



United States Census 2010

Participate and Be Counted

The 2010 Census is here and the City of San José is calling on San José residents to participate and be counted in this nationwide effort to count everyone living in the United States. We are making a big push to get as many households to participate as possible because the results of the census directly impact our city.

The federal government uses census numbers to allocate more than \$435 billion annually for community programs and services such as education, housing, public health, senior services, transportation and neighborhood improvements. The information you provide will determine how these federal funds will be distributed and ensure that Santa Clara County and San José get our fair share. With an estimated population of 1 million people in the City of San Jose, this could translate to approximately \$1,145,000,000 a year.

Census data is also used to determine boundaries for state, local legislative and congressional districts. This will directly affect the boundaries of District 1 as the Council prepares to redistrict the City based on census results. The number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives is calculated based on census figures as well. As a matter of fact, a seat in the House of Representatives is currently at stake. For the first time in its history, California is at risk of losing a seat in Congress. This means the state could have one less voice and vote at the federal level on issues affecting your daily life.

Every household in Santa Clara County should receive a census questionnaire between February and March. The head of each household will need to complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives. The census questionnaire consists of 10 simple questions and can be completed in 10 minutes. Forms are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese and Russian. Language assistance is available for over 50 languages, and help is available by calling (866) 872-6868.

Census Bureau staff is available to help residents by phone from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week from February 25 to July 30. Questionnaire Assistance Centers will also be available for residents needing in-person assistance with completing the questionnaire or to ask general questions. In the City of San José, there will be 21 local census assistance centers, which will be open from March 19 to April 19. If you do not receive your questionnaire in the mail, you can pick one up at any one of these centers. For a list of locations, click here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Census2010qac.asp>. It's important to know that the information you provide is strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share or disclose an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

April 1 is the big day -- Census Day. Your forms must be returned by mail in the pre-paid envelope included with the questionnaire by April 1. Census staff will visit each household that does not return a questionnaire. They will follow-up up to six times to remind you to return your questionnaire. These visits will occur between April and July. The Census Bureau has informed the San José Police Department about this door-to-door outreach effort, and both agencies will work together to ensure staff and resident safety. Census field staff can be identified by their ID badges. If you are unsure about the validity of a Census Bureau representative, you should ask them qualifying questions to properly identify their affiliation with the Census Bureau. Please note, census field staffers are not allowed to accept your questionnaire. You must mail your questionnaire directly to the Census Bureau.

The City of San José is committed to providing San José residents with up-to-date information about Census 2010. You can find information online at the City website at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Census2010.asp> or at the Census Bureau at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>.