

Office of Administration



Mayor Mike Schaub

Town of Eatonville

Dear Community Member:

During these trying times when most of us are following stay-at-home orders to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, I wanted to draw your attention to a critical operation that is underway in our community.

That operation is the 2020 Census and every person in our community needs to be counted.

Last month, the U.S. Census Bureau began distributing invitations to participate in the census throughout the country. Many homes received their invitation in the mail. Some homes, primarily those with PO boxes, did not receive an invitation in the mail but had an invitation left at their home. Unfortunately, many homes with PO boxes did not receive their invitation because the Census Bureau had to suspend its field operations in the middle of March because of the virus.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to answer the census, whether you received an invitation or not. You do not need to wait for an invitation to answer the census.

There are three easy ways to participate in the census:

Answer online at www.2020census.gov

1. Call toll-free to 844.330.2020 (English) or 844.468.2020 (Spanish). Call centers are open from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.
2. Return a paper form via the mail (this option is only available if you received a paper form in the mail)

The census is critical to our community. Census data affect more than \$675 billion distributed by the federal government every year to the states; in 2018, Washington received more than \$16 billion in federal funding. Those funds are for critical programs like Medicare, the school lunch program, Head Start, transportation funding programs, and more.

Census data also determine the number of representatives each state will have in U.S. House of Representatives as well as affect our school districts and voting districts. Many of the nonprofits in our community rely on census data to apply for critical funding grants.

We need every person in our community to be counted. It takes about 10 minutes to participate but the impact the data will have on our community will last until the next census which will be in 2030.

I urge everyone to take 10 minutes today and complete the census. If you are afraid of answering the census let me reassure you that your personal information is kept private for 72 years and no one in the Census Bureau can release your personal information in accordance with federal law.

The census is easy, safe and important. Please make sure you are counted. If you have questions or want more information, please visit www.2020census.gov.

Thank you for your support and for helping make our community a better place to live!

Sincerely

Mike Schaub, Mayor