Census 2020: Ready, Set, Count!

by Cathy O’Shea, Treasurer

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: online, by phone, or by mail.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. A sample form is available at https://2020census.gov/. There are four household questions for each location:

1. How many people live in this house, apartment or mobile home?
2. Were people staying here that you did not count (visitor from another state)?
3. Do you rent or own this home?
4. What is your telephone number?

The form then has additional questions for each person in the home, primarily about demographics.

Unit Involvement

This month, instead of discussion questions, we would like the units to consider action items. What can you do as a group or individually to get people counted?

1. Visit www.census.gov and count yourself and everyone in your household by April 1.
2. Talk to everyone you know about the Census, ask if they have been counted and if they know how to be counted.
3. If people don’t know how to be counted, research this and follow up on what to do.
4. Visit https://wecountkingcounty.org/ to get materials for flyers to post in places you live, work, or visit.
5. Post that you have taken the Census on social media.
6. Who do you know that may need help taking the Census online? How can you help them? Public libraries will have internet access for the Census.
7. Who do you know that may not be able to get online? Print out a Census form and take it to them.
9. Who do you know that needs help taking the census in a language other than English? Encourage them to call to take the count with someone who speaks their language.
10. Go to the March 16 forum at Town Hall and learn more about which nonprofits may need help getting people to take the Census.
11. At your unit meeting, celebrate what it means to live in a country where EVERYONE counts, in so many ways!

I’ve been writing about the Census all year, and I hope you found it valuable and motivating. I hope to see you at the forum!