



## **U.S. CENSUS BUREAU EXTENDS 2020 DATA COLLECTION DEADLINES DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**BRYAN COUNTY, GA – April 29, 2020** – Georgia’s Complete Count Committee continues its push to get the state’s residents to respond to the Census2020. Currently, Georgia’s response rate of 49 percent trails the national response rate of 52 percent. The Count Committee is urging Georgians to go online and fill out their Census forms at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). The process is simple and takes less than 10 minutes.

“We are urging all Georgians to take a few minutes out of their day to impact the next decade of federal funding and representation in Congress and in Georgia,” said Rusty Haygood and Anna Wrigley Miller, co-chairs of the State Complete Count Committee.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau has modified its collection dates for Census 2020. Enumerators from the U.S. Census Bureau were supposed to start visiting all non-responsive households starting May 13. They will now visit those households starting Aug. 11 and will stop collecting data Oct. 31. The deadline to self-respond has also been extended to Oct. 31.

Census data is used by 316 programs to direct federal funding. These include Medicare and Medicaid, school lunches, health centers, and programs like WIC and SNAP – programs that thousands of people benefit from. When Census participation rates lag and communities do not claim their share of federal funds, the cost of these critical services will be borne with state and local resources.

Census data is also used to adjust political jurisdictions such as congressional districts or state house and senate districts. As the 2010 Census demonstrated, this does matter. Following the last official count, five rural state house districts and two rural state senate districts became

urban districts because of population shift. To ensure appropriate representation after Census 2020, residents must be counted to preserve their political voice.

“We urge Georgians to protect themselves and in-person response teams by filling out their Census online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), calling the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-844-330-2020 or mailing in their forms,” Haygood said.

For more information on the Census in Bryan County, please visit [www.bryancountyga.org/residents/united-states-census-2020](https://www.bryancountyga.org/residents/united-states-census-2020). For more information about Bryan County, please visit [www.bryancountyga.org](https://www.bryancountyga.org) or follow the county on their social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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