

Census 2010 Be Counted!

It's in the Constitution – every 10 years, starting in 1790, we count the people living in the United States. This February and March, the Census Bureau will send out a Census Form with 10 questions. It is very important that you – and everyone you know – take the 10 minutes or less that will be needed to fill out the form and drop it back in the mail.

Why does it matter? Because every year the federal government allocates more than \$300 Billion to states and communities based in part on census data. That includes funding for programs to aid the disabled, the elderly, and the young. But that's not all -- every year private companies use that same census data to make decisions about where to open factories and stores, supermarkets and medical facilities.

If people don't return their census forms, we won't get an accurate count of people in Racine County. It will look like there are fewer people living here than is actually the case. That lower number will mean less money coming into the County for programs that help us all. If you want Racine County to get Our Fair Share, you need to help us get the most accurate census count possible!

How can you help?

- Share this information about how important the census count is with your friends and neighbors.
- If anyone is concerned about privacy, remind them that federal law only allows the Census Bureau to report aggregate data. That is, they report the total number of people living in an area, or the numbers reporting themselves to be in different age ranges or of different ethnic groups. They DO NOT provide information about any individual, until 72 years after the census (i.e., until 2082). After that time, that information is made available for genealogical purposes. Until then, no other government agency – not the FBI or Immigration or the IRS – can look at any of the individual returns sent in by anyone. Your privacy is secure.
- When you get the Census Form in the mail – fill it out and send it back.
- Remind your friends and neighbors to do the same.

IF YOU WANT TO COUNT – YOU HAVE TO BE COUNTED!