

Dear Neighbor,

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau **works to count every person residing in the United States – and the next one starts April 1!** The information collected helps inform many important political, economic and social decisions, including the allocation of funding, legislative redistricting and congressional representation.

In previous census counts, **New York State has been undercounted**, resulting in the loss of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. Following the 2010 Census, New York lost two congressional seats.

Despite this pattern of undercounting, the federal government this time has cut the Census Bureau budget, reduced the number of field offices and focused on the use of online forms (though not everyone has internet access). **In order to ensure everyone is counted, New York State is committing \$60 million to promote the census and assist with local outreach efforts.**

Now is the time to get involved to be sure our communities are fully counted. Local outreach through libraries, schools, houses of worship and other places of trust will be most effective. My office is providing this information to help you learn more about the 2020 Census and take action in your communities. If we can be of any assistance or answer questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Vivian E. Cook
Member of Assembly

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Look inside for important
information on the **2020 Census**



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Vivian E. Cook

Census 2020
**Stand Up.
Get Counted.**



CENSUS 2020

How do I fill out the form?

In March 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will send mailings with instructions on how to fill out the form online. People who live in areas with low internet usage will also receive a paper form. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone.

Do I have to answer every question?

People who do not fill out every question on the census form will still be counted, but filling out the form as much as possible is encouraged. Anyone who does not fill out a form at all may receive a follow-up phone call or an in-person home visit by a Census Bureau employee.

Is my information protected?

Title 13 of the U.S. Code ensures all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony to disclose any confidential information, and the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to five years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000. The information collected can't be used to track people, determine eligibility for government benefits or be shared with immigration or law enforcement. The Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number. Additionally, the Supreme Court struck down the federal administration's proposed citizenship question, so it won't be on the form.

What can individuals do to help?

To learn more and sign up to become a community partner with the Census Bureau, visit: census.gov/partners.html

For employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, you can visit: census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html



CENSUS 2020

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

March 2020

Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail that includes your Census ID and detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail.

April 1, 2020

Census Day is observed nationwide. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020. If you are unable to complete the questionnaire online or by phone, the Census Bureau will send a paper questionnaire for you to complete and mail back.

May - July 2020

Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Explore the 2020 Census form at: 2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html

To stay up to date on this important issue, please contact my office.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I help make sure my community is counted?

You can get involved locally by working with community-based institutions that have created Complete Count Committees (CCC). These committees serve as "census ambassadors" and work to implement locally based outreach campaigns to raise awareness and increase participation rates. Call the New York Regional Census Bureau Office at 212-584-3400 or 800-991-2520, or email New.York.Regional.Office@census.gov to learn more about your local CCC.

Why is it important to count everyone?

New York State receives \$53 billion each year in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. Each person not counted costs the state over \$2,600 in federal aid each year.

Who is undercounted and what are the consequences?

Historically, the census has undercounted young children, people of color, rural residents, immigrants, renters and low-income households at higher rates than other populations. New York is expected to lose two congressional seats. An undercount would mean not only losing those seats, but also losing critical funding for schools, health care and essential services.