

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 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 our hospitals, public schools, infrastructure, 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 (even 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 so that our communities are fully counted. Resources for the 2020 count will be available at local libraries, senior centers, and other locations throughout the community. My office is providing this information to help you learn more about the 2020 Census and encourage you to do your part to ensure an accurate count in our region. My staff and I are available to answer any questions you may have related to this year's Census; don't hesitate to give us a call at 607-723-9047.

Sincerely,



Donna A. Lupardo
Member of Assembly

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Assemblywoman
Donna A. Lupardo

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



**Assemblywoman
Donna A. Lupardo**

**Census 2020
It's Important that
We're All Counted**



CENSUS 2020

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. Census workers will also be visiting various places in the community on March 30th, 31st, and April 1st to reach hard to count individuals and help them complete the form.

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 or determine eligibility for benefits. Also, the Census Bureau will never ask for your full Social Security number. If you are suspicious of any questions asked by someone claiming to be a Census worker, contact law enforcement right away.

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?

The easiest way to help is to spread the word. Let your family and friends know the Census count is coming up, and why it's so important to complete the form. Reaching individuals who are homeless, do not have a permanent address, or are otherwise hard to count is a big challenge. If you know anyone who might fall into this category, please encourage them to visit one of our local libraries or senior centers to get counted.

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 could 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.