffirm that America is indeed a nation of immigrants? Or will we allow the Stephen Millers of the world to erase this from our collective history?”

Overseer and HAA Director Elections

This spring, alumni can vote for new Harvard Overseers and Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) elected directors, beginning on April 1, by paper ballot or online. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. (EDT) on May 19. All holders of Harvard degrees, except officers of instruction and government at Harvard, and members of the Harvard Corporation, are entitled to vote for Overseer candidates. All Harvard degree-holders may vote for HAA elected directors.

The HAA nominating committee proposed the candidates listed below. Another slate of Overseer candidates was seeking to gain nomination by petition, with signatures due February 1, as this issue went to press. The HAA-nominated and petition slates are covered at harvardmag.com/overseer-slates-20. Updates will appear at harvardmagazine.com.

For Overseer:
Raphael William Bostic ‘87, Decatur, Georgia. President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Katherine Collins, M.T.S. ’11, Boston. Head of sustainable investing, portfolio manager of the Putnam Sustainable Future Fund and the Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund, Putnam Investments
David H. Eun ’89, J.D. ’93, New York City. Chief innovation officer, Samsung Electronics, and president, Samsung NEXT
Susan Morris Novick ‘85, Old Westbury, N.Y. Senior vice president, Merrill Lynch; freelance journalist, The New York Times
Diego A. Rodriguez, M.B.A. ’01, Palo Alto. Executive vice president, chief product and design officer, Intuit Inc.

For elected director:
Santiago Creuheras, A.L.M. ‘00, A.L.M. ’01, C.S.S. ’01, Mexico City. Senior consultant on sustainable infrastructure and energy, Inter-American Development Bank
Kelsey Troy Leonard ’10, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Bantering Postdoctoral fellow, McMaster University
Michael D. Lewis ’93, Cambridge. Strategic technology adviser, iCorps Technologies
Mallika J. Marshall ’92, Weston, Massachusetts. Medical reporter, CBS Boston; physician, Massachusetts General Hospital
David R. Scherer ’93, Chicago. CEO and principal, Origin Investments; co-founder, One Million Degrees
Sajida H. Shroff, Ed.M. ’95, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. CEO, Altamont Group
Benjamin D. Wei ’08, New York City. CEO, Nova Invite
Joyce Y. Zhang ’09, San Francisco. CEO, Alariss Global
Vanessa Zoltan, M.Div. ’15, Medford, Massachusetts. Co-founder and CEO, Not Sorry Productions

Tracy K. Smith ’94, Princeton, N.J. Chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts, Berlind professor of the humanities, Princeton University; twenty-second poet laureate of the United States
Miki Uchida Tsuksaka ’84, M.B.A. ’88, Tokyo. Managing director and senior partner, Boston Consulting Group
Ryan Wise, Ed.L.D. ’13, Des Moines. Director, Iowa Department of Education; dean-designate, Drake University School of Education
(Diego Rodriguez and Ryan Wise are current Overseers—since 2018 and 2019, respectively—completing the unexpired terms of Overseers who concluded their service early.)