



MAKE SURE YOU'RE COUNTED AS TAIWANESE IN THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS!

First of all, what is the Census? Every 10 years, the U.S. government counts and gathers basic information about the nation's population by mailing a short questionnaire called the Census Form to every household in the country. The law requires every person living in the household to be reported on the form; the law also protects the confidentiality of the information reported on the form. The 2010 Census Form will arrive in your mailbox sometime in March, and it is due back by April 1.

Why is the Census important? Generally speaking, the Census is important because Census data is used for Congressional reapportionment and redistricting; for planning transportation, education, health services, housing, and emergency services; and for allocating funds to community organizations. In short, it is used to track changes in the population and to assess the needs of communities.

For Taiwanese Americans, however, the Census is important for an additional reason: we are a severely marginalized community, and Taiwanese identity very often is not recognized as a legitimate identity. The Census is really the only opportunity we have to assert our identity and demonstrate our existence on a mass scale. If we do not identify as Taiwanese on the Census form, we will contribute to the perception that the Taiwanese American community is insignificant, and that Taiwanese is not a real identity.

So, when you receive your Census Form in March, please make sure that, for the question on race, you check off "Other Asian" and handwrite "Taiwanese" in the space provided. Doing so will help ensure that we are not invisible to those outside of our community for the next 10 years.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important effort. Please feel free to consult the attached FAQ for more information about the Census and how it works.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do non-citizens and international students have to complete the Census Form?

Yes. EVERY resident of the United States—citizen and non-citizen alike—must complete the form.

HOW and WHEN will I get the form?

ONE Census Form will be mailed to every household in MARCH 2010. There is a separate section on the form for every person living in the household. Roommates sharing a house or apartment must use the same Census Form even if they are not family members. Be sure to educate your roommates about the Census and make sure they do not throw away the form!

Students living in college dormitories and sorority and fraternity houses will be counted through the use of Individual Census Reports distributed to students by residential assistants and housing staff between April 1 and May 15, 2010.

WHEN is the form DUE?

The completed form must be mailed back to the Census Bureau in the pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope by APRIL 1, 2010.

How do I identify myself as TAIWANESE on the Census Form?

The RACE question on the Census Form includes several different Asian sub-groups. Taiwanese is not included. In order to identify as Taiwanese, you must select the "Other Asian" category and WRITE "Taiwanese" in the space provided.

What if I identify with more than one race?

You may select more than one race. For example, if you identify as both Taiwanese and white, you can check off "white" in addition to checking off "Other Asian" and writing in "Taiwanese."

What is Census information used for?

Census information is used to determine Congressional reapportionment and redistricting; to plan for transportation, education, health services, housing, and emergency services; and to allocate funds to community organizations.

How do I know that my information will be protected?

Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information, and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act, reinforce these protections.

Where should I go if I have additional questions?

For more information, visit:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/questions.php>

<http://census2010.tacl.org>

<http://taiwaneseamerican.org/census2010>