

# 10 QUESTIONS MINUTES

TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

## The Census: A Snapshot

- ▲ **What:** The census is a count of everyone in the United States.
- ▲ **Who:** Everyone in the United States must be counted—both citizens and noncitizens.
- ▲ **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, census data play a part in guiding funding for essential community services and other important programs.
- ▲ **When:** Households will receive a census form in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or by hand delivery.

## Benefits of Census Data for Older People and Retirees

- ▲ Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments.
- ▲ Census data help guide local planning decisions for:
  - Locations of community services and facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
  - Creation of maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance.
  - Food and transportation assistance programs.

## Older People and Retirees

United States®  
**Census**  
**2010**

**THE 2010 CENSUS IS EASY, IMPORTANT AND SAFE, AND PARTICIPATION IS VITAL:**

**IT'S EASY:** The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census forms in history. With only 10 questions, the form takes about 10 minutes to complete.

**IT'S IMPORTANT:** Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, job training, child-care and senior centers, and more.

**IT'S SAFE:** By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

**For more information about the 2010 Census, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).**

## 2010 CENSUS KEY DATES



**March 2010:**  
Census forms are mailed or delivered to households



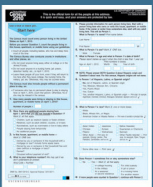
**April 1, 2010:**  
Census Day



**April - July 2010:**  
Census workers visit households that did not return a form by mail



**Dec. 31, 2010:**  
Final counts delivered to the President of the United States



**We can't  
move forward  
until you  
mail it back.**

Accurate representation and funding is especially important to older people and retirees because some of these individuals rely on government, community and social service programs. However, without an accurate count, vital community services – such as health care, transportation and other assistance programs – may not be adequate.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. When will the census forms arrive?

Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010. Households should complete their census form and mail it back. Responding promptly to the 2010 Census form is the most efficient way to complete the census. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person. Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.

### 2. Who should fill out the census form?

One person should complete the form on behalf of every person in the residence, including relatives and nonrelatives.

### 3. I have more than one residence. Where should I complete my form?

Complete your 2010 Census form in the residence in which you live and sleep most of the time. For more information on 2010 Census residence rules, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

### 4. What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the form?

Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will be available to assist those unable to read or understand the census form. For those with visual impairments, Language Assistance Guides will be available in large print and Braille, as well as 59 languages, at all QAC locations. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can call the TDD number, 1-866-783-2010.