



Dear Neighbor,

Every ten years, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census to count every resident in the United States. The data collected by the decennial census determines our state's representation in Congress and is used to distribute billions in federal funds to our local communities. Undercounts during the 2000 and 2010 Census have cost New York two congressional seats and a loss of tens of billions in federal aid for a range of programs from education to housing to transportation.

Dr. John Flateau of the US Census Information Center and the DuBois Bunche Center For Public Policy at Medgar Evers College notes that **\$675 billion a year in federal funds, services and programs are allocated using Census data, and \$7 trillion are locked in by decennial census numbers for the entire decade.** \$53 billion a year in New York State and \$20 billion a year in New York City are in federal funds and programs.

The 2020 Census is shaping up to be a real problem. The federal government is drastically underfunding the national count, proposing to require state residents to complete their Census forms online and proposing to add a new citizenship question to the questionnaire. These actions being proposed by the federal government would disenfranchise communities of color, the elderly and those of low socioeconomic means.

As the planning process for the 2020 Census continues, I urge you to remain engaged to ensure that all New Yorkers are counted.

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Sincerely,

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY
25TH SENATE DISTRICT



CENSUS 2020

What is the Census and how
will it impact our communities?

Be counted to make sure NYS gets billions for:



WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census Bureau provides a complete count of all individuals living in the United States and US territories. The U.S. Constitution mandates that a Census be conducted every 10 years for the purpose of apportioning representation in Congress, the State Legislature and the City Council. The Census count impacts political, economic, and social decisions made by our elected representatives and our government. The information the Census collects determines how more than \$675 billion dollars in federal funding is spent annually on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals and schools
- Job training centers
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other public works projects
- Emergency services
- Housing
- Public transportation

Your local neighborhood will be directly affected by the number of people counted in the Census!

WHAT QUESTIONS WILL THE 2020 CENSUS ASK?

To learn more about the planned questions, visit:
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/dec/planned-questions-2020-ac.html>

WHO MUST BE COUNTED?

Every person living in the US and US territories must be counted, including children, US Military personnel living abroad, homeless people and non-relatives of the householder, such as boarders and employees. For more information about who the Census Bureau counts and where they are counted, visit the web page below.

<https://www.census.gov/about/what/admin-data.html>

IF I AM IN PRISON, WHERE AM I COUNTED?

As of 2010, New York State law allows prisoners to be counted as residents of their address prior to incarceration.



IS MY INFORMATION PROTECTED?

Title 13 of the US Code restricts the Census Bureau from releasing information about individuals regardless of immigration or citizenship status. The Bureau goes to great lengths to ensure the security and privacy of individual responses and will not share information with immigration officials. For more information about how the Census Bureau protects your privacy, read the Data Protection page on the Census Bureau's Web Site. <https://www.census.gov/privacy/>

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE POPULATION IS UNDERCOUNTED?

Billions of dollars in federal aid is tied to the Census count and are in danger of being lost. Two Congressional seats were lost after the 2010 Decennial Census, leaving New York State with 27 seats. Projections indicate that New York will lose another seat after the 2020 Census. It is estimated that many neighborhoods throughout the State are at risk of being undercounted. These are known as "Hard to Count Areas." To find out if your neighborhood is at risk of being undercounted in the 2020 Census, visit www.censushardtocomountmaps.us

WHERE CAN I SEE A MAP OF MY COMMUNITY AND THE UNDERCOUNT OF THE 2010 CENSUS?

You can view detailed maps of your community by visiting the following website: www.censushardtocomountmaps.us

HOW CAN I ORGANIZE MY COMMUNITY?

There is a U.S. Census Information Center located at Medgar Evers College. The DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy is working to engage the community in preparation for the 2020 Census. For more information, you can visit: <https://mec-cuny.digication.com/CENSUS/>

The Center for Law and Social Justice and the NYC Black Leadership Action Coalition for the 2020 Census is organizing leadership meetings. The coalition will be working closely with the community to provide the latest information regarding Census 2020 and developing outreach strategies to make sure historically "hard to reach communities" are counted. For more information, you can visit: <http://www.clsj.org/censusjustice/>.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Sign up to become a community partner and you will be among the first to receive communications from the Census Bureau.
<https://www.census.gov/regions/new-york/partner-information/become-partner.php>

HOW CAN I WORK FOR THE 2020 CENSUS?

For information about employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, visit:
<https://www.census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html>

CONTACT THE CENSUS NYS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTNER TO HELP WITH A COMPLETE COUNT!

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