

Census Time at Hand—Make Sugar Land Count!

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

U.S Constitution, Article 1, Section 2

As you see, the U.S. Census was one of the very first items put into the U.S. Constitution by our founding fathers--and it's every bit as important now as it was then. Our participation in the 2010 U.S. Census can help create a better future for our country and our community.

The U.S. Census attempts to take an accurate count of America's population every 10 years. But the Census is more than just the number of people in our country. It's about schools, hospitals, senior centers, roads and highways, school lunch programs, faith-based initiatives and many other groups and programs that may qualify for some of the \$400 billion in grant funds the U.S. government disburses each year. Let's make sure Sugar Land counts and continues to share in the benefit of these federal funds.

More than 130 million addresses in the nation will receive a 2010 Census questionnaire in mid-March. Ten easy questions that will take just 10 minutes to answer. It's one of the shortest Census forms in history. And it is strictly confidential—no one, not even a federal agency or law enforcement entity—can have access to the information.

It's important to return the form promptly; addresses that do not respond will be visited by Census workers beginning in late-April. By summer, the complete count should be finished and the final tabulation underway. The final census Apportionment Count must be delivered to the President by Dec. 31, 2010, and by April 1, 2011, the local and state redistricting processes will begin.

"This is vitally important to our community," says Mayor James Thompson. "Sugar Land and the Fort Bend area continue to grow, so the federal funds we will seek will definitely help in multiple ways." Mayor Thompson has appointed a volunteer Complete Count Committee whose members are working hard to let citizens know about the importance of the 2010 Census and encourage all citizens in our diverse community to participate and "*Make Sugar Land Count!*"