

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 3/11/2020

"Census 2020 in Sylvania"

The City of Sylvania has been working with the Federal government, and preparing for the 2020 Census by updating our new housing developments with them, for over a year. A complete and accurate Census is vital to receiving state and federal grants, especially for Sylvania with a growing number of residents. I encourage all our residents to participate in and respond to Census 2020.

Sixty years ago, the 1960 Census reported Sylvania's population had grown to more than 5,000 residents, officially changing Sylvania from a village into a city. The City of Sylvania has grown in every census since then, and will likely now exceed the 18,965 reported in 2010 Census.

Every ten years, the Federal government conducts a Census to determine the number of people living in the United States. Census forms are filled out by household, and this year you can answer online. Online and paper forms are available in more than 12 non-English languages and effective communication accommodations for the visually and hearing impaired are available. Everyone matters and everyone needs to be counted, including children.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. Every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census, mostly through the mail, or a census worker if their address is missed, new or doesn't respond.

The expected dates of receiving Census 2020 materials in the U.S. Mail are:

March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the Census
March 16-24	A reminder letter if you haven't responded
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before a follow-up in person by a Census worker

More than \$675 billion in federal funds annually are distributed to states, counties, and communities based on data collected by the census. Specifically, for every person not counted Ohio will miss out on \$1,814 per year for 10 years. Without an accurate count, money is lost or distributed to other communities.

The Census Bureau has a legal commitment to keep census responses confidential. Information will not be shared with local law enforcement, the FBI, or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Census is still scheduled to proceed despite the Corona Virus COVID 2019. The form should only take about 10 minutes to fill out and can be done online. Because online or postal responses are expected, no census worker contact will be needed.

Our community's economic growth depends on a complete count. Your Census 2020 participation is vital to Sylvania, and I encourage you to look for the materials in the mail and to respond!

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2020