



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 20, 2018**

## **FAYETTE COUNTY GEARING UP FOR 2020 CENSUS**

**Uniontown, PA** – Fayette County officials have already begun laying the groundwork for a successful 2020 Census and are encouraging citizens to get involved.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the nationwide Census, an official recording of the country's population, is conducted via a distributed survey form every 10 years.

The Census allows federal, state and local governments to conduct fair redistricting, provides statistical support for grant applications, helps communities plan for future needs and more.

Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Vince Vicites said having an accurate Census count is extremely important.

"That is why county commissioners will create a committee to maximize our efforts to ensure we get the most accurate count possible," Vicites said. "We're going to work with the U.S. Census Bureau to achieve that."

To form the Fayette County Complete Count Committee, commissioners are seeking between 20 to 25 volunteers from throughout the county to ensure all goals are met when the Census is conducted April 1, 2020.

Ideal committee candidates will be elected officials from Fayette's 42 municipalities; members of community organizations or faith-based groups; and education, business, social service, health and other professionals.

Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink said an accurate census is important because it influences how congressional seats are drawn and tax dollars are distributed, directly impacting the county.

"I ask that residents complete the form and complete it accurately," Zimmerlink said. "Otherwise, you are only hurting Fayette County."

According to George Washington University in Washington, D.C., major federal assistance programs which distribute funds based on Census statistics include:

- Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicare Part B
- Highway planning and construction
- Section 8 housing choice vouchers

- Title 1 grants for local education agencies
- Special education grants (IDEA)
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- National School Lunch Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Foster care
- Child care and development entitlement
- Health center programs (community, migrant, homeless, public housing)

Zimmerlink also encouraged county residents to apply for one of the many well-paying Census jobs that will become available throughout 2019.

Positions will include administrative managers, area Census office managers, IT managers, Census field managers, recruiting managers and more.

To apply for jobs or for more information, visit [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-JOB-2020.

Letters of interest for the Fayette County Complete Count Committee may be submitted to Chief Community Development Specialist Art Cappella by Dec. 7.

Letters may be mailed to the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development, 61 East Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401; emailed to [acappella@fayettepa.org](mailto:acappella@fayettepa.org); or faxed to 724-430-4029.

For more information on the Complete Count Committee, call 724-430-1211.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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