



Renville

COUNTY

Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

It's Almost Census Time. Fill Out Your Form. It Matters!

United States Census 2020

The season of the 2020 Census is upon us, and we only have two months until April 1 - Census Day. But it's even closer than you think! Renville County residents,

as well as the entire country, will start to receive mailers from the Census Bureau in mid-March. The census itself will collect basic information about the people living in your home, counting every person that lives there on **April 1, 2020.**

This really does mean something to you because of what this information determines and how much funding is tied to the Census. It will determine where \$675 billion+ is going. Minnesota received approximately \$15 billion in 2016, through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

As if you need more reason to fill out the Census form, here are two very important facts for you. **First, the Census will be ONLINE for the first time ever!**

In 2020, it will be easier than ever to respond to the Census. A small percentage of people will still get sent the original form to fill in and mail back, but online will be the Census Bureau's main form of response. You can also respond by phone, if need be, as the ultimate goal is to count everyone once and only once.

Second, Minnesota could LOSE its 8th Congressional Seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Minnesota needs a great turnout to hold its eight seats. Should we lose this representation, we will have to conduct redistricting with seven seats. Census forms the basis for redistricting and, for 2020, Minnesota wants to do this with the eight districts we have had since 1960. Remember, this information will affect us and the entire country for 10 years. That's 120 months, 520 weeks or 3,650 days!

More good information for Renville County is that the Census Bureau does not deliver mailers to PO boxes. If that's you, you can expect a visit from a Census Worker to drop that off to you. These Census Workers are locally hired people that take a lifetime oath to protect personal information. Security is not only a number one priority, it

is the law that census information is protected. Should you not fill out your form between the end of March and the first of April, the Census

Bureau will send a reminder postcard. They will then follow up with a letter and a paper questionnaire, and then another postcard towards the end of April. By the beginning of May, if you have NOT filled in your form, a Census worker will be knocking on your door.

No matter what you care about - schools, school programs, roads/infrastructure, hospitals, medical insurance, housing, private business, or child care - all of these and more will be affected by the Census. The \$675 billion is divided out among these many federally funded programs.

Renville County has already taken steps to make sure our county is accurately counted. To that end, we have been posting information and statistics about the Census since last fall.

To see this information, go to Facebook and search '@RenvilleCountyCensus' to find these great posts from our Renville County Census Complete Count Committee (R5C).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED

The Census Bureau will **never** ask for:

- Social Security numbers.
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.



Inform how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.



Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.