

Census 2020 push continues in Lake Ozark

We don't mean to belabor the point, but don't forget to be counted as part of Census 2020.

It's a benefit to all of us.

"Getting an accurate count of our population is important to Lake Ozark as it relates to possible grant opportunities and various funding sources," City Administrator Dave Van Dee explained. "Knowing how many people we serve gives us the ability to effectively plan and budget for the provision of our services."

The City of Lake Ozark also applies for federal assistance for many of the community's transportation improvement projects. "If we count every resident in Lake Ozark, we will be sure to get our fair share of our federal funds returned to our community," Van Dee said.

The Census Bureau is kicking off an all-out effort this month to complete its count by Dec. 31, the statutory deadline.

If you feel you have been overlooked, go to: 2020Census.gov.

The Census form asks fewer than 10 questions for each person in your household. Questions concern your name, sex, age, date of birth, race, household relationship, and whether you rent or own your home. We estimate that it will take just 10 minutes to fill out.

New plan

The Census Bureau's new plan reflects its continued commitment to conduct a complete count, provide accurate apportionment data, and protect the health and safety of the public and its workforce.

A robust field data collection operation will ensure the Census Bureau receives responses from households that have not yet self-responded to the 2020 Census.

The Census Bureau will end field data collection by Sept. 30. Self-response options will also close on that date to permit the commencement of data processing. Under this plan, the Census Bureau intends to meet a similar level of household responses as collected in prior censuses, including outreach to hard-to-count communities.

Once the Census Bureau has the data from self-response and field data collection in its secure systems, it plans to review it for completeness and accuracy, streamline its processing, and prioritize apportionment counts to meet the statutory deadline. In addition, it plans to increase its staff to ensure operations are running at full capacity.

The Census Bureau will continue to prioritize the health and safety of its workforce and the public. The staff will continue to follow federal, state, and local guidance, including providing appropriate safety trainings and personal protective equipment to field staff.

To date, 93 million households -- nearly 63 percent of all households in the nation -- have responded to the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census belongs to us all. If you know someone who has not yet responded, please encourage them to do so today online at 2020census.gov, over the phone, or by mail.

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