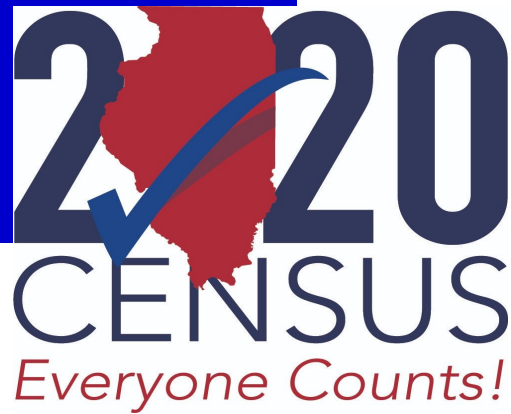


Tips to Spot Census Scams



- Census Activity will take place via **Mail**, and/or **door-to-door** activity.
- The Census Bureau may invite you to complete your Census Questionnaire online. **Your invitation** to do so will be given through the **US MAIL**;
- Census workers **SHOULD NOT** ask for your Social Security Number, Banking information, Credit Card Numbers or other account numbers;
- Census workers **SHOULD NOT** ask when household members leave for or return from work;
- Census workers **SHOULD NOT** ask you to make a donation;
- Census workers **SHOULD NOT** ask you to support a political party;
- Census workers **SHOULD NOT** threaten jail time as a means to make you complete the Census;
- The Census Bureau **WILL NOT** be communicating with households via e-mail.
- If a Census worker shows up at your door, they should be able to show you a valid ID that verifies them as a census worker, including their name, photograph and a watermark showing that they work for the Department of Commerce.
- Legitimate Census correspondence should have a return address from Jeffersonville, IN, the site of the National Census Processing Center.
- Don't trust caller ID– scammers can use 'spoofing' tools to make it appear as though they are calling from the real Census Bureau. Instead, if you have any questions, you can call the Census Bureau National Processing Center at 1-800-523-3205, 1-800-642-0469 or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY) to verify legitimate Census Bureau Activity.

Why is the Census Important?

- It gives the government an accurate count of everyone living in the U.S.
- The Constitution directs a census be conducted every 10 years
- It determines how the U.S. Government distributes over **\$675 BILLION** to the 50 states and territories for vital programs
- It is estimated that for every Illinois resident **NOT COUNTED**, Illinois loses **\$2,000** in funds per person
- The Census determines fair representation in the House of Representatives
- Census information helps lawmakers determine legislative boundaries
- Census information helps determine funding for Energy Assistance, the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Program, funding for hospitals, and other local funds

For more information on the 2020 U.S. Census, please visit [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) or contact Madison County Community Development, Lisa Mersinger at Immersinger@co.madison.il.us or 618-296-4398. You may also visit our website for further information at https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/community_development/2020_census.php

