

# Clearing Up Common Census Misconceptions

TRUE	FALSE
✓ Law requires you to answer the census questions	✗ You don't have to complete the census questions – it's optional
✓ Required by the U.S. Constitution	✗ Used to locate people living in the country without documentation
✓ Used to determine how much money communities will get from the government	✗ Used to determine property taxes
✓ Counts both citizens and non-citizens	✗ Used to help police and FBI keep track of people who break the law
✓ Used to determine how many representatives each state will have in congress	✗ Used to raise taxes
✓ Used to determine changes in the size, location, and characteristics of the United States	✗ Used to determine the rate of unemployment
✓ Counts adults and children of all ages	✗ Counts only adults – not children

## Remember: the 2020 Census will never ask you to provide:

- Citizenship status
- Religious affiliation
- Social security number
- Political affiliation
- Donations
- Tax information

## Frequently Asked Questions about Census 2020:

- ? **Will it raise my taxes?** No, census data is used to determine funding from taxes *already paid*. Undercounts mean those dollars will get distributed to other communities.
- ? **Will my information be secure?** Yes, individual census responses are protected by US law and cannot be shared for 72 years. Information cannot be shared with service providers, other government agencies or law enforcement.
- ? **Do I include my children on the form?** Yes, all children of all ages count. This misconception leads to the highest percentage of undercount among any group! If you have a newborn in the hospital on April 1, 2020 or after – they count!
- ? **What is the deadline to respond?** There is no firm deadline, however you should respond as soon as you receive your response information card. If you have not responded, it becomes more likely a census worker will knock on your door after April 1. Online responses will only be allowed through July 31, 2020.

## How do I get counted?

- ✓ All households will be mailed response instructions by April 1, 2020.
- ✓ Census 2020 is “internet-**first**”, not “internet-**only**”. Anyone can also respond by phone or mail.
- ✓ Census support is offered in more than 50 languages. Tools will be available for hearing and vision impaired.
- ✓ Census workers knocking on doors will be easily identifiable by a Photo ID, a US Census laptop or handheld device, and a letter on US Census letterhead. They will also have the name of their supervisor and regional office number.

**Thank you for helping North Carolina count!**

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