

Everyone Counts!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How YOU can help!

- **Work for the U.S. Census Bureau** or share job opportunities with others. Excellent pay and flexible schedule. www.2020census.gov/jobs
- **Talk to your family, friends and colleagues** about the importance of the census.
- On Census Day (April 1, 2020) — **complete the census** and encourage others to do the same.
- Join efforts to **ensure a complete count** by answering questions, volunteering at census events, hosting a census party/meeting.

What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a massive task: counting every person living in the United States — regardless of age, citizenship status, gender, etc. Census data helps determine political representation and federal funding for important City programs and services.

Why is the census important?

Outside of voting, one of the most powerful things you can do for your community is participate in the census. Your participation helps ensure our community receives its fair share of more than **\$600 billion in federal funds annually** for critical programs that support education, housing, and emergency disaster relief services. Census data determines the number of U.S. representatives each state sends to Congress. It also sets the district boundaries for our congressional, state senator, assembly member, county supervisor, and city council elections. A census undercount could put full congressional representation for California at risk.

Who must complete the Census?

All people living in the United States must be counted — regardless of age, citizenship status, gender, etc. Historically, young children (ages 0-4), teenagers, older adults, renters, and immigrant and homeless populations are undercounted in the census. **For every person not counted, the City loses almost \$2,000 annually.**

When is the 2020 Census?

April 1, 2020 is officially Census Day. In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will mail letters to every household with information on how to complete the census. In May 2020, Census field staff (called enumerators) will visit households who have not yet completed the census.

How can I complete the census?

There are four ways you can respond to the census: over the internet, by telephone, by mail (paper questionnaire) or via in-person visits from Census workers.

Will the census be available in different languages?

Yes. The online survey will be available in 12 languages (Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Japanese); phone assistance will also be available in these languages. The paper survey will be available in English and Spanish. The U.S. Census Bureau will provide other materials such as languages guides, glossaries, etc. in 59 languages. Residents who need assistance or who do not have computer or internet access can visit a City library or community center for assistance.



How long does it take to complete the census?

The census survey is short and on average takes a family of four about 10 minutes or less to complete.

What types of questions are on the 2020 Census?

The 2020 Census will ask for basic information about each household, such as the total number of people living at your address, homeownership (own or rent), your phone number, and the names, gender, race/ethnicity of each individual living or staying with you. *This information will not be shared with the City or any other local, state, or federal agencies.*

There is discussion about the census survey asking respondents if they are U.S. citizens. If the question is added, the proposed Census 2020 form would use the same wording as what is already used in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. San José, along with other government agencies, is taking legal action to block the question from the census.

8 Is this person a citizen of the United States?

Yes, born in the United States → *SKIP to question 10a*

Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents

Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – *Print year of naturalization*

No, not a U.S. citizen

Citizenship question on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey

How do I know my information is confidential?

Your information is confidential. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including the IRS, FBI, CIA, local authorities, or any other government agency. The U.S. Census Bureau will use data for statistical purposes only. The Bureau combines your responses with information from other households to produce data, and the data will not identify your household or any person in your household. In addition, all Census Bureau employees take an oath of privacy and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

How is census data used?

Census data improves our community. It helps determine federal funding allocation and congressional representation. Census data is also used to make other important decisions in our community:

- **Local governments** use census data for public safety and emergency preparedness.
- **Businesses** use census data to decide where to open facilities and what types of services/products to provide.
- **Developers** use census data to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.
- **Transportation planners** use census data to decide on public transit routes.
- **Citizen organizations** rely on census data to identify community needs, request and fund programs, monitor trends, and assess program effectiveness.
- **Residents** use census data to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

How will the Census count homeless residents?

In late March 2020, the Census Bureau will conduct Service-Based Enumeration (SBE). During this time, Census workers will count people without conventional housing or people experiencing homelessness at places where they receive services (e.g., shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food van locations, etc.) or at pre-identified outdoor locations where people are known to sleep — such as encampments, under bridges, or in parking lots.

What are significant challenges with the 2020 Census?

According to recent U.S. Census Bureau research, fewer than 7 in 10 households said they intend to fill out the census form. Barriers to completing the survey include lack of knowledge, apathy, confidentiality and privacy concerns, fear of repercussions, and distrust in government. We need your assistance in educating your family and friends about the importance of the census.

A FULL AND COMPLETE COUNT IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR COMMUNITY. For more information, visit www.census.gov