

# The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

*Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.*

## Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.



## Your census responses are safe and secure.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

## By law, your responses cannot be used against you.

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.



## The law is clear—no personal information can be shared.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

## There are no exceptions.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep everyone's information confidential. By law, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way. The Census Bureau will not share an individual's responses with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow that information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits. Title 13 makes it very clear that the data we collect can only be used for statistical purposes—we cannot allow it to be used for anything else, including law enforcement.

## It's your choice: you can respond securely online, by mail, or by phone.

You will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by law.

## Your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats.

The Census Bureau takes strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy, and our cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once the data are received, they are no longer online. From the moment the Census Bureau collects responses, our focus and legal obligation is to keep them safe.

## We are committed to confidentiality.

At the U.S. Census Bureau, we are absolutely committed to keeping your responses confidential. This commitment means it is safe to provide your answers and know that they will only be used to paint a statistical portrait of our nation and communities.

Learn more about the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program at [www.census.gov/privacy](http://www.census.gov/privacy).



## Laws protecting personal census information have withstood challenges.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that even addresses are confidential and cannot be disclosed through legal discovery or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In 2010, the U.S. Justice Department determined that the Patriot Act does not override the law that protects the confidentiality of individual census responses. No court of law can subpoena census responses.

# Why We Ask

## The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

### When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.



Inform how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.



Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

## The 2020 Census will ask for the following information:

### Number of people at address

We ask this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

### Any additional people living or staying there

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

### Owner/Renter

We ask about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

### Phone number

We ask for a phone number in case we need to contact you. We will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

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United States  
**Census  
2020**

## **Name**

We ask for names to ensure everyone in the household is counted. This also helps us to keep ancestry records. Listing the name of each person in the household helps respondents include all members, particularly in large households where a respondent may forget who was counted and who was not.

## **Sex**

We ask about the sex of each person to create statistics about males and females. Census data about sex is used in planning and funding government programs, and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

## **Age and date of birth**

We ask about age and date of birth to understand the size and characteristics of different age groups and to present other data by age. Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies use age data to plan and fund government programs that provide assistance or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics also help enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

## **Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin**

We ask about whether a person is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin to create statistics about this ethnic group. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

## **Race**

We ask about a person's race to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

## **Whether a person lives or stays somewhere else**

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure individuals are not included at multiple addresses.

## **Relationship**

We ask about the relationship of each person in a household to one central person to create estimates about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

For more information, visit:

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

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United States  
**Census  
2020**

# EVERYONE COUNTS



IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census)



## What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States.

## Why is the Census important?

- Every year, the federal government allocates more \$675 Billion in funding based on census data.

**\$18,250  
OVER  
TEN YEARS**



- Every Marylander not counted costs the state approximately **\$18,250** over 10 years.
- Census data is used to plan schools, new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.



## Who needs to respond to the Census and is my information secure?

The census counts every household and person living in the U.S., this includes both citizens and non-citizens.

### The U.S. Census Bureau must keep all information confidential.

- All census information is private and protected by law in Title 13 of the U.S. Code.
- Data is collected for statistical purposes only and personal data is never disclosed.

## How can I get help completing the census or getting it in my language?

In March, residents will receive an invitation to complete the 2020 Census in the mail. On the invitation there will be a number to call for assistance to complete the form or to request language guides and language glossaries in 59 non-English languages.



# United States<sup>®</sup> Census 2020



**Choose the way that you will be counted – Online, by phone or by mail.**

## When will the Census happen?



April 1, 2020: Census Day is observed nationwide. Everyone is invited to participate by completing the census on this day!

## For more info visit:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census) or [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

## Get involved:

- Become a **Census taker!** Apply Online!  
[www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs)
- Sign up to become a 2020 **Census ambassador** or **volunteer** by visiting [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census).
- **Host a Census Party!** Invite over 10 of your friends or neighbors and encourage them to complete the Census online on April 1, 2020.



# TODOS CONTAMOS



EN EL CONDADO DE MONTGOMERY

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census)



## ¿Qué es el censo?

Cada 10 años, el gobierno federal hace un conteo de toda la población de los Estados Unidos.

## ¿Por qué es importante el censo?

• Cada año, el gobierno federal asigna más de \$675 mil millones en fondos basado en las estadísticas del censo.

**\$18,250  
DURANTE  
DIEZ AÑOS**



• Cada persona que reside en Maryland que no se haga contar le cuesta al estado aproximadamente **\$18,250** durante diez años.

• Las estadísticas del censo se utilizan para planificar escuelas, viviendas y negocios, y para mejorar los vecindarios.



## ¿Quién debe responder el censo? ¿Está mi información protegida?

El censo cuenta a cada persona que vive en EE. UU.; esto incluye tanto a ciudadanos como a no ciudadanos.

**La Oficina del Censo de EE. UU. debe mantener toda la información confidencial.**

• Toda la información del censo es privada y está protegida por ley bajo el Título 13 del Código de EE. UU.

• La información se recopila únicamente con fines estadísticos y los datos personales nunca se divulgan.

## ¿Cómo obtengo ayuda para contestar el cuestionario u obtener el censo en mi idioma?

En marzo, todos los hogares recibirán por correo una invitación para completar el Censo 2020. En la invitación habrá un número de teléfono para solicitar ayuda para llenar el cuestionario, para solicitar guías y glosarios en 59 idiomas aparte del inglés.

HELLO HOLA

BONJOUR NĨ HÃO

# United States<sup>®</sup> Census 2020



**Seleccione la manera en la que prefiere responder al cuestionario: por internet, por teléfono o por correo.**



## ¿Cuándo se realizará el censo?

1.º de abril de 2020: el día del censo es a nivel nacional. ¡Todos están invitados a participar y hacerse contar este día!

**Para obtener más información, visite:**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census) o [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

## Cómo involucrarse:

• ¡Trabaje de enumerador!  
¡Presente su solicitud por internet!  
[www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs)

• Inscribese para participar de **embajador o voluntario** del Censo 2020 visitando: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census).

• **¡Organice una fiesta de censo!**  
Invite a más de diez de sus amigos o vecinos y anímelos a responder el cuestionario el 1.º de abril de 2020.

