

2020 Census

A fair and accurate count is critical for Texas kids

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau carries out a constitutionally mandated count of the nation’s residents known as the Census. Data from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of representatives Texans have in Congress and the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds annually for public services like education, housing, transportation, and health care.

CHALLENGES

Counting every person in the United States is difficult, and the 2020 Census faces barriers to a fair and accurate count:

- **Difficulty reaching and enumerating hard-to-count communities**
- **Budget constraints have limited pre-Census preparation and testing**
- **A controversial, untested question about citizenship status could keep people from responding**

Texas could LOSE at least

\$300 MILLION PER YEAR

if Texas residents are undercounted by even 1%

HARD-TO-COUNT

30% OF CHILDREN UNDER 5
(ABOUT 582,000 KIDS)

are at **high risk of being missed in the 2020 Census.**

Every resident of Texas – including every child – has the right to be counted in the 2020 Census and represented in our democracy.

If Texas children aren’t counted, our state could lose billions of federal dollars over the next decade for programs that give kids a healthy start in life: education, school lunches, Head Start, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly “food stamps”), and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

SOLUTIONS



Complete Count Committees at the local or state level should be formed to:

- **Increase the response rate** to the Census questionnaire through a neighbor-to-neighbor program
- Design and implement a **Census awareness campaign** to let communities know why filling out the Census is important
- **Improve the accuracy** of the 2020 Census in Texas

#TXVotes4Kids

1. The Census is supposed to count all residents, not just citizens. An accurate count of all residents is essential for Texas to receive its fair share of federal funding and representation in Congress.

 **How will you ensure a full and accurate count of all Texas residents?**

2. “Hard-to-count” communities are groups that have traditionally been undercounted by the decennial Census. Young children, people without a permanent address, people of color, immigrants, and people who live in rural areas are examples of “hard-to-count” populations in Texas.

 **What will you do to ensure that Texas’ “hard-to-count” communities are counted in the 2020 Census?**

3. Complete Count Committees are volunteer committees formed by community leaders, organizations, and/or tribal, state, or local governments that work to increase awareness and motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census.

 **How will you support the formation and operation of Complete Count Committees in your community (or at the state level)?**

4. For the first time, online responses can be submitted to the 2020 Census survey.

 **What will you do to raise community awareness of the online response option for the 2020 Census?**

5. If the Texas population is undercounted in the 2020 Census, our state could have less representation in Washington than we deserve and less federal funding for transportation, health care, and other critical services.

 **How will you raise awareness of the 2020 Census and help your constituents understand why answering the Census survey is critical for Texas?**

6. The addition of the citizenship question to the Census survey may drive down participation in the Census in Texas. While the Census Bureau cannot legally share a respondent’s personal information, immigrant communities and their family members may be fearful of how the information they provide will be used.

 **How will you increase awareness that responses to Census Bureau surveys are confidential and important?**