

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

NYS Assembly Majority Leader

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

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Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

Census 2020 Stand Up. Get Counted.

Dear Neighbor,

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person residing in the United States. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Peoples-Stokes".

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes
NYS Assembly Majority Leader





Frequently Asked Questions

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.

Need Extra Cash? Census Jobs

The Census Bureau works with state and tribal governments to get Census income excluded so recipients who receive SNAP/TANF/CHIP benefits can work as Census Takers (Enumerators) without losing their benefits or eligibility status. Most local positions pay \$18 - \$20/hr. We need your help, apply today!

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.

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.

Upcoming Census Outreach and Job Opportunities

- **Wednesday, March 4th 5:30-8 pm** at Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center, 334 E. Utica St.
- **Saturday, March 14th 10-2 pm** at Schiller Park Senior Center, 2057 Genesee St.
- **Wednesday, March 18th 5:30-8 pm** at Gloria J. Parks Community Center, 3242 Main St.
- **Saturday, March 21st 11-1pm** at Em Tea Cup Café, 80 Oakgrove Ave.
- **Wednesday, April 1st 2-5 pm** at Broadway Market, 999 Broadway

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 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 Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or your bank or credit card account numbers.

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

Helpful Resources

- **Questions Planned for the 2020 Census**
www.documentcloud.org/documents/4426784-Planned-Questions-2020-Acs.html
- **Infographics and Visualizations**
www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2019/comm/2020-everyone.html
- **Census Videos**
www.census.gov/library/video.html
- **Census 2020 Hard to Count Map**
www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us
- **2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide**
www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/ccg-guide-d-1280.pdf
- **New York Regional Census Bureau Office**
212-584-3400 or 800-991-2520
New.York.Regional.Office@census.gov