

Legislative UPDATE

News on the 2010 Census



From State Senator Edwin B. Erickson

WINTER 2010

Dear Friend:

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a census to determine the number of people living in every community across the nation. This data helps to determine how much money our local communities will receive from the federal government for hospitals, schools, bridges, emergency services and other vital priorities for our state and region. It also determines how many members Pennsylvania and other states will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March, census forms will be mailed to every household in the United States. I strongly encourage you to fill out this form and mail it back to help ensure an accurate count for our state and region. The census form includes just 10 questions this year and should take less than 10 minutes for most households to complete. The information you provide is confidential and protected by federal law. If you do not return the form, a census worker will be assigned to visit your home to ask you the questions on the form.

The 2010 Census is important. It determines the distribution of more than \$400 billion annually in government funding for critical community services. It generates thousands of jobs across the country. And it impacts your voice in Congress.

If you have any questions or concerns about the census, feel free to contact my district office or learn more online at <http://2010.census.gov>.

United States
Census
2010

Sincerely,

Edwin B. Erickson

How the Census Affects You

Each year, the federal government allocates approximately \$400 billion to communities for hospitals, schools, infrastructure improvements, senior centers, emergency services and other important programs and services. This means that the 2010 Census will determine

where more than \$4 trillion will be spent over the next decade. An accurate count in our area will ensure that we receive our fair share of federal funding to maintain and improve our quality of life.

Completing and returning this form not only helps to ensure that

our communities receive the appropriate share of federal money, but also saves taxpayer dollars. If you do not complete and return the census form, the Census Bureau will assign a worker to visit your home to gather the information. For every one percent of households that do not mail in a census form, the federal government has to spend approximately \$80-90 million of our tax dollars through worker salaries, training, equipment and reimbursements to retrieve this information. Submitting a form is the best way to reduce the cost of the 2010 Census for all taxpayers.

What Questions Will Be Included?

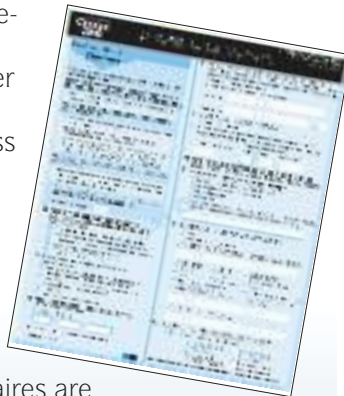
The 2010 Census form will be one of the shortest in history. The long form from the 2000 Census has been eliminated, so all citizens will be asked just 10 questions. Most households should be able to complete the form in 10-15 minutes or less.

All of the information you provide is protected by federal law. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Violating the oath is a serious crime. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

Questions that will be asked in the upcoming census will include:

- number of people living in the household
- whether the residents rent or own their dwelling
- the name, sex, race and date of birth of all individuals who reside at the address, and
- the telephone number for the address



2010 Census Will Create Job Opportunities

To complete the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will hire a number of temporary part-time workers to canvass their communities to ensure that every individual is counted. These jobs will offer flexible hours, good pay and paid training and will serve as an excellent employment opportunity for recent college grads, students, retirees, individuals who are between jobs, and full-time employees who are interested in earning extra money.

To apply for a job working on the 2010 Census, individuals can call 1-866-861-2010 or contact the local census office. More information on 2010 Census jobs is also available online at <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>

Census Timeline

February – March 2010 – Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010 – Census Day.

May – July 2010 – Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 2010 – By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.

March 2011 – By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

Senator Edwin B. Erickson 26th District

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