

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

CENSUS 2020

You  
Matter

— BE COUNTED —

## CENSUS 2020 AND YOU

The U.S. Constitution requires a count, once every 10 years, of everyone living in the country. The count must include people of all ages, races, and ethnic groups; citizens and non-citizens alike. Every household should complete a census form (either online, by mail or phone) by April 1, 2020. The Census is central to our democracy and having an accurate population count is critical for understanding and meeting our community's needs.

### WHY DOES THE CENSUS MATTER?

**FEDERAL FUNDING:** Utah receives about \$5.7 billion a year in federal funding, according to an analysis by George Washington University – that's about \$1,870 per Utah resident. Key programs that rely on this funding include:

- Highway planning and construction
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicare Part B
- Section 8 and other housing assistance
- Special education grants (IDEA)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Head Start
- Emergency Planning

**POLITICAL REPRESENTATION:** Census data determine the number of U.S. representatives each state sends to Congress and are used to set district boundaries at the state and local levels.

**DECISION-MAKING:** Census responses are part of the official statistics used by the County and are the main source of data for decisions made at the national, state, and local levels. Government, businesses, nonprofits, and foundations use census data to allocate funding, define where services are delivered, and promote economic development.

**DEMOCRACY:** It is important for everyone to be counted in the Census to ensure all voices are heard and fairly represented. Inaccurate information suppresses the voices of undercounted groups and undermines the basic political equality that is central to our democracy.

## CENSUS 2020 WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Options for completing the form via telephone or mail will be available. Computers with internet access will be available for public use at libraries and other public buildings. Individuals can visit [slco.org/census](http://slco.org/census) for more information.



**CENSUS 2020**  
SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNTS

## WHEN AND HOW DO I COMPLETE MY 2020 CENSUS FORM?

THE 2020 CENSUS WILL BE CONDUCTED PRIMARILY ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO RESPOND BY MAIL, BY PHONE, OR THROUGH AN IN-PERSON INTERVIEW.

In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will start contacting households through a series of mailings:

### MARCH 12-20, 2020

Every household receives a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions to visit their website and fill out a simple 10-question form. Completing the form takes about 10 minutes.

### MARCH 16-24, 2020

Follow-up letter sent to all households reminding them to complete and return the Census survey.

### APRIL 1, 2020, CENSUS DAY

Follow-up letter sent to all households reminding them to complete and return the Census survey.

### APRIL 8-16

Follow-up letter and paper survey sent to non-respondents.

### APRIL 23-30

Final follow-up postcard sent to non-respondents.

### AFTER APRIL 30

Census staff members, called "enumerators," will visit households that haven't completed a census form. Enumerators will have tablet computers on which individuals can complete the census survey. Completing a census form before May is the best way to avoid having an enumerator visit your home.

## WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

Information you will provide includes name, relationship to head of household, gender, age, birthday, Hispanic origin and race, and status as a home owner or renter.

The Commerce Department has added a question about the citizenship status of residents, which has not been included in the Census since 1950. This is currently being litigated; it's not clear yet whether the question will be included in the final questionnaire.

## WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes. Under federal law, the information collected by the Census must remain private and can be used only for data-collection purposes. Title 13 of the U.S. Code requires census respondents' information be kept private and guarantees personal information will not be used against respondents in court or by a government agency.

Personal census information cannot be disclosed for 72 years. This includes names, addresses and telephone numbers. Census Bureau staff who have access to personal information are sworn to protect confidentiality and are subject to a \$25,000 fine and/or up to five years in federal prison for wrongful disclosure of information.

The Census Bureau compiles individuals' data – not including details like names, addresses and telephone numbers – to develop statistical and demographic information that can be shared with public agencies and other organizations.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INVOLVED?

THERE'S MORE YOU CAN DO THAN JUST COMPLETING THE CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE IN APRIL 2020.

- Encourage people to participate.
- Spread the word about why participating in the Census is important.
- Consider applying for a Census 2020 job at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).
- Join a local Complete Count Committee.

