

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

Assemblyman
Steven Otis

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Look inside for important information on the 2020 Census

Assemblyman
Steven Otis
Census 2020
Stand Up.
Get Counted.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248

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Dear Friend,

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, the 2019-20 New York State budget includes \$20 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. You can get involved locally through Complete Count Committees that many localities are establishing to ensure your community is accurately counted. Contact your local municipal government for more information or reach out to the Westchester County Complete Count Committee at (914) 995-2000. You can also apply to be a paid part-time census taker by visiting 2020census.gov/jobs. Please feel free to contact my office if we can be of any assistance or answer questions.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

Steven Otis
Member of Assembly





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. Visit [census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-complete-count-committees.html](https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-complete-count-committees.html) 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.

How do I fill out the form?

In March 2020, the Census Bureau will be sending mailings with instructions on how to fill out the form. People in areas with high internet usage will receive a letter with details on how to fill out the form online. People who live in areas with low internet usage will be sent both a paper form and instructions on how to fill out the form online.

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.

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/ccc-guide-d-1280.pdf
- **New York Regional Census Bureau Office**
212-584-3400 or 800-991-2520
New.York.Regional.Office@census.gov

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](https://www.census.gov/partners.html)

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

