

## How Do People Participate In the Census?

- Respond online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). People do not need to wait for their invitation letter in the mail (or for a census worker to leave an invitation letter at their home if they have a PO box). Anyone can go online at any time and on any device to answer the census.
- Call a toll-free number (4 a.m. to 11 p.m. PT)
  - English, 844.330.2020
  - Spanish, 844.468.2020
  - Other languages available, please contact me for information
- Return by Mail
  - Only available for those who receive a paper form in the mail

## What Is The Census?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone living in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds every year to communities across the country. These funds support vital programs including housing, education, health care, transportation, employment and public policy.

## Why Do We Do The Census?

The U.S. Constitution (Article 1) requires that we conduct the census every 10 years. The data are used to determine each state's number of representatives in the House of Representatives. The census determines a community's voice in Congress.

## When Do We Do The Census?

Census Day is April 1. That is the date on which people should base their answers – people answer the questions based upon where they live April 1 or where they live the majority of the time. While some of our operations have been postponed as a result of the COVID-19 virus, Census Day is still April 1.

## Are My Answers Confidential?

Yes. Federal law, specifically Title 13, prohibits the Census Bureau from releasing personal information collected by the census for 72 years. Every Census Bureau employee takes a life-time oath not to release personal information.

## Check Out Your Community's Response Rate

Want to see how your community is doing in responding to the census? Live data showing self-response rates across the county is available at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.