

## About 2010 Census

### What: Count

The Census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. The Census form asks only 10 questions this year.

### Who: Everyone

All people living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non-citizens. If you live and sleep in Skokie for 6 months plus 1 day of the year, you fill out your census form for Skokie.

### When: April 1, 2010

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States in March 2010. The questions ask you to provide information that is accurate for your household as of April 1, 2010. The Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the U.S. President by December 31, 2010. The first Census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

### Where: Everywhere in the U.S.

The census counts everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the island areas.

### Why: It's the law!

The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2) mandates a headcount of everyone residing in the United States. The population totals determine each state's Congressional representation. The numbers also affect funding in your community and help inform decision makers about how your community is changing.

### How: Mailed questionnaire or visit by a census worker

The Census Bureau will mail or deliver questionnaires to your house in March 2010. A second form will be mailed to households that do not respond to the initial questionnaire. If your household still does not respond, you will be called or visited by a Census worker. (Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.)

### 2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

**March 2010:** Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.



**April 1, 2010:** Census Day

**April - July 2010:** Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

**December 2010:** By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.

**March 2011:** By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

## **FAQs:**

### **Why fill out the census form?**

Every household in the country will receive a questionnaire in 2010. To ensure an accurate and fair count of all populations at all geographic levels in the nation, the Census Bureau needs you or someone in your household to respond to the census questionnaire.

It's important – Census data affect funding for your community, your community's representation in Congress and your community leader's planning decisions.

It's easy – The census questionnaire takes only a few minutes to answer and return by mail.

It's confidential – Your responses are protected by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, a fine – or both – for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

It's required by law – The information you provide is combined with responses provided by your neighbors and other households across the country, to provide summary statistical data that are used by various local, state and federal agencies.

### **How is my information protected?**

Information collected is personal. – Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information. Violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. The Census Bureau has also established Privacy Principles and statistical methods that ensure the statistics released do not identify individuals or businesses. For more information, click on this link: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/privacy/index.php>

### **What will 2010 Census form look like?**

Beginning with the 2010 Census, residents will only be asked 10 questions, designed to be filled out in less than ten minutes. The long format will not be mailed out because the questions are now part of the American Community Survey. To preview the form, click here: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>

**I already filled out a very long questionnaire from the Census sometime in the last 5 years, do I still need to send in the questionnaire on by April 1?**

Yes. You still need to complete and return the 10-question current census form with information from each person in your household. Some households in Skokie have participated in the American Community Survey (ACS) between 2005 and now. The ACS is the form that replaced the “long-form” that you might remember from previous decennial censuses. There are no “long-forms” for the April 1, 2010 decennial census. The ACS is separate from the decennial census.