

General Information for Census 2010

C. N. Le, a Professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst recently said "...an accurate count of the U.S. population forms the basis for many important but often overlooked political, economic, and social decisions that are made." That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the number of seats Washington state occupies in the U. S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for our communities. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services including:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Here are some facts about this year's Census effort. For complete information about the 2010 Census visit the official web site [here](#).

- The short form goes to every household with a site address in the country.
- Post Office boxes are usually hand delivered by a postal worker to the door of the addressee.
- Ten questions, ten minutes of a person's time with a stamped envelope to return it.
- A census worker only comes to your door if the form is not returned.
- The census counts people where they sleep. For instance, college students are counted at the dorm or apartment where they reside at the time of the count.
- The count includes every person taking up space in the country; more specific to us, every body in Kitsap County. The count includes homeless people and immigrants both legal and illegal.

Questions on the short form are non-invasive and easy to answer. If you do experience some difficulty in answering the questions there are phone numbers listed on the form to call, as well as sites throughout the county where someone can go to get answers for questions, or translation if English is not their native tongue. You are not required to answer any question(s)

Each person counted equals about \$1,400 in federal dollars to Kitsap County each year for the next ten years. These dollars are used for amenities such as schools, hospitals, public transit, homeless shelters, roads, job-training centers, community centers and so much more. In Census 2000, the federal government distributed \$400 Billion dollars nationwide. An accurate count can also trigger redistricting and in many cases result in additional representation in Congress as it is based on population.

If you do not return the short form mailed to you, a census worker comes to your home. You do need to be honest about the head count living in their home. Some people are inherently suspicious of government and may fear giving actual head count if multiple family members are staying in the home. The US Census Bureau does not care about that, they just need as complete a head count as possible to ensure Kitsap County is allocated its fair share of the pie.

You count! Please return your 2010 Census short from between March 15th and April 1st.

Information given is safe guarded and confidential and cannot be released to the public for 72 years. It cannot be requested by anyone and U. S. Census Bureau cannot be forced to divulge information collected. No politician, up to and including the President is able to acquire any census information. The US Census Bureau is an independent agency of the Federal government and cannot be forced to discuss any information gathered.

Census workers takes an oath of confidentiality as part of their employment. If they violate that confidentiality they are fined up to \$250,000 and may receive up to a 5–year prison sentence. The U. S. Census Bureau has zero tolerance for any violations of the oath.

To help ensure an accurate Census count Kitsap County has created the Complete Count Committee. These representatives from throughout Kitsap County meet to help identify ways to get the message out to all County residents. The next meeting is Thursday, March 18th at 2:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Eagle’s Nest Conference Center at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. If you want to help get the word out please join us!

The Census Bureau representative are asking for opportunities to reach out to residents, explain the process, and answer questions. If you have a community event, a club meeting, or other gatherings with time available for a 10-15 minute presentation, Bureau representatives are eager to meet with your group. Contact them directly to invite them to your event. Kitsap County’s representatives are:

Eric Davenport, Senior Partnership Specialist

Contact Eric by [email](#) or by phone at 360•204•6573

Jodie Bryant, Partnership Assistant

Contact Jodie by [email](#) or by phone at 360•918•4917



Kitsap County’s staff contact is Holly Parker-Harden. Contact Holly by [email](#) or call 360•337•4402.



Look for your Census form in mid–March. We can’t move forward until you mail it back!