

Urgent! Encourage Everyone You Know To Complete Census 2020!

By Wendy Diller

The 2020 Census count comes to an end on Sept. 30, and EVERY response counts. While nationwide more than 82.4% of housing units in the US are accounted for, as of August 30, that rate is much lower in NY.

As we fight for a more equitable budget in New York and protest budget cuts, it so important to get the Census correct, especially now due to COVID-19 budget crashes. Every NY resident, no matter where they are residing right now, should complete and file Census forms so that New York receives adequate federal funding for education, Medicaid, hospitals, children's health insurance, senior care,

affordable housing, and more. The NYC Health Department uses census data in emergencies to determine responses.

The number of representatives we send to Congress is based on the Census count. As of now, NY is almost certain to lose at least one seat in the House of Representatives, and that number could expand to two seats if we don't get the Census right.

So far nationwide, 65% of Census responses have come from online, phone, or correspondence, while another 17.5% have come from on-the-ground legwork by field staff. And while US Census takers are making door-to-door visits to fill in gaps, NY has special problems because so many people, particularly in certain neighborhoods like the Upper West Side, have left the city due to the pandemic and may not receive reminders in the

mail or simply are too busy re-organizing their lives to think about something as basic as filling out a Census form, which takes five minutes to complete on line.

NYC's self-response rate is in the low 60s%. The city has organized several fun boosters to get people to pay attention to the Census as part of its "NYC Counts" initiative. You can find out about some of these [here](#).

The Federal Census Bureau began mailing letters to all U.S. households on March 12 explaining the census and the various ways of responding. The census asks for basic information about each person living at your address. The census does NOT ask about citizenship status or income, and it does NOT request social security numbers. All information is confidential and cannot be shared with any other entity. To complete the Census online

click [here](#). You can also complete the Census over the phone by calling 844 330 2020.

Julie Menin, Director of the Census for NYC, says,
“Together, as we weather this crisis, we can help New York City during its time of need.”