



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

St. Mary's County Branch #7025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Make Your Voice Heard - Be Counted For 2020

Lexington Park, MD - The U.S. Census Bureau announced it is moving the completion deadline from Oct. 31 to Sept. 30. The new September 30 deadline leaves approximately one month for all responses. The 2020 Census is an essential issue that impacts everyone in St. Mary's County, as it determines how many teachers will be hired in local schools and how many nurses and beds will be in local hospitals. Hundreds of programs, including school lunches for students, SNAP benefits, Medicaid, highway and road planning, living assistance for seniors, and more - all depend on census numbers for funding. With this potential for change and assistance, it is increasingly important that we ensure all citizens of St. Mary's County are counted.

In the past the Lexington Park, 7th District, and Great Mills neighborhoods only had about a 50% submission rate, which leaves important demographic information missing, as well as negatively impacts the resources available for St. Mary's County. It is estimated that our county receives \$18,250 for each person who completes the Census. As stated above, this money goes to roads, education, health care and public works. If we do not complete our Census we stand to lose substantial money and resources for our community.

There is also an important political component to the Census, as well. The 2020 Census will determine how many representatives Maryland will send to Congress and how congressional districts will be drawn. State and local governments also use Census data to redraw state legislative districts. Increasing numbers in normally low Census submission areas will work towards a more fair representation. It has never been more important to ensure your voice is heard. Starting the week of August 9th, Census workers will be visiting neighborhoods to provide the opportunity for on site support. During this time, community members will still have a short window of time to fill out the forms either on-line or by regular mail.

Our community benefits from everyone being counted, and we have one chance in a decade to get it right. The 2020 Census impact on our communities and our nation is profound. It shapes everything from whether we have fair political representation in Congress to whether our roads, hospitals and schools have the funding they need to support our health and well-being for the next decade. A full, accurate count lays the foundation for a healthy democracy and communities where families thrive and flourish.

You can respond online, by phone or by mail for the 2020 Census.
Go to <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html> or call 844-330-2020.

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