

# 2020 U.S. Census

Safe, easy, and important  
process underway

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**T**he state of New Jersey is currently preparing for the 2020 Census, a process that began more than two years ago. Lauren M. Zyriek, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs from the NJ Department of State, has worked diligently to form a New Jersey Complete Count Commission, with members including NJLM Immediate Past President and East Rutherford Mayor James Cassella, to help inspire municipalities and various organizations to create their own Complete Count Committees with trusted voices in the community.

Zyriek has also worked closely with Jeff Behler, Director of the New York Regional Census Center, to help inform state and local leaders that the 2020 Census is safe, easy, and important, and that recruiting for jobs is currently underway.

The following questions address common inquiries regarding the Decennial Census.

## What sort of jobs are available for the 2020 Census?

Although the Census is national, in order to be successful, it must be conducted at the local level. The Census must hire people to work in their own communities. The City of Newark held its first job fair in January at the Newark Public Library Main Branch and collected more than 150 applicants for various positions. "This is the first job fair of many that we will hold throughout the city," said Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement, Jacqueline Quiles, following the January 22 event. True to her word, the city organized an additional 14 job fairs through the end of March at locations like the Good Neighbor Baptist Church, FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community, Welcome Center at Branch Brook Park, and University High School, to name a few. Recruiting efforts are on-going and those interested are encouraged to apply at <https://2020census.gov/jobs> and [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov).

## What is the purpose of forming a Complete Count Committee?

Complete Count Committees (CCC) are comprised of bipartisan community leaders who serve as the trusted voices in the community. They work together to identify possible obstacles in obtaining a complete and accurate count of their local population, and work on how to overcome them. CCC's promote the importance of the census, encourage participation, and promote employment opportunities.

## Is my information safe? Can it be shared with other government or state agencies?

The census is SAFE. Your information is completely safe, private, and never published. The Census Bureau collects information for statistical purposes only. Personal information collected cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court, and is protected by Title 13, a federal law. Violators are subject to severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect confidentiality for life.

## How can I complete the Census questionnaire?

The census is EASY. There are four ways to fill out your form: online, phone (available in 12 non-English languages via a toll-free number), paper, personal visit by census employee (door-to-door enumerator). The Census Bureau will mail (or hand deliver) invitations to complete the 2020 Census in March 2020.

## Why is the decennial census so important?

The census is IMPORTANT because data obtained through the decennial census will serve as a population benchmark for the next 10 years. Counting every person once, only once, and in the right place is important for two reasons:

1. It provides a basis for division of more than \$675 billion in annual federal funding for programs like Medicaid, SNAP, Special Education Grants, WIC, Health Center Programs, among others.
2. It determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and defines congressional and state legislative districts, school districts, and voting precincts.

@ For more information, contact:  
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