

2020 Census

Together, We Count! ¡Juntos Contamos!

The U.S. Census is conducted every 10 years and is designed to count every person living in the United States. Starting in March 2020, all residents will be asked to fill out a simple form that will count all the members of their household. Small, rural communities like Eloy, with a primarily Latino population, have always struggled to get everyone counted. Residents are sometimes uncertain if their information will be protected.

The City of Eloy is taking the lead in addressing this potential barrier. The city recently gathered trusted voices from the community and they have started a Complete Count Committee (CCC). The committee includes people who have been very involved in the community, from all walks of life, including Mayor Joel Belloc and Councilman Jose Garcia. This diverse group has one goal: to ensure that everyone in our community is counted.

The CCC has chosen a slogan for their efforts: Together, We Count! ¡Juntos Contamos! This slogan emphasizes the fact that a complete Census count must include people of all ages, races and ethnic groups, whether or not they are citizens. It is also a reminder that participating in the census is our right and our responsibility.

Many do not understand how important the Census is to our community. Here are some of the ways the results of the Census have a direct impact on all of us:

- The 2020 Census will determine how more than \$700 billion in federal government money will be distributed each year over the next decade to states and to communities, based on their population.
- For every Eloy resident, the federal government annually spends approximately \$3,000 in our community.
- Census data is used to determine where schools, roads, hospitals, child care centers, senior centers and other services will be built.
- Programs like WIC, SNAP, Medicare and school lunch programs all rely on Census data.
- Information from the Census is used to determine how many Representatives Arizona will have in the U.S. Congress. More Representatives equals more of our say in Washington.
- Owners of stores and personal services often use Census data to decide if they should locate their businesses here.

One of the biggest questions about the Census is: will my information be protected?

- **Yes!** U.S. law requires that respondent's personal information be kept confidential and cannot be used by a government agency or used against respondents in court.
- Personal Census information cannot be disclosed for 72 years, which includes your name, address and telephone number.
- Census Bureau staff who have access to personal information, are sworn for life to protect confidentiality and are subject to a \$250,000 fine and or up to 5 years in prison if they do not.

If you would like more information on the 2020 Census or how you can help Eloy to have a complete count, please contact Jerry Stabley at jstabley@eloyaz.gov or 520 466 2578.