



October 7, 2020

Be Counted in the Census!

Chicago is lagging other large cities in census response rates, with only about 55% of residents recorded compared with the national rate of 62%. The response rate among Hispanic and Black people in Chicago is about 51%, compared with 69.6% among whites and 64.1% among Asians, according to Marilyn Sanders, regional director for the U.S. census in Chicago.

In spite of the confusion sowed by leadership at the federal level, courts have ruled that counting for the census can continue through October 31, 2020. However, the Trump administration's Commerce Department is appealing this ruling. In any case, it is important to be counted, and as soon as possible. Every single person in the United States must be counted, regardless of immigration status.

The census count affects everything from how many seats in the House of Representatives a state gets to how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed to communities across the country for the next 10 years. That money goes to things like Medicaid, roads, education, assistance for lower-income families, and environmental programs. Your life will be affected, one way or another, by the census results, according to this reporting by Vox.

Participation in the census is critical to ensuring Illinois and local neighborhoods receive the resources and representation they deserve. It's quick and easy to fill out the Census, it is all-hands-on-deck push the hard-to-count population to be counted.

If you don't have easy access to the internet or would rather respond offline, you can call (844) 330-2020 if you speak English. If you have not yet responded to the census, please call today. For persons who speak Spanish, the number is 844-468-2020.

"The census is an act of civic engagement that can impact and benefit communities for the next ten years. The more responses we get, the more federal money we receive for better hospitals, stronger schools, and safer roads and bridges. I want to thank Rep. La Shawn K. Ford for raising awareness on the importance of the census," said IDHS Secretary Grace Hou.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District