



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2020 CENSUS STILL UNDER WAY

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County officials issued a reminder this week that the 2020 Census is still under way in our communities.

Despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, which has hampered countless government practices on local, state and national levels, more than 60 percent of Fayette County citizens have completed the Census since April 1.

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.

According to state Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin, every citizen not counted is equivalent to a \$2,100 deduction from the overall funding earmarked for Fayette County.

Chief Community Development Specialist Art Cappella of the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development said encouraging the participation of those who have not yet completed their Census surveys is crucial to ensuring the county receives its fair share.

"Awareness is key. Motivation is key," Cappella said. "A complete count ensures accurate Census data that is critical for government programs, policies and decision making."

Through the Census, Fayette County Commissioners Dave Lohr, Vince Vicites and Scott Dunn hope to maintain the county's fourth-class status. Doing so will require increased participation from all communities and cooperation from nonparticipants during follow-up activities.

Census data is used in various ways, including determination of the annual distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds back to tribal, state and local governments.

It also helps forecast future transportation needs; determine areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans; plan and implement emergency response and other programs and services; design facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly and children; predict housing needs for all population segments; plan for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and more.

You can complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online, by mail or phone. Visit www.2020census.gov to do so.

All responses are confidential and protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. For more information about the 2020 Census, employment opportunities, or joining a committee, call 724-430-1210, ext. 4308.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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