

Answer the 2010 Census— Help Your Community

On Census Day—April 1, 2010, complete and return the questionnaire, and encourage others to do likewise.

The U.S. Constitution stipulates that a census, or “counting the whole number of persons in each state” shall occur every ten years. There have been 22 census population counts, the first being conducted in 1790. The population counts, both citizens and non-citizens, are used to divide the 435 voting seats in the House of Representatives among the 50 states.

The 2010 Census will be next spring with a reference date of April 1st. It is the aim of the U.S. Census Bureau to “count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place” where they reside, as of April 1, 2010. In the coming decade, trillions of state and federal tax dollars will be allocated to local, state, and tribal governments largely based on their census population counts. It is important that communities in Utah get the most complete and accurate population count possible.

Furthermore, 2010 Census demographic characteristics will be combined with other socio-economic indicators by community and used by business leaders and government officials to shape their decisions until the next census.

Planning for new investments, infrastructure, transportation, neighborhood improvements, schools, public health, housing, senior services and much more is based on census counts.

The once-in-a-decade census is a huge undertaking. The U.S. Census Bureau will need about 1.4 million temporary workers to collect census questionnaires from an estimated 310 million people that reside in the United States.

There is good news for respondents, because the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history. The single set of questions authorized by Congress asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship to other household members, and whether you own or rent your home. Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households during March 2010.

The Census Bureau estimates it will take the average household about 10 minutes to complete the form, which should be returned by U.S. mail in the pre-paid envelope provided. Census workers will visit households that do not return the questionnaire. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to

be counted, there will be 59 different language guides, telephone assistance, and other community-based resources to help count our diverse population.

Most cities and towns organize complete count committees to raise awareness of the Census, to help Census Bureau employees reach out to difficult-to-enumerate populations, and to encourage all of their residents to return the census forms.

As part of the Constitution and under the direction of Congress, federal law requires responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire. All responses are combined with others in your community and used for statistical purposes only. By law, individual responses are all strictly confidential and are not shared by the Census Bureau with other federal agencies.

A complete census count is important for your representation in Congress and to the health, vitality, and future of your community.

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*For information on the all new,
official 2010 Census web site:*

•<http://2010.census.gov/>