



## 2020 Census Background Information

### Importance of the Census

- According to Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution, the federal government is required to conduct a count of the American population every 10 years.
- The Census helps determine how much federal funding goes to schools, roads, hospitals, and other resources.
- The Census is also used to determine the number of seats Florida will have in the US House of Representatives.

### Census Timeline

#### *2020*

- **March 12-20:** Official invitations to participate in the 2020 Census were mailed to households.
- **April 1:** This is Census Day, and is a key reference point—not a deadline. Wherever respondents are primarily residing on April 1, is where they should count themselves. This includes everyone who lives and sleeps in your home, regardless of whether they are part of your family or not.
- **Starting mid-April:** The Census Bureau mailed paper questionnaires to homes that had not yet responded online or by phone.
- **August 11 – October 31:** Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
- **December:** The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

#### *2021*

- **March 31:** By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to the states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.



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### How can I respond to the Census?

- There are three ways to respond to the Census:
  - Online
  - By Phone
  - And By Mail
- Mailings made their way to households in March detailing how to best respond and be counted.
- Anyone can respond to the Census online, over the phone, or by mail.
- For those who have not responded to the Census by June, US Census Bureau enumerators will conduct follow-up visits to residences.
- We encourage all Floridians to respond as soon as they receive their official mailing directing them to respond.

### Who to Count

- When responding to the Census, Floridians should include everyone that is living and sleeping at their home most of the time, including people who may not be family members.
- If someone was staying at your home on April 1 of this year and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them on your 2020 Census form.

### *CHILDREN*

- It is very important to count all children living in a household, regardless of their age.
- Foster parents should count all the foster children living in their home on April 1, 2020.
- Children who split time between households should be counted wherever the child was living on April 1.
- Babies born on or before April 1, 2020, should be counted.



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### *MILITARY*

- As the most veteran and military friendly state in the nation, we are proud of the many men and women in uniform that serve our state and our country.
- Those Floridians who serve in our armed forces and are temporarily deployed overseas should be counted at their usual home address in Florida.
- Military personnel living in Florida at barracks or military campgrounds will be counted by a group quarters administrator within the facility.

### *GROUP QUARTERS*

- Individuals living in a shelter, prison, college dorm, nursing facility, psychiatric unit, or other related treatment units will also be counted by a group quarters administrator.

### **Privacy Concerns**

- The Census is strictly confidential. Responses cannot be shared with anyone outside of the Census Bureau, including other federal agencies.
- Title 13 of the US Code requires that responses to the Census be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes.
- Individual responses to the Census cannot be shared with any other government agency or official, including federal and local law enforcement agencies.
- 2020Census.gov provides additional information about Title 13 and privacy protections for the 2020 Census.

### **FAQ's about the Census**

Q: Should non-citizens be counted in the Census?

*A: Yes. Everyone counts. The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the country, including non-citizens.*

Q: Will there be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census?



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*A: No. There will not be a citizenship question asked on the 2020 Census.*

**Q:** Is it safe to complete the Census online?

*A: From the beginning of the data collection process, the Census Bureau follows industry best practices and federal requirements to protect your data. The security of Census Bureau systems is a top priority, and the IT infrastructure is designed to defend against and contain cyber threats.*

**Q:** Are there ways to avoid scams pretending to be the Census?

*A: Yes. It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:*

- *Your Social Security number*
- *Your bank account or credit card numbers*
- *Money or donations*

*The Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.*

*If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:*

- *Check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.*
- *If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.*

**Q:** Has the Census been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic?

*A: Yes, 2020 Census operations have been adjusted to account for the health and safety of US Census Bureau employees and the public. Some of those adjustments include:*

- *Changing the timeline for self-response and for non-response follow-up*
  - *Self-response planned schedule: April 2 – June 5*
  - *Self-response revised schedule: July 1 – September 3*
  - *Non-response follow-up planned schedule: May 13 – July 31*
  - *Non-response follow-up revised schedule: August 11 – October 31*