

Participate

The decennial U.S. Census — the official count of everyone who lives in the United States — is taken once every 10 years at the beginning of each decade. Now is that time.

In the past few weeks, your household should have received information in the mail on how to complete the 2020 Census.

Did you fill out your Census form right away? Good for you.

Did you decide to wait until things are “back to normal”? I understand how the COVID-19 crisis can make everything else, including the Census, seem less important, but I encourage you to complete your form today.

It will only take about 10 minutes – you can do it online from home – and the benefits to our community will last for 10 years.

Many people are stepping up to help those in need. While the benefits of the Census are not as immediate as shopping for a neighbor or giving blood, participating does help those in need in the long run. Programs we are relying on today are funded based on our Census counts from 2010.

Among other things, Census counts are used to determine how federal funding is distributed. Idaho receives approximately \$1,475 per person counted, per year, for programs that impact education, housing, health, transportation, and more. For every person not counted, Idaho will be short-changed by \$14,750 over the 10-year period.

Completing your Census form online is quick, easy, and safe, but you can complete your form over the phone or by mail if you prefer. Regardless, it should take you less than 10 minutes.

Complete your form, find answers to FAQs, and learn what to do if you didn't receive, or lost, your notification to participate at www.2020census.gov. Learn more about the Census in the Treasure Valley at www.treasurevalleycensus.com. The decennial U.S. Census — the official count of everyone who lives in the United States — is taken once every 10 years at the beginning of each decade. Now is that time.

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Matt Stoll, Meridian