



**Protecting Consumers
From Fraud and Scams**



Happy New Year

**2020 Public Service
Announcements.**



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As the Chair of the **Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection** and a member of the Consumer Affairs and Protection Committee, I am committed to safeguarding my constituents and the public against false information and unfair practices when buying and selling items. Here are a few safety measures and best practices to consider throughout the new year.

1. Writing out the New Year. When filling out the date on any document this year, 2020, you are advised to write out the date in its full format. For example, the date should be written as **01/01/2020** and **NOT abbreviated as 01/01/20**. By writing out the full year, the document is less susceptible to be edited to reflect an alternative, past or future year. For example, **01/01/20** could be forged to read **01/01/2016** or **01/01/2026**. This could render the document invalid or allow for fraudulent use of the document or check.

2. 2020 Census. The 2020 United States Census is a critical count of the country's population. The results of this census count will help to direct funding to state and local areas. **Be vigilant of counterfeit census documents that may end up in your mailbox, email inbox, social media profiles, or fraudulent phone scams.** Before you fill out any census documents this April, take a few moments and confirm that the document you are looking at is from the United States Census Bureau.

3. During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Money or donations.

One way to avoid all scams is by visiting the **U.S. Census Bureau's website (<https://my2020census.gov>)** and opt to fill out the survey online as opposed to in writing. If you suspect fraud, call [800-923-8282](tel:800-923-8282) to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

“Keeping your personal information and documents safe, secure and confidential is becoming increasingly difficult. While senior citizens are often the most targeted victims of scams, people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels are at risk. It is critical to remain aware of potential scams **keep your personal details confidential.**”



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Fall".

Assemblyman Fall

For more information about this or any other community issue, contact me at:

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