

We Count, Count Us!

Jeannette Jimenez



BEFORE YOU READ: Take the true or false quiz below. Then read the article to check your answers.

Statement	True or False
1. The census is a count of all people and pets.	
2. I should only count my children because they are citizens, and I am not.	
3. The government uses census information to decide how many schools to build.	
4. The 2020 Census includes a question about your citizenship status.	
5. There is a law that protects your individual data.	
6. In 2020, you can only fill out the census questionnaire online.	

Answers to the quiz: 1: F (the census counts people), 2: F (the census counts all people regardless of citizenship), 3: T (funds are distributed to states based on the state's population, and states use these funds to build schools, etc.), 4: F (the census does not ask about citizenship), 5: T (Title 13 makes it illegal for the Census Bureau to share your personal data), 6: F (you can also fill it out on paper, in person, and over the phone).

In 2020, the U.S. government will hold a census. I want to make a call to all people, especially the immigrant community. Please participate without any fear!

The census counts *all the people* living in the country, and this information tells the federal government how to distribute funds for each state. These funds benefit all people. If we do not participate in the next census, we could lose funds that help create new schools, hospitals, fire stations, and more.

I want to tell my immigrant people that the U.S. Census Bureau will not share your information under any circumstances. They will not ask about your citizenship status. They will not ask if you are an immigrant. Title 13 of the U.S. Code says that the Census Bureau cannot share your information. For this reason, do not be afraid to participate.

You can complete the 2020 Census on the web, by telephone, in person, or by mail. Thanks to the last census, we know that in 2010, the Latino community represented 11% of the people living in Washington, DC. Since then, the number has increased. We need to participate because we count, so count us!

AFTER YOU READ: Why does Jeannette want people to participate in the census?

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