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FRANKLIN



TIMES

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'Local Government 101' United States Census 2010 — It's In Our Hands



Residents have requested information on the workings of municipal government — an insider's view of Franklin Township in action. For that reason, various aspects of municipal government will be the focus of articles that have been titled: Local Government 101. If you find these articles helpful and have ideas and suggestions for future articles, call (732) 873-2500, ext. 239, or e-mail joyce.miller@twp.franklin.nj.us.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. The majority of the country will receive English-only materials. Households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual (English/Spanish) form. Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

We can't move forward until you mail it back.

It is important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the number of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public projects
- Emergency services

Participation isn't just important – it's mandatory.

Protecting Your Personal Information

Federal law protects your identity and the information you give us. We depend on your cooperation and trust, and promise to protect the confidentiality of your information. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections.

Private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish any of the following information:

- Names
- Addresses including GPS coordinates
- Social Security numbers
- Telephone numbers

The Census Bureau uses your information to produce statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

Questionnaire Assistance Center/Be Counted Site

The Council Office in the Municipal Building located at 475 DeMott Lane has been designated as a Census Questionnaire Assistance Center/Be Counted Site from February 26, 2010 through April 19, 2010. The purpose of the Questionnaire Assistance Center is to provide assistance to individuals who:

- Do not understand how to complete the questionnaire they received.
- Need language assistance to respond to questionnaire information.
- Need assistance in completing questionnaires due to factors such as low literacy skills, or physical challenges.
- Need a questionnaire because they did not receive one, or think they were not included on their household questionnaire.

The hours of the Questionnaire Assistance Center are as follows:

- March 1 to April 19 – Mondays & Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- March 1 to April 19 – Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

- February-March 2010**..Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- April 1, 2010**..Census Day
- April – July 2010**.....Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
- December 2010**.....By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
- March 2011**.....By law, census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

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Newsletter Recognized in State Contest

The Franklin Times has received the 2009 Special Recognition Award at the Rutgers University's 49th annual Municipal Public Information Contest, sponsored by the Center for Government Services at Rutgers University, the New Jersey Municipal Management Association and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. This is the second time in three years that the newsletter was recognized in this state-wide contest.

The award is in recognition of the "...municipality's overall public information program and the efforts made to keep the community informed of the activities undertaken by the municipality. These efforts are indicative of a jurisdiction that values the involvement of the members of the community in the process of governance."

Thank You Franklin!

Franklin Township residents donated a record number of gifts to **Operation Jersey Cares (OJC)** during the past holiday season Angel Giving Tree campaign! OJC helps the troops overseas, those wounded in combat, and returning soldiers. Thanks so much for your generous contributions!