

# Frequently Asked Questions

## About the 2020 Census

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### 1) What is the Census?

The Census is a nationwide count of everyone living in the United States. The U.S. Constitution requires a Census every 10 years, and the first one was held in 1790.

### 2) When will the 2020 Census happen?

Residents will receive a letter in the mail in mid-March 2020 with instructions and a response code to answer the Census online. The response window closes at the end of July.

Residents who live in group homes, campus housing, shelters, etc. will be counted using a separate process.

### 3) Who counts in the 2020 Census?

From 1 day to over 100 years, Everyone Counts! Every person in your home should be counted of any age, relation, ethnicity, or immigration status.

If you have relatives or children that split time in your home, they should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time.

### 4) Why is the Census Important?

- For every person not counted, Loudoun County loses \$2,000 a year for 10 years.
- The Census Builds Stronger Families and Communities. Your response makes sure Loudoun receives over \$30 million a year for programs that every Loudoun resident benefits from, from school meals and preschool programs (Head Start) to road projects to healthcare access (Medicaid, CHIP, and new health facilities), and affordable housing.
- The more people are counted, the more dollars we receive for needs in our community, and local spending can be focused on communities that don't receive these dollars.
- Most Census funding goes towards our schools, so your response impacts your child's future.
- You can make your community's voice heard. – An accurate Census count means more representation communities in government at the local, state, and federal level.

### 5) Will my answers be shared?

- Your Census responses are confidential – it's the law.
- Under Title 13 of federal law your responses cannot be shared with any other government agency, court, or law enforcement.
- Your answers cannot be shared with your landlord or any benefits agency.
- Your responses are only used for statistics.
- Census workers face serious fines and prison time if they share response information, and take a lifetime oath to protect your information.

**6) What questions are asked in the Census?**

The Census will ask you for the name, age, date of birth, gender, relation, race, and ethnicity of every person in your home and whether your home is rented or owned. You should answer as fully and honestly as possible.

The Census asks these questions in order to provide funding for programs that meet the needs and types of families in our community, and to ensure our election districts are drawn fairly.

**7) What questions does the Census NOT ask?**

The Census will NOT ask for your immigration status, Social Security Number, email address, ID, financial or banking information, or your political party.

If you are asked to respond to the Census via email, it is fake and should be reported.

**8) How do I respond to the Census?**

You can respond to the Census online, by phone, or by mail. It will take about 10 minutes.

ONLINE: A mailer will arrive at your home with instructions and a code to respond online. If you do not receive a letter, you can visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) to verify your address and respond.

PHONE: 1-844-330-2020

MAIL: A paper form will arrive in the mail in mid-April.

**9) Where can residents receive help with their Census form?**

All local library staff have been briefed on the Census process, and computers with instructions will be available for Census response.

**10) Is the Census available in other languages?**

Yes! You can respond online or by phone in 13 different languages. Census mail will be in Spanish for Sterling Park and SW Leesburg based on demographic data.

**11) What are the dates for the Census process?**

- Mid-March: Households will receive a letter by mail with instructions and a code to respond online. Residents can also visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) and click 'Take The Census'.
- Late March to mid-April: reminders about online response sent by mail
- Mid-April: Households that did not respond online will receive a paper form.
- May: Households that did not respond online or by paper will have a census worker visit their home to ask for the information.

**12) What does a Census worker look like?**

A census worker will visit your home, and will have a name badge and a bag with the Census logo on it. The badge will have their photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. You can ask for their identification at any time, but they CANNOT ask for yours.

Please call 800-923-8282 if you would like to verify that the person is a Census worker.

**Questions?** Contact Census Project Manager Stacy Whitehouse at [stacy.whitehouse@loudoun.gov](mailto:stacy.whitehouse@loudoun.gov) or visit [www.loudoun.gov/2020Census](http://www.loudoun.gov/2020Census)

