

City of Wooster

P.O. Box 43, Wooster, AR, 72181

ph: (501) 679-7504 fax: (501) 679-7126 email: city@tcworks.net

March 4, 2020

To Our Community

Re: 2020 Census

Dear Residents and Neighbors,

“Census Day” is just around the corner and we need your support. The U.S. Constitution requires a complete count of our nation’s population every 10 years. The federal government is required to count every single person living in the United States, even babies and immigrants...every single person is counted. This count determines how billions of dollars in federal funds, as well as political representation, will be distributed among states and local communities for the next decade.

Did you know that the 2020 Census will impact how many teachers are hired in our local schools and how many nurses and beds are in our local hospitals? The Census impacts the wellbeing of our neighbors, all emergency services, everything from new roads to food assistance. Even businesses use census data to determine where to open places to shop. Over \$800 BILLION in federal government funding will be determined in the 2020 Census count. The Census will determine how many representatives your state will send to Congress and how your congressional district will be drawn (redrawing district boundaries).

Even though the census count has improved over time, certain populations continue to be “undercounted”. Who is hard to count? Children under 5, people living in poverty, homeless, immigrants, the list goes on. It is so important that we ensure that we count EVERYONE once, only once, and in the right place, including hard-to-count members of our community.

The Census is easy to complete. The Census Bureau provides resources that makes it easy. The 2020 Census will be the FIRST Census to offer an online response option. In fact, **our local Wooster City Hall has a computer set up and available for anyone who chooses to use this option that may not have access to a computer.** However, you can choose how you want to respond... online, by paper through the

mail, or over the phone. Telephone assistance and an online questionnaire will be available in 12 languages and paper forms will be translated in English & Spanish. Glossaries will be available in 59 non-English languages and Braille on the Census Bureau's website. If you do not respond to the paper questionnaire or skip questions on the form, an individual Census official will try to contact you by knocking on your door.

FOR TOLLFREE ASSISTANCE:

***NALEO Educational Fund's Spanish / English HOTLINE: 877-352-3676

***Census Bureau TELEPHONE QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE LINE: 800-354-7271

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 16, 2020 – Census begins in rural and remote areas without reliable or direct mail.

April 1, 2020 – By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

May-July 2020 – The Census Bureau begins visiting homes that have not responded.

December 2020 – the Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the White House and Congress, as required by law.

March 31, 2021 – By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

A fair and accurate Census is one of the most significant civil rights and economic justice issues facing our country today. What we declare when we answer the Census is that we are here, and we are part of “we the people” and we refuse to be excluded. Do not be afraid to state your presence by answering the Census. The U.S. Census Bureau will keep your responses to the survey secure and encrypted at all times. The Census data can ONLY be used for statistical purposes, meaning personal information cannot be used against respondents in court or by a government agency. The Census Bureau staff who has access to personal information are *sworn for life* to protect confidentiality. Also, there will be **NO** questions about citizenship. **You count in this country of the United States of America and your voice matters.**

Thanks, in advance, for your participation of the 2020 Census. Every count will make a difference! Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Terry D Robinson, Mayor
City of Wooster
lmv/TDR