



## **Faith Communities Census Weekend of Action: July 24 - 26**

The U.S. Census Bureau is once again reaching out to Faith Communities asking for assistance in communicating the importance of participating in the U.S. Census.

The Census, mandated by the Constitution to be done every 10 years, counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories (whether they be permanent, temporary, legal, or illegal). The Census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on Census data. The results of the Census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The Census Bureau, a non-partisan government agency, is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential. The answers you provide are only used to produce statistics; you are kept anonymous. The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Violation of Title 13 is a federal crime and punishable by prison time and/or a fine up to \$250,000.

By now, each home has received an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. **In August, census workers will begin visiting U.S. households that have not responded to the Questionnaire to help ensure that everyone is counted.** You can minimize the need for Census takers knocking on your door to follow up in person by responding to the Census now. To respond by mail, complete the Questionnaire which was mailed to you. To respond by phone, call **(844) 330-2020**. To respond online (from your computer, smartphone, or tablet), log onto [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). If you respond online, you will be asked for the ID # from the Questionnaire you received in the mail. If you can't find the Questionnaire, or never received one, there is a button to select on their website to assist you, or you may call in your response to the number above. *(If I, Diana, can be of assistance in the Church Office, I will be glad to help you.)*

Help shape the future of your congregation, neighborhood, and community by supporting the 2020 Census.