

2010 Census: **The Basics**

What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. conducts a census of the population by sending a form in the mail to every household in the country.

Why do we have a Census?

Census data is used by the government in a variety of important decisions, including allocation \$400 billion in federal funds each year; determination of where roads, bridges, and schools will be built; and apportionment of federal, state, and local government representatives for communities.

Who is counted in the Census?

The Census counts everyone who is living in the U.S.—regardless of citizenship.

How is the Census taken?

Census forms will be mailed to households in March 2010. Census forms must be mailed back on or before April 1, 2010. If assistance is needed filling out forms, Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted Centers will be available. For people living in group quarters such as nursing homes, student dormitories, or prisons, a Census Bureau worker will visit those facilities in April and May 2010 to take a count of those facilities.

What if I don't mail back my Census Form?

Households not returning a census form by mail will be called or visited by a Census worker. The best way to avoid having a Census worker come to your door is to mail back your form!

What is on the Census form?

The form is a simple one-page, 10 question form that will take less than 10 minutes to complete. It asks for information about the number of people living in your household, and their age, race, and gender.

Grosse Pointe Census Questionnaire Assistance Center

is located at Grosse Pointe Farms
Municipal Office, 90 Kerby Road

Grosse Pointe Census Be Counted Center

is located at Grosse Pointe
Public Library Ewald Branch
located at 17175 E. Jefferson,
Grosse Pointe Park

Is the Census form only in English?

Forms will generally be mailed in English, with bilingual English/Spanish forms mailed to selected areas. Forms in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian are also available by calling the request line on the back of the English form.

Is Information taken by the Census private?

Information given on the census form is 100% confidential. By law, census information is not shared with any other government agency. Census workers take an oath to protect the privacy of respondents and face jail time and/or heavy fines if they violate that oath.

**GROSSE POINTE
US Census 2010**



What's at Stake?

Every person counted—or not counted—in a community impacts ten years of federal funds, political representation, public infrastructure and private investment.

Federal Funds

For 100 people not counted, a community risks losing an estimated \$1.2 million over the next decade for federally funded programs including

- Medicaid and maternal and child health programs
- Transit programs
- Public housing assistance
- Community Development Block Grants
- Head Start
- Title I Education funds and grants for special and vocational education

Political Representation

States use census numbers to redraw all political boundaries and determine which states gain or lose representation, including:

- 435 Congressional Districts
- 1,971 State Senate Districts
- 5,411 State House Districts
- Districts for City Councils, School Committees, County Boards

Public Infrastructure

Governments use census numbers to locate vital public works such as:

- Schools
- Health Centers
- Public Transportation and Highways
- Affordable Housing

Private Investment

Businesses large and small use census numbers to:

- Identify new markets
- Select sites for operations
- Make investment decisions
- Determine the goods and services offered

Sources: Brookings Institute, US Census, National Conference of State Legislatures

Contact the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce for more information.
www.grossepointechamberofcommerce.org

The Census is a snapshot of our community that defines the challenges and opportunities ahead. **Help us obtain an accurate count and return your questionnaire.**

**GROSSE POINTE
US Census 2010**



EVERYONE COUNTS

**April 1st –
Mail it back in!**