



# 2020 Census FAQs

<https://www.leonianj.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=1392>

## 1. Why is the Census so important?

The United States Constitution requires a census every 10 years. Federal, state and municipal governments use the census data to make decisions and plans for the future such as how much money to spend on schools, highways, hospitals and social programs.

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children. Census data will be used to determine how federal funding is distributed for things like:

- School breakfast & lunch programs, how much money is allocated for the Head Start program and for grants that support teachers and special education.
- Highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.
- Support for firefighters and families in need, programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.
- Redistricting: adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased
- Long-range planning for emergency services, ie hospitals, police, fire, and social & mental health services, senior assistance
- Water pollution protective measures

<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-01/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf>

<https://2020census.gov/en/community-impact.html>;

<https://2020census.gov/en/census-data.html>;

<https://census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/why-2020-matters.html>

[https://2020census.gov/en/community-impact.html?cid=20005:%2Bcensus%20%2Bimportance:sem.ga:p:dm:en:&utm\\_source=sem.ga&utm\\_medium=p&utm\\_campaign=dm:en&utm\\_content=20005&utm\\_term=%2Bcensus%20%2Bimportance](https://2020census.gov/en/community-impact.html?cid=20005:%2Bcensus%20%2Bimportance:sem.ga:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.ga&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=20005&utm_term=%2Bcensus%20%2Bimportance)

## 2. Is the Census mandatory?

Yes, every living person in the US needs to be counted. You are required by law to respond to the 2020 Census. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics and cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

<https://2020census.gov/en/am-i-required.html>

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/brds/about/faq.html>

## 3. How do I respond to the 2020 Census? How long will my 2020 Census questionnaire take to complete?

For the first time, you can choose to complete the census online, by phone or by mail. You can find out more about each of these methods at <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>. The Census Bureau estimates that completing the questionnaire will take 10 minutes on average.

## 4. What questions are asked on the 2020 Census?

The Census will ask you for information based on who is living at your address on April 1, 2020:

- How many people are living or staying at your address.
- The name, sex, age, date of birth, relationship, Hispanic origin, and race of each person at that address.
- Whether the housing unit, such as the house, apartment, or mobile home, is owned or rented.
- Contact information in case additional information is needed.

The 2020 Census will **NEVER** ask you for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.
- Your bank or credit card account numbers.

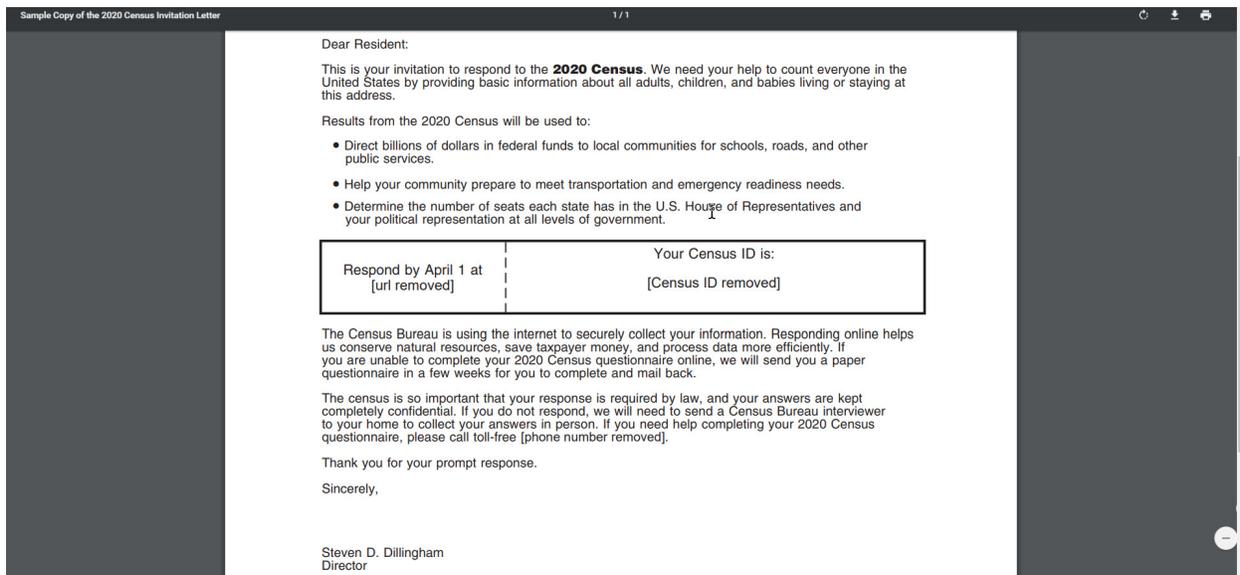
- Anything pertaining to citizenship. Note: If you received an American Community Survey (ACS) form from the US Census Bureau, there is a citizenship question. Please see Question #11 below for information on the ACS.

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate.

## 5. When will I receive the Census questions?

Every household should have received a Census invitation letter by mail between March 12 and March 20 (see sample letter below). These official Census Bureau mailings include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online. You can respond online through October 31, however, we urge you to respond as soon as you are able. If you are unable to respond online, please see Question #3 above regarding responding via phone or mail.

Please note that April 1 is a reference date, not a deadline to respond. When you respond online, by phone, or by mail, count everyone living in your home as of April 1.



<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/dec/how-census-invites-everyone.pdf>

## 6. What if I didn't receive or lost my 2020 Census invitation letter?

Don't worry, you can still complete the Census online. Just go to: <https://my2020census.gov/login>

## Please Log In

Use the materials we mailed to you or left at your door.  
All the information that you provide will remain confidential.

### [Where can I find my 12-digit Census ID?](#)

Please enter the 12-digit Census ID found in the materials we mailed to you or left at your door.

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Login

[If you do not have a Census ID, click here.](#)

## 7. What happens to my answers? Will my answers be kept confidential?

Your Census responses are used only to produce statistics. Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes. Your responses are compiled with information from other homes to produce statistics, which never identify your home or any person in your home. Individual records are not shared with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement entities. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone—not the IRS, not the FBI, not the CIA, and not with any other government agency.

<https://2020census.gov/en/data-protection.htm>

## 8. Whom do I count?

If you are filling out the Census for your home, you should count everyone who is or will be living there as of April 1, 2020.

This includes anyone—related or unrelated to you—who lives and sleeps at your home most of the time. Please be sure to count roommates, young children, newborns, and anyone who is renting a space in your home. If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census.

Please count everyone living in your home. Where there are more people, there are more needs. An accurate count helps inform funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, and roads for the next 10 years.

<https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html>

## 9. How do I count children in my home?

Make sure every child in your home is counted. Whether a child is related to you or not, every child in your home must be counted. This is what you need to know about counting children:

1. Your responses to the census are private and will be kept confidential, as required by law.
2. Count children and babies who live with you even if their parents do not.
3. Count children who are living in your home on April 1, 2020, even if they are only staying with you temporarily.
4. Count every child who lives and sleeps in your home at least half of the time.
5. If a child's time is evenly divided between two households, count where the child is on Census Day—April 1, 2020
6. Count newborn babies, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020.

When responding to the 2020 Census, be sure to list every child and baby who lives and sleeps in your home all or most of the time. Decide who in your household will fill out the 2020 Census form. Whether you're a relative, family friend, or unrelated to the children staying in your home, it is important to count everyone under your roof. Remember that children can't count themselves on the form; they are counting on you to count them.

Completing the census is safe, easy, and important. In 2020, the Census Bureau will accept responses online. Responding is easy and convenient and can be done in 12 languages. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Additionally, responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. **Completing the 2020 Census form is an easy way to help shape a brighter future for the children in your home.**

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sis/resources/2020/partner-toolkit.pdf>

## **10. What is the American Community Survey? If I received it, do I need to complete that as well as the 2020 Census?**

Some households will also receive the American Community Survey in addition to the 2020 Census this year.

Your responses to the American Community Survey and 2020 Census are critically important to your local community and the country. Local communities depend on information from the American Community Survey, as well as the 2020 Census, to decide where schools, highways, hospitals, and other important services are needed. The data collected through the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census help determine how to distribute more than \$675 billion of federal spending each year.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/acs-and-census.html>

The American Community Survey is sent to a sample of different households every year and asks more detailed questions for research. Unlike the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey does ask questions regarding citizenship. However, it is important to note that, like the

2020 Census, your responses to the American Community Survey are also confidential--data goes in and statistics come out. For more information regarding the privacy of your data, please see Question #8 above.

A sample American Community Survey form can be found here:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2020/quest20.pdf?#>

Additional information on the questions that are included in the American Community Survey can be found here: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/>

## **11. How can I get help to fill out the Census or get more information about the Census?**

Please send your request for Census help to: [LeoniaCensus@leonianj.gov](mailto:LeoniaCensus@leonianj.gov) and include any language requests. A Leonia Census 2020 volunteer will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time to assist you.

The Borough of Leonia and the Leonia Board of Education have asked Leonia residents to volunteer their time: [Leonia Census 2020 Volunteer signup form](#).

### **Additional Resources**

**Link to the 2020 Census website:** <https://2020census.gov/en.html> [Note: Click on the “ENGLISH” button in the upper right-hand corner for 58 language translations options.]

**Help & FAQs from the Census Bureau:** <https://2020census.gov/en/help.html>

### **Census Guides (Same Census Guide for Online and Paper Census):**

- Census Guide (English):  
<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/languages/guides/English-Guide.pdf>
- Census Guide (Spanish):  
<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/languages/guides/Spanish-Guide.pdf>
- Census Guide (Korean):  
<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/languages/guides/Korean-Guide.pdf>
- Other languages for Census Guide: <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html#dd971987040-co>
- Sample Paper version of Census (same questions as the online Census questionnaire):

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/questionnaires-and-instructions/questionnaires/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf>

**Important Dates:** <https://2020census.gov/en/important-dates.html>

**From the New Jersey School Boards Association:**

- [Accurate US Census Count Essential for Education Funding](#)
- [2020 Census Toolkit: Everyone Counts](#)

**Census Counts:** A collaborative campaign involving more than 15 national organizations and dozens of community partners in more than 30 states working together to make sure that the 2020 Census is fair and accurate—so that our communities do not miss out on the political power they deserve and the resources their communities have earned.

**Toolkits:**

- <https://nj.gov/state/assets/pdf/njcounts/2020-census-tool-kit-kiosk.pdf>
- <https://www2.census.gov/about/partners/general/2020-faqs.pdf>
- <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/ccc-guide-d-1280.pdf>
- <https://fundfornj.org/sites/default/files/New%20Jersey%20Counts%20in%202020-4.pdf>

**Videos:**

- English: <https://www.census.gov/library/video/2020/english-video-guide-complete-2020-census-online.html>
- Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OUDMYyo9T8>
- Korean: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwU4-WYUCe0>
- Additional languages include: American Sign Language, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/uscensusbureau/featured>

**Resources for children:**

- Sesame Street: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZmL17eYjmw>
- We Count Kids (ebook): [www.wecountkids.org/ebooks?cid=7ead7343-d319-4920-b231-b64505d25936&utm\\_campaign=6b3c81eb-1840-4946-82af-f4113d409c09&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_source=so](http://www.wecountkids.org/ebooks?cid=7ead7343-d319-4920-b231-b64505d25936&utm_campaign=6b3c81eb-1840-4946-82af-f4113d409c09&utm_medium=mail&utm_source=so)