

**The 2010 Census is on the horizon and the U.S. Census Bureau wants to ensure that everyone is counted. Why do we take the Census?**

- The U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years of everyone residing in the United States - all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. This includes both citizens and non-citizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.
- The next census occurs in 2010. The population totals from this census will determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. States also use the totals to redraw their legislative districts.
- The totals can also affect funding in our community, and data collected in the census help inform decision makers how our community is changing.

**The 2010 Census will be different than previous efforts.**

- The 2010 Census will be a short form only – just 10 easy questions.
- The long form is now part of the annual American Community Survey – randomly selected households are asked to participate in this annual questionnaire.

**Key Dates:**

February – March 2010: Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

**April 1, 2010:** Census Day

April – July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 2010: By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.

March 2011: By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

**Is Census Data really confidential?**

- Your answers are protected by law and are strictly confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees to share your personal information with any other government agency – not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc.
- No court of law, not even the President of the United States, can access your individual responses.
- Census workers must pass security and employment reference checks and are highly motivated to protect your answers. All Census Bureau employees are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or a 5 year prison term for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

Visit the Census website at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>