KEY MESSAGES

What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person in the U.S. as mandated in the Constitution. The next enumeration will begin mid-March and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses.

Every Californian counts. The Census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

This data is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments.

It’s about fair representation: every 10 years, the results of the Census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It’s a civic duty: completing the Census is mandatory and it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say: “My story counts!”

It’s about redistricting: after each decade’s Census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Your data is confidential: federal law protects your Census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

How is the Census data used?

To allocate funding for communities.

To ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.

People use Census data to decide where to open businesses and offices, which create jobs.

By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share the data with immigration or law enforcement agencies or allow it to determine eligibility for government benefits.