



## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS -2020- Census



# I'm not a citizen. Should I fill out my Census? YES

The Census will NOT ask about citizenship status!

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. The Court ruled with a 5-4 vote on June 27, 2019, that there was insufficient reasoning to include the question, calling the proposal “contrived.”

That proposal came from the Trump Administration, and it was emphatically discouraged by the U.S. Census Bureau because the question could lead to a major undercount of immigrants living in the United States.

The founding fathers of the United States believed it important to know how many people live in the U.S. so that they would be fairly represented in Congress. They laid out this reasoning in Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the nation's supreme law.

They intended the Census to be a tool for the people, a type of power that they would have over their government. This meant that all people living in the U.S., including non-citizens, should be counted.

Information that you provide on the Census (which will NOT ask about citizenship status) can't be used against you. Your Census responses are confidential and protected by U.S. law. Nobody, not even the President of the United States, can uncover the information that you provide.

### Did you know?

- A citizenship question has not been included on the Census since 1950. The 2020 Census will be no exception.
- Responding to the Census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses.
- Illinois will lose an estimated \$1,400 per year for every person that does not fill out the Census.
- You can text 987-987 in English or Spanish to reach an Illinois help desk for more information about the Census and how to respond, Census jobs, and to pledge your commitment.

### BE COUNTED.

Even if you aren't a citizen, complete the Census for you and everyone in your home.

## Recommendations

- Fill out the Census form completely as soon as you receive it.
- Tell your colleagues at work, your family members, and your friends how important it is to the community's well-being to fill out the Census. Let them know that each one who doesn't participate is responsible for a loss of services for the rest of us.
- Build external partnerships with community anchors (such as schools, churches, and community centers) and ask those in charge there to have informational events about the importance of participating.
- Make a list of events from now to Census Day, April 1, that can be used to educate target populations. Share this material at these events.
- Host your own Census outreach party, such as a Bingo/Lotería night.
- Post this information to your Facebook page and/or the Facebook pages of your community groups.
- Check your local libraries to see if they have people on staff who are trained to help fill out the online form.
- Ask your children's teachers if they could plan a poster contest or school activity about the importance of the Census.
- Make copies of this material and ask your neighborhood stores to post one in a prominent place.
- Create warm, inviting, and safe environments for which to discuss the importance of the Census.

## Strength In Numbers

This is #3 in a series of seven informational fact sheets encouraging Latino participation in the 2020 Census. Its purpose is to ensure that all people residing in Illinois are counted so that quality programs and services remain available to them.

Information provided in these reports is curated from the U.S. Census Bureau, NALEO Education Fund, Child Trends, Kids Count, the Illinois Complete Count Commission, and the American Library Association.

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For further information, visit  
[www.latinopolicyforum.org](http://www.latinopolicyforum.org)  
[www.ilcountmein2020.org](http://www.ilcountmein2020.org)  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

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