The 2020 Census

The League of Women Voters

Nonpartisan, but political
Established: 1920
1972: Men accepted
Educate & Advocate
What We’re Going to Cover

What is the census?
Why it is important?
Ways to respond

What questions will you be asked?
Privacy and confidentiality
What you can do?

What is the Census?
Counts entire U.S. population
Every 10 years
Required by the U.S. Constitution
History of the Census

Ancient civilizations conducted censuses

Babylon in 3,800 BC
Egypt in 2,500 BC
China in 2 AD (Han Dynasty)
In ancient Rome

U.S. Census Then & Now

1st U.S. Census in 1790:
about 4 million people

Current U.S. population (est):
over 330 million
Censuses in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before 1906</th>
<th>Since 1970</th>
<th>2020 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Door-to-door census takers</td>
<td>Mail out, mail back</td>
<td>Internet, Telephone, U.S. mail, or a personal visit by census taker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Census in Florida

Federal government distributes $1.5 trillion to governments and individuals each year using Census-derived formulas.

Amounts follow population.

The census is a competition between the states for money and representation.
Census in Florida

National level
House of Representatives

State level
Florida Senate and House of Representatives

Local level
County Commissioners and School Board Members

Why is it Important?
Census results affect funding for:
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Emergency Services
- Bridges, Tunnels, and Roads
Why is it Important?

Funding for community resources such as:

- Job Training Centers
- Child Care Centers
- Head Start
- Senior Centers

Why is it Important?

Businesses use U. S. Census Bureau data to:

- Locate facilities like supermarkets
- Develop new housing
- Locate offices
### Response Goal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>&gt;82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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### Options to Respond

Every household will have these options to respond:

- **Online**
- **By Phone**
- **By Mail**
- **In Person**

The Census starts March 12th.

April 1st is National Census Day.
Census Timeline

March 12-17, 2020 – invitation letters and key codes mailed to every address
If no response, reminders sent
If no response, paper questionnaire sent around mid-April,
If no response by May 2020, a census worker will come to your home at least twice

The Census Form

The 2020 U.S. Census Bureau Form was finalized this summer. In the past, it has posed questions regarding:

- Name
- Age
- Race
- Phone Number
- Sex
- Date of Birth
- Hispanic Origin
- If you Own or Rent

The decennial U.S. Census is a short form
The Census Form

Does not ask for:

- Citizenship
- Immigration status

What to Expect

- Invitation includes unique key code
- Takes about 10 minutes
- You may ask for a paper form. Paper forms will not be sent until late April.
- If no response by May 2020, census worker will visit in person
Privacy and Confidentiality

It is important to note that the U. S. Census Bureau:

- Never asks for your complete Social Security number
- Never asks for money or a donation
- Never requests PIN codes, passwords, etc.
- Never sends requests on behalf of a political party

Personal information protected by Federal Law
Many People Will Be Hard to Count

- Seniors
- Young children
- Renters
- Immigrants
- Minorities
- Non-English speakers
- Homeless Populations
- Snowbirds
- People with physical or mental disabilities
- Low income populations
- Those who distrust Government
- Rural residents
- LGBTQ persons

Young Children

All children who live in the home: grandchildren, nieces and nephews, children of friends

Children who split their time evenly between homes are counted where they are living on April 1, 2020

Newborn babies, even those still in the hospital on April 1, 2020
Residence Situations

Snowbirds counted where they live and sleep most of the time

Healthcare Facilities
Short-term patients will be counted at their residence, rather than at the facility.

Long-term Care patients will be counted at the health care facility.

U. S. Military Staff
Military stationed outside the US will be counted by military staff

Residence Situations

Students
Boarding school students counted at the home of their parents or guardians

College students count themselves at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time

U.S. college students attending college abroad are not counted in the census

Foreign students: counted at their on- or off-campus residence
Residence Situations

Shelters
People in emergency and transitional shelters: counted at the shelter

Displaced People
People displaced by natural disasters: counted where they live and sleep most of the time

Prisoners
People who are imprisoned on April 1, 2020: counted at the facility

How You Can Help

Tell others and distribute materials

Dispel myths

Encourage your community organizations to help local Complete Count Committees

Put Census links and information on web pages, newsletters and social media

lwfli.org/census
Complete Count Committees

Consist of:
- Trusted, well-known local leaders
- Knowledgeable about their community
- Organized to encourage census participation by residents

To find a local committee:
Go online to Google.com and type:
“Find a Complete Count Committee in my community”

Complete Count Committees
Okaloosa County

- Board of County Commissioners
  - Point of Contact: John Hofstad
  - (850) 651-7515
  - managerinfo@co.Okaloosa.fl.us

- New Hope Christian Center
  - Point of Contact: Stephanie Duenas
  - (850) 461-3757
  - newhopefwb@gmail.com
Complete Count Committees
Walton County

- Board of County Commissioners
  - 76 N 6th St, DeFuniak Springs 32433
- City of Freeport
  - Point of Contact: Williams Boots McCormick
  - (850) 835-2822
  - wmccormick@freeportflorida.gov

Make a difference!

- Spread the word at your
  - Church or synagogue
  - Homeowner or renters’ association
  - Social Club, other organizations
- Get free materials at
  - https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations.html
- Follow @uscensusbureau on Twitter
- Become a partner at https://www.census.gov/partners/join.html
Everyone Counts!

The Census is:

Easy
Safe
Important

Thank you!

Questions?
Acknowledgement

We thank Miami–Dade County and the U.S. Census Bureau for providing material for this presentation.