



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOW TO AVOID CENSUS FRAUD and SCAMS

BOTHELL, WA (April 26, 2010) – Beginning May 1, census workers will be visiting households that did not mail back their 2010 Census questionnaires. Opportunists may want to take advantage of this once-a-decade national effort. To help residents avoid fraud and scams, here are ways how census workers can be identified:

- The 2010 Census workers will present residents a notice titled “Your Answers Are Confidential,” which explains the U.S. Code, Title 13, which guarantees the safeguarding and confidentiality of information collected by the Census Bureau.
- Questions asked by 2010 Census workers will be the same questions on the 2010 Census form.
- The 2010 Census workers will NEVER ask to come into your home.
- The 2010 Census workers will NEVER ask for money or donations, Social Security number, driver’s license number, bank account or PIN number, immigration or citizenship status.
- The 2010 Census workers wear a white ID badge with blue and red lettering.
- The 2010 Census workers may carry a black and white canvas bag that bears the Census Bureau’s name and logo.

Toll-free telephone assistance hotlines are available 7 days a week, from 8 am to 9 pm, in English and 5 other languages: English (1-866-872-6868), Spanish (1-866-928-2010), Chinese (1-866-935-2010), Vietnamese (1-866-945-2010), Korean (1-866-955-2010) and Russian (1-866-965-2010). Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can call the TDD number: 1-866-783-2010.

In the event residents want to verify that the census takers at their doors are legitimate employees of the US Census Bureau, they are encouraged to call the Seattle Regional Census Center at 1-877-471-5432. Residents also can ask census workers to provide them with a Local Census Office’s telephone number, which they can call to verify employment status. If residents feel threatened, they should call local law enforcement or 911.

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census takes place every 10 years. Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts. More than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed annually based on census data to pay for local programs and services, such as schools, highways, vocational training, emergency services, hospitals, unemployment benefits and much more. Learn more about the 2010 Census at www.2010.census.gov.

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Editor’s note: News releases, reports and data tables are available on the Census Bureau’s home page. Go to <http://www.2010census.gov/> and click on “Press & Media.” The Census Bureau’s Newsroom is at <http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/news/>.