

Important Notice from the Dutchess County Complete Count Committee - 2020 Census Update

Hi, Supervisors and Mayors,

I wanted to keep you updated on where we are regarding the census. We are making progress. In fact, Dutchess County has nudged over the 50 percent response rate. As it stands, the county's response rate is 51.1, ranking it 18th among the 62 counties in New York in that regard. (That ranking is far better than where we ended up in 2010, so that is good news.) The state's overall response rate is 47.4 percent compared to the national average of 53.2 percent. But some of our municipalities have lower numbers, and I will be reaching out to those individually to talk further about that.

One of the challenges involves people with PO Boxes. Invitations to respond to the census have gone out through the mail but they are not sent to PO Boxes because the census tracks by physical address. The invitation provides instructions -- including giving you a census ID code -- to complete the form. But you can fill out the form without the code by going to My2020Census.gov and using the "If you do not have a Census ID" link and following the prompts. We need to continue to get the word out about that.

Also, due to the coronavirus, the Census Bureau has temporarily suspended all field operations. We are hoping to hear more about that soon.

Here are some helpful resources:

The 2020 census can be filled out at My2020Census.gov. It only takes a few minutes, your personal information is kept confidential, and you can fill it out over the phone or via mail if you like. Census assistance numbers are: 844-330-2020 for English; 844-468-2020 for Spanish.

See the Census Self-Response Rates to date here: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

The Dutchess County Complete Count Committee can be found here: www.DutchessNY.gov/Census2020

Remember, the final numbers for the census -- which is conducted every 10 years -- will determine how federal funding gets divided across the country. Congressional and legislative districts also will be redrawn based on the final figures. Please keep using your social media, newsletters, websites and other ways of communicating with your residents. And feel free to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance.

Thanks,

John

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