



The Schererville Crossroads

Why You Need to be Counted in the 2020 Census in Schererville



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Your participation in the 2020 Census means so much to Schererville over the next 10 years.

In 2010, Schererville's Census count compliance was 82%, and the Town's official population was 29,243. Each year, more than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed based on the Census count. In the fiscal year 2016, the federal government provided more than \$17.9 billion in funding for Indiana based on that 2010 Census data.

That funding equals approximately \$2,710 per person each year.

If that additional 18% of our residents had been counted, Schererville's population should have been somewhere around 34,450 people. The difference of 5,207 individuals not counted in the 2010 Census

means the Town missed \$14,111,000 in federal funding per year. That equals \$141,000,000 over the course of 10 years.

Those federal dollars support education, health care, roads, public works projects, firefighting services and other vital programs.

Many state agencies also distribute funds to areas based on local population counts. That money includes funding for local road and street improvements, the distribution of gaming tax revenue, the rural development fund, and distribution of money from the Indiana Library and Historical Boards to eligible public library districts.

When you receive the official Census Bureau mail with detailed information about how to respond, please take the time to shape your future and the future of Schererville during the next 10 years.

Whether You're One Day Old or 100 Years Old, You Matter

In the 2010 Census, an estimated 1 million kids under the age of five weren't counted. That's the highest of any age group.

Newborn babies and young children are often missed in the Census. Some aren't counted because they live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. Others split time between two homes. For example, a child might live with another family, including a foster family, or with other relatives such as grandparents.

If children spend time between two homes, they should be counted where they stayed on April 1, 2020.

And a baby born on April 1, 2020 should be counted even if he or she is still in the hospital.

The Census helps determine which areas qualify for critical resources that these children and their families will depend on for the next 10 years – basically an entire childhood.

Examples of resources that could be impacted include food assistance, Head Start, childcare, housing support, public schools, early intervention for children with special needs, and children's health insurance.

Knowing how many children there are and where they live is essential. That information will help shape our children's future.

Your privacy is protected by Federal Law

All responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law and cannot be shared.

The U.S. Census website, www.2020census.gov specifically states, "The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential."

"Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court."

"The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home."

The 2020 Census website also provides the following information to avoid online scams:

"Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a website that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware."

"It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Money or donations."

"In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party."



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Why is participating in the 2020 Census so important?

The information collected in the 2020 Census impacts so many things including how federal funds are spent in our region, whether businesses decide to open in our community, and how decisions are made about education, public safety and health care.

- Each year, more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed based on the Census count. In the fiscal year 2016, the federal government provided more than \$17.9 billion in funding for Indiana based on the 2010 Census data. That funding equals approximately \$2,710 per person each year. The fewer people counted, the less money is allocated to Indiana's residents for an entire decade.

Those federal dollars support education, health care, roads, public works projects, firefighting services and other vital programs.

Schererville continues to benefit from these federal expenditures.

For example, the Kennedy Avenue and Pennsy Trail projects both receive federal highway funds. Federal dollars also provide funding for utility projects, the Oak Street study and all the Indiana Department of Transportation work on U.S. Highway 41 and U.S. Highway 30.

- Many state agencies also distribute funds to areas based on local population counts. That money includes funding for local road and street improvements, the distribution of gaming tax revenue, the rural development fund and distribution of money from the Indiana library and historical boards to eligible public library districts.
- Census information determines the number of Representatives each state gets in the U.S. Congress. Based on the 2010 Census, Indiana lost two seats in the House of Representatives.

- After each decade's Census, state officials redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts to account for population shifts. Those redistricting counts will be sent to Indiana by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on Census statistics to plan for a variety of residents' needs including new roads, parks, schools and emergency services.
- Businesses utilize Census data to determine where to open. That can mean more jobs are available.
- Real estate developers use the Census to build new homes and revitalize older neighborhoods.
- Residents can also use Census data to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

Make a difference in Schererville. Participate in the 2020 Census.

Everyone Counts in the 2020 Census

Starting in mid-March, households throughout Schererville will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information about how to respond to the 2020 Census. Where you are counted can shape your future and the future of our Town during the next 10 years.

For the first time the 2020 Census will give you the opportunity to respond by mail using the paper form, with a phone call or on the Internet. It takes about 10 minutes to complete the form. In addition, the 2020 Census online form and telephone line will be available in 13 languages. Language guides will be available in 59 languages other than English. Online video guides in 59 non-English languages will be provided to help people respond.

You should respond at the address where you are living or staying on Census Day – April 1, 2020. “The Census counts everyone where they live and sleep most of the

time, even if the living arrangements are temporary,” according to the Census website at www.census.gov.

After Census Day, Census Bureau workers will take in-person counts, primarily at group facilities and at residential locations that haven't responded to the census.

Census takers will visit homes in April to conduct quality check interviews, and then in mid-May to help collect responses from households that haven't responded.

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge including their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

Count yourself in the right place, once and only once

Some of us live in homes we own. Others rent homes or apartments. While in general we should count ourselves where we live and sleep most of the time, there are some specifics to keep in mind.

What if you recently moved?

Count yourself at your new address if you moved in by April 1, 2020, even if you received the 2020 Census form at your old address.

What if you are a renter?

Count yourself where you live. Even though you don't own the home or you rent an apartment, you need to participate. And don't forget your family and roommates who live with you.

What about a college student?

If you don't live in a dorm, count yourself at your off-campus address – even if you go to your parents' home for school breaks. This includes international students.

What about members of the U.S. military service?

If you don't live in military barracks and you aren't deployed or stationed outside the U.S., count yourself where you live and sleep most of the time, whether on or off base.

What about residents of a group facility?

Census Bureau employees will work with a representative from a group facility to ensure everyone there is counted. They may or may not ask those in that facility to complete an individual census form. Those group facilities include the following:

- College Dorms
- Military Barracks
- Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Facilities
- Group Homes
- Shelters
- Psychiatric Facilities
- Correctional Facilities

For more details, visit www.census.gov.

WHERE YOU ARE COUNTED REALLY MATTERS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SCHERERVILLE BY PARTICIPATING IN THE 2020 CENSUS



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