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## **Everyone counts in the 2020 census**

Next year, the U.S. government will attempt to count every resident in the nation. Mandated by the Constitution, the census takes place every 10 years and the next one begins April 1, 2020.

Data collected in the census directs the proper portion of \$800 billion in federal funds to local communities for local programs. Census data is also used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, ensuring that states have fair representation in federal lawmaking. In addition, states use census data to redraw or confirm legislative and school districts.

“For every household that doesn’t get counted, we lose \$39,000 over a 10-year period, that could have been used for maintaining roads, funding for Medicare and other important federal funding uses,” says Alan E. Organ, M.D., PhD, U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist.

Due to the importance of the census, several Johnson County cities, chambers, school districts, non-profits and other organizations joined Johnson County Government to form a Complete Count Committee. Among them is the League of Women Voters of Johnson County.

“The League of Women Voters is committed to a fair and accurate 2020 Census because if our communities are not fully counted opportunities for economic investment, improved health and public safety, and representation will be lost,” said Karen Wulfschlegel, League of Women Voters of Johnson County.

This spring, the Johnson County CCC launched **Count Me In JoCo**, a year-long campaign to educate residents about the importance of the census and how they can participate. The campaign includes a new website, **CountMeInJoCo.org**.

Another way to engage with the census is to become a census worker. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country for temporary jobs to assist with the 2020 Census count. Part-time positions are available all year long. The pay for Johnson County is \$17 per hour. Here are some ways to learn more about becoming a census worker.

- Call: 877-474-5226
- Email: [Denver.recruit@census.gov](mailto:Denver.recruit@census.gov)
- Visit: <https://2020census.gov/jobs>

## **Sidebar**

(Courtesy <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>)

To be eligible for a 2020 Census job, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a valid email address.
- Complete an application and answer assessment questions. (Some assessment questions are available in Spanish. However, an English proficiency test may also be required.)
- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.
- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.
- Commit to completing training.
- Be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

Most jobs require employees to:

- Have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's license, unless public transportation is readily available.
- Have access to a computer with internet and an email account (to complete training).