



# CALIFORNIA COMPLETE COUNT – CENSUS 2020

*BE COUNTED, CALIFORNIA!*

California is committed to a complete and accurate count, inclusive of our immigrant populations. California has invested more resources than any other state to ensure our outreach and education efforts are robust and effective. California is committed to working with partners to monitor the federal effort, dispel fear and misinformation, and ensure Californians understand their protections under Title 13.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Will the 2020 Census include a question about citizenship?

- The 2020 Census questionnaire will NOT include a question about an individual's citizenship status. Everyone, regardless of their immigration status, has certain basic rights. For those who have concerns about opening your doors, there are other ways you can participate. You can participate online and over the phone, from the comfort of your home or a community run assistance center. Please complete your census questionnaire. An incomplete questionnaire may increase your chances of non-response follow-up by the United States Census Bureau. Households will receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census beginning March 12, 2020. Your participation is vital, and your information is protected.

### What does President Trump's Executive Order mean?

- The Executive Order does not create any information sharing beyond what is permissible under existing law. Your information remains confidential. The Executive Order states that information collected from federal and state sources "may not, and shall not, be used to bring immigration enforcement actions against particular individuals."

### Is private information protected?

- The United States Census Bureau (USCB) is required by law to protect any personal information it collects and keep it confidential.
- The USCB is bound by Title 13 of the United States Code. These laws not only provide the Bureau with authority for its work, but also stipulate strong protections for the information the census collects from individuals and businesses.
- The USCB uses responses to produce statistics.
- Private information may not be published when it is collected. After 72 years, it may be published for historical purposes by the National Archives. It is against the law to disclose or publish any private information that identifies an individual or business, such as names, addresses (including GPS coordinates), Social Security numbers, and telephone numbers.
- Answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine personal eligibility for government benefits.
- Personal information cannot be used against respondents for the purposes of immigration enforcement.
- USCB employees are sworn to protect confidentiality. Every person with access to data is sworn for life to protect personal information and understands that the penalties for violating this law are applicable for a lifetime.
- Violating confidentiality or sharing the information other than for statistical purposes is a serious federal crime. Anyone who violates this law will face severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.



**Why is it important for everyone to be counted in the census?**

- Some federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties and communities are based on population. It is critical for everyone to be counted, regardless of immigration status. When you respond to the census, you help your community get its fair share of federal funds.
- Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and this creates jobs.
- Developers use census data to build new homes and revitalize neighborhoods.
- Local governments use census data for public safety and emergency preparedness.

**What is the California Census Office doing to encourage participation?**

- California's Census Office is supporting a robust, coordinated outreach and communication effort focused on reaching the hard-to-count (HTC) population.
- The Census Office is collaborating with counties, local governments, tribal governments, regional and statewide community-based organizations, education, and other sectors.
- Communication efforts will aim to help Californians understand that their information will remain private and dispel misinformation.

**How do you get counted?**

- Starting mid-March 2020, each household will receive a letter in the mail informing them of the options for filling out the census questionnaire. That includes online, by phone, or by a requested paper form.
- Households that do not fill out the questionnaire during the self-response period will be contacted by the USCB during Non-Response Follow-Up.
  - › **March 12-20:** Households will receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.
  - › **March 16-24:** A reminder letter will be sent.
  - › **If you still have not responded:**
    - **March 26-April 3:** A reminder postcard will be sent.
    - **April 8-16:** A reminder letter and paper questionnaire will be sent.
    - **April 20-27:** A final reminder postcard before the USCB follows up in person.
- USCB enumerators may contact households that submit partially filled-out questionnaires in an effort to obtain complete answers.

**What should Californians be aware of when filling out the census?**

- It is critical to be cautious of any requests that seem suspicious.
- The USCB will never ask for the following:
  - › Payment to fill out the questionnaire
  - › Social Security number
  - › Financial information
- USCB field staff will always show a valid Census Bureau ID. You can confirm that they are a USCB employee by entering their name into the **Census Bureau Staff Search** or by contacting the California **Regional Office**.
- It is a federal crime to impersonate a federal official, anyone who violates this law is subject to imprisonment.

