

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person residing in the United States – and the **2020 census is here!** The information collected helps inform important political, economic and social decisions, including the allocation of **funding for key public services**, legislative redistricting and congressional representation.

In previous census counts, **New York State – and particularly Brooklyn – has been undercounted**, resulting in the loss of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. In fact, Brooklyn had the lowest count of any borough. Following the 2010 Census, New York lost two congressional seats.

Despite this pattern of undercounting, the federal government has cut the Census Bureau budget and reduced the number of field offices. In order to ensure everyone is counted, New York State has committed \$60 million to promote the census and assist with local outreach efforts.

Now is the time to get involved to make sure our communities are fully counted. You can join your local Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee (NOCC). My office can provide you with flyers and posters to share. Outreach through your building, library, school, house of worship and other places of trust will be effective.

The good news is that this year's census is safe, easy, and can be done online, on paper, or over the phone! If we can be of any assistance, please contact my office.

Completar el Censo es seguro, rápido y se puede hacer en línea, por correo postal o por teléfono. Si necesita ayuda, favor de llamar a mi oficina.

Sincerely,



Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly

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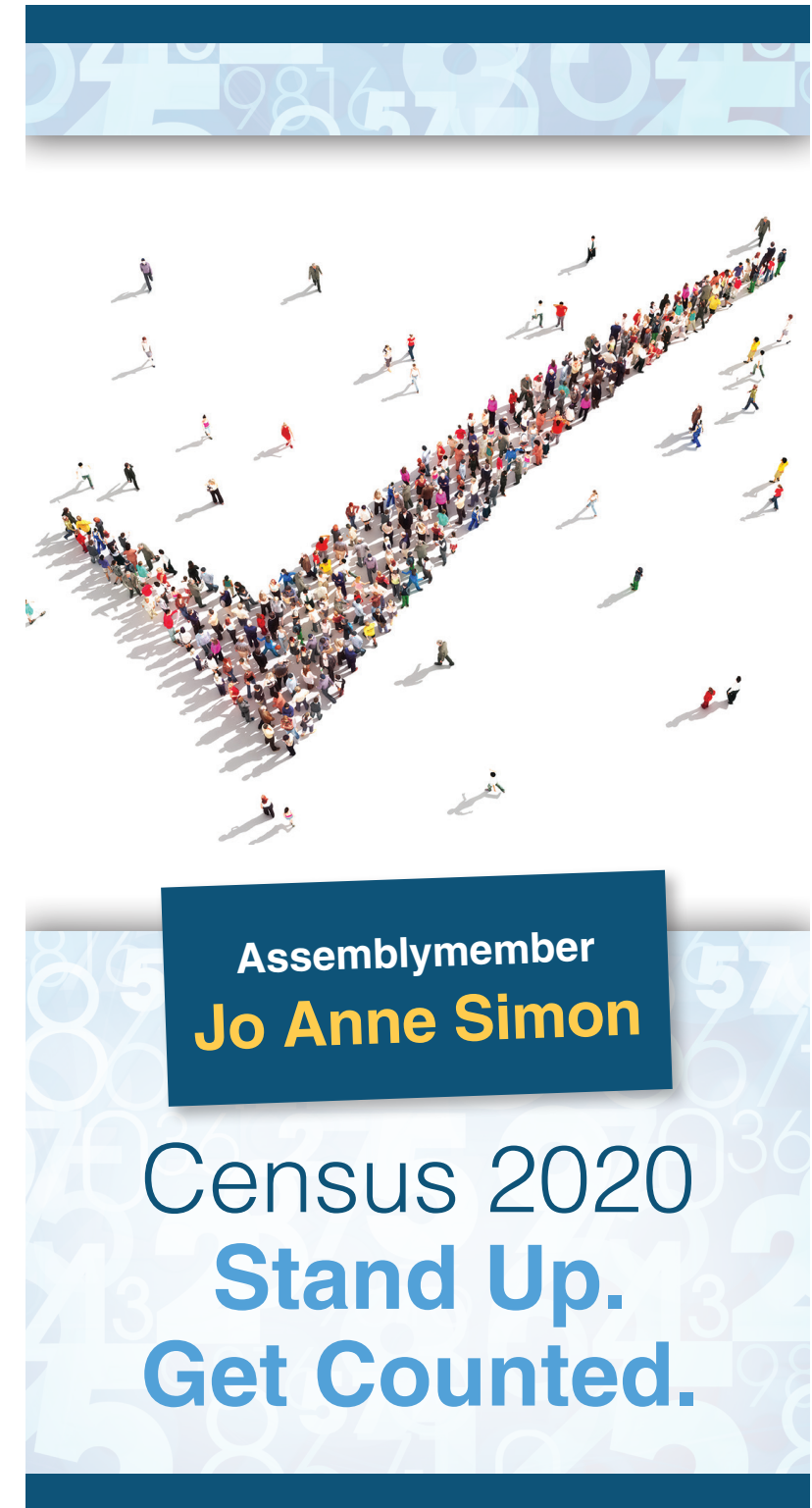
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Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

Look inside for important
information on the **2020 Census**





Frequently Asked Questions

How can I help make sure my community is counted?

You can get involved locally by working with community-based institutions that have created Neighborhood Organizing Census Committees (NOCCs).

These committees serve as “census ambassadors” and work to implement local outreach campaigns to raise awareness and increase participation rates. Visit nyc.gov/census to learn more about your local NOCC.

Why is it important to count everyone?

New York State receives \$53 billion each year in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, firefighters and emergency services, and more. Each person not counted costs the state over \$2,600 in federal aid each year.

Further, New York is expected to lose another two congressional seats. An undercount would mean not only losing those seats, but also losing critical funding for schools, health care and essential services.

Who is undercounted?

Historically, the census has undercounted young children, people of color, rural residents, immigrants, renters and low-income households at higher rates than other populations.

How do I fill out the form?

In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send mailings with instructions on how to fill out the form online. People who live in areas with low internet usage will also receive a paper form. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. It only takes around 10 minutes to complete!

Do I have to answer every question?

People who do not fill out every question on the census form will still be counted, but filling out the form as much as possible is encouraged. Anyone who does not fill out a form at all may receive a follow-up phone call or an in-person home visit by a Census Bureau employee.

Is my information protected?

Yes! Title 13 of the U.S. Code ensures all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony to disclose any confidential information, and the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to five years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000. The information collected can't be used to track people, determine eligibility for government benefits or be shared with immigration or law enforcement or credit card or bank information. The Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number. Additionally, **the Supreme Court struck down the federal administration's proposed citizenship question, so it won't be on the Census form.**

What can you do to help?

Get involved! nyc.gov/census

For employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, visit: census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html Income from temporary employment with the Census Bureaus will be exempt from income that determines a household's eligibility for most benefits.



How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

March 2020

Households will begin receiving Census Bureau mail that includes your Census ID and information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. The online link and phone will be available on March 12.

April 1, 2020

Census Day is observed nationwide. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020. If you are unable to complete the questionnaire online or by phone, the Census Bureau will send a paper questionnaire for you to complete and mail back.

May - July 2020

Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Explore the 2020 Census form at: 2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html

SAVE the DATE!

My annual senior resource fair is on Friday, June 12th from 10am - 2pm at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street.