



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2020

LAST CHANCE FOR 2020 CENSUS PARTICIPATION

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County residents have less than one week to participate in the 2020 Census, with a federal deadline set for Monday, Oct. 5.

According to U.S. Census data, 64 percent of Fayette County residents have been accounted for since April 1, despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

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 the state Department of Community and Economic Development, 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 it's not too late for everyone to participate.

"Our focus has been to fully count Fayette. Time is running out. It's so very important for those who haven't completed surveys to do so now," Cappella said. "It's quick and easy - just 10 minutes to complete - and the U.S. Census Bureau keeps your answers safe and confidential."

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 in the survey's final days.

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.

Cappella said those who respond to the 2020 Census will help to shape Fayette County's future.

"Remember, the Census touches every life, every day. When everyone is counted, Fayette communities can get the funding they need for things like healthcare, education, emergency services, roads, bridges and so much more," Cappella said. "Census data also helps determine the number of seats each state holds in Congress."

You can complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online at www.2020census.gov, by phone at 1-844-330-2020, or by mail.

All responses are confidential and protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. For more information, call 724-430-1210, ext. 4308.

“I’d like to reiterate that it’s not too late to be counted, so please take the time to do so,” Cappella said. “It really does make a difference.”

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

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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