

Staying Safe at Home

Census Bureau employees may visit your home, either to verify your address or to follow up on the questionnaire. If someone visits your home from the Census Bureau, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date, like this:



Reporting Fraud

Please call (800) 923-8282 or (212) 882-7100 to speak with a Census Bureau representative if you suspect fraud. If the person who came to your home doesn't work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department. You may also call the Orange County Department of Consumer Affairs and Weights and Measures at (845) 360-6700.

Is Your Census Data Confidential?

Yes! No one, not even the FBI, can access your individual responses.

All responses provided on the 2020 Census questionnaire or to a Census Bureau employee are confidential for 72 years and protected under Title 13 of the United States Code.

Although very few Census Bureau employees will see your personal information, all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony for any Census Bureau employee to disclose confidential information either during or after their employment, and the penalty for such disclosure is up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000 per violation.

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United States®
Census
2020

Orange NY Counts! Facts About the 2020 Census



[www.orangecountygov.com/292/
Demographics-Census](http://www.orangecountygov.com/292/Demographics-Census)

<https://www.2020census.gov/>



*Message from
County
Executive
Steven M.
Neuhaus*

Dear Fellow Residents,

Every 10 years, the United States Constitution mandates a census of the current population. There has been a great deal of confusing news out there about the Census, which is why I have asked various Orange County departments to educate their customers and clients with the facts, and to work to help ensure a complete count in 2020.

What's at stake?

The Census is about more than just counting people. The final population count will be used to calculate our share of over \$675 billion in federal funding, which provides residents of Orange County with critical programs such as HEAP, Medicaid, Head Start, Meals on Wheels, veterans services, and educational funding. The Census is also used to draw Congressional, State and County Legislative Districts.

It is vital that all of our communities have the proper representation in the halls of government, and that is entirely dependent on your participation.

Participating in the Census is quick and easy, and your answers are **100% confidential.**

Please look over this information and join me in participating in this important civic responsibility.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Neuhaus
Orange County Executive



WHO SHOULD YOU COUNT?

If you are filling out the Census for your household, you should count anyone who is living there on April 1, 2020. This includes anyone who is living or sleeping there most of the time.

HOW TO RESPOND

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the Census. You will then have three ways to respond: online, by phone or by mail, before April 30.

AVOIDING ONLINE SCAMS

This is the first Census that allows online responses, and with that comes online scams. To help protect yourself from fake websites and other scams, please remember that the Census Bureau will ***never*** ask for your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers, or money, gift cards, or other donations. *Please note—there is no app!* The only online option to respond to the Census is www.2020census.gov.



2020 Census Information

“Counting every person *once*, only ONCE, and in the **right** place.”

What data is collected?

- Members of a household who are “Usual residents”.
- Name, age, race/ethnicity, gender, relationship to one another/head of household.

Why a COMPLETE COUNT is important?

- Population is used to calculate Orange County’s share of over \$675 BILLION annually for federal funding.
- For every person NOT counted in the 2010 Census, Orange County lost an estimated \$2500 of federal funds.

Privacy:

- All responses are protected for 72 years. No agency, organization, business, or individual can access data prior to 2092.
- The census will NOT ask you for your social security number, bank account information, credit card numbers, money, gift cards, or donations.

For Business Entrepreneurs:

- Businesses use population stats to help decide where to add jobs or open new stores, offices or other businesses in our community.
- If a region is undercounted, it will be underfunded, impacting everything from education to transportation—factors that all play into the state of local economy.

In mid-March, homes across the USA will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

How to spot fraud:

- Census Bureau employees may visit your home to verify your address or to follow up on the questionnaire. If someone visits your home from the census bureau, make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a Dept of Commerce watermark, and expiration date.
- If you suspect fraud, call [800-923-8282](tel:800-923-8282) to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

For More Information Visit: www.2020census.gov



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Parents of Young Children

- A large number of children, ages 0-4, were **NOT** counted in the 2010 census, the county lost \$2500 of government funding *per person* annually for ten years.
- This affects your child’s:
 - * School Lunch Programs
 - * HEAP
 - * Class Sizes
 - * Medicaid
 - * Head Start

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Privacy:

- All responses are protected for 72 years. No agency, organization, business, or individual can access data prior to 2092.
- Responses are private, even from the FBI. Since 1947, no data has been released ahead of the permitted time.
- The census will NOT ask you for your social security number, bank account information, credit card numbers, money, gift cards, or donations.

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