

# WASHOE COUNTS 2010 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

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## Fact Sheet

### **The Census is Important to You and Your Family**

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Our community and each one of us has a lot to gain or lose in the 2010 census. We need to make sure everyone is counted.

The federal government uses census information to decide where and how to spend almost \$400 billion every year on health, education, transportation, and more.

The State of Nevada uses census information to decide which communities need money, and what kind of nonprofit services to support.

Businesses use information to decide where to invest in new factories, distribution centers, and stores.

If safe roads and schools, clean parks and trails, and convenient libraries are important to you, the census is important to you.

At a minimum, every person who goes uncounted could cost our community \$917 a year for the next ten years, almost \$10,000 per person. If many people don't get counted, we could lose out on millions of dollars that our community needs.

Money isn't the only thing we could miss out on. Census information was used to determine how much of the H1N1 vaccine was distributed to our community.

Census information is also the basis for political representation. Census counts are used to decide how many representatives each state gets in Congress and how those districts are defined. Nevada stands to gain another Congressional seat and another vote in the Electoral College this year.

Nevada uses the same information to draw legislative districts. We need a good count to ensure that we are fairly represented in the legislature.

### **The Census is Easy**

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This year's form is only ten questions, and will take just minutes to complete. Guides on how to complete the form will be available in more than 100 languages.

The 2010 Census questionnaire will ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race ethnicity, relationship, and how long you've lived in your current residence.

Anyone with questions about the form can get free help by calling the Washoe Counts 2010 census hotline at (775) 583-4708 or email [washoecounts2010@gmail.com](mailto:washoecounts2010@gmail.com).

## **The Census is Safe**

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Respondents will fill out the questionnaire in the privacy of their own home. The form does not ask for a Social Security number, legal status/citizenship of respondents, income or financial assets. Names are required only to ensure that each person is counted once.

Census workers take an oath to protect your privacy. They know that if they give out any information, they can face a \$250,000 fine and up to five years in prison.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondent's answers with anyone, including landlords, employers, and government agencies.

No other government agency can get any person's individual census information for the next 72 years.

## **The Census is Required**

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The US Constitution (Article I, Section 2) mandates a headcount of everyone residing in the United States. The Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010.

Since the Census Bureau needs to receive responses from every household in the United States, Census takers will visit each home that does not mail back the form to ask the same 10 questions on the census forms. Census takers will have an official US Census Bureau badge and will never ask to enter a home.

## **What is the Census?**

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*What:* The census is a count of everyone residing in the US

*Who:* All people who live in the United States must be counted—whether they are citizens or not.

*When:* Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaires should be filled out so that they represent the household as it exists on that day. More detailed socioeconomic information is collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

*Why:* The United States Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census determines representation in the United States House of Representatives.

*How:* Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

*We only have one chance to get this right.*

**Census information collected in 2010 will inform decisions about government funding and business investment for the next ten years.**

# **We All Count!**