The 2020 Census

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: tallying up all the people living in the United States and recording basic information such as age, gender, and race. The Founding Fathers thought this data, called the Census, was so important they mandated it as part of the Constitution. In fact, the 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

In broad terms, the Census helps us see how our country is changing. It is the basis for our representative democracy. The results of the Census determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and it is used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. In addition, Census data helps ensure the equitable distribution of $675 billion in federal funds to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, disaster recovery initiatives, and other critical programs and services for the next 10 years.

The Census provides important data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and our community. To ensure ALL of us here in Rowlett are counted, we formed a citizen-led 2020 Census Complete Count Committee to both educate and promote participation among Rowlett residents.

I hope you will help our community by responding to the Census invitation coming in the mail soon, and tell everyone—your friends and family, your neighbors and co-workers—why it’s important that they respond, too.

Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian

City of Rowlett
4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088

972-412-6100
www.rowlett.com

The theme was ‘Roaring 20s’ for this year’s Chamber of Commerce Banquet. I was honored to be recognized with the Leadership Alumni of the Year Award!

l to r: Me, Councilmember Matt Grubisich, Allyson Grubisich, Judge Pamela Liston, Paul Liston, Councilmember Brownie Sherrill.

Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian
What Is the 2020 Census?

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). In mid-March, each home will receive an invitation to complete the 2020 Census—online, by phone, or by mail. Getting a complete and accurate census count is critically important—that’s why your response is required by law. If you do not respond, the U.S. Census Bureau will follow up in person to collect your response.

What questions are on the 2020 Census?

How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?
Here, you’ll count everyone living and sleeping in your home most of the time, including young children, roommates, and friends and family members who are living with you, even temporarily. This helps count the entire U.S. population and ensures that people are counted where they live most of the time as of Census Day (April 1, 2020).

Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020, that you did not include in Question 1?
Include all that apply: Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children; relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws; nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters, and people staying here temporarily. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone just once and in the right place. Everyone in your home who should be counted is counted—including newborns, roommates, and those who may be staying with you temporarily.

Is this house, apartment, or mobile home owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?
Is it owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)? Rented?
Occupied without payment of rent?
This helps produce statistics about homeownership and renting. The rates of homeownership serve as one indicator of the nation’s economy. They also help with administering housing programs, planning, and decision-making.

What is your telephone number?
The Census Bureau asks for your phone number in case there are any questions about your census form. They will only contact you for official census business, if needed.

You will then be asked a series of questions about each member of your household, including:

Relationships
Used to develop data about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that support families, including people raising children alone.

Sex (gender)
This data is used to create statistics about males and females, which can be used in planning and funding government programs. This data can also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

Age
The U.S. Census Bureau creates statistics to better understand the size and characteristics of different age groups. Agencies use this data to plan and fund government programs that support specific age groups, including children and older adults.

Race
Used to create statistics about race and to analyze other statistics within racial groups. This data helps federal agencies monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as those in the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

View a sample copy of the questionnaire.
A 2020 Census Timeline

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance.

2019

The Census Bureau opened more than 200 area census offices across the country. These offices support and manage the census takers who work all over the country to conduct the census. Census takers visited areas that have experienced a lot of change and growth to ensure that the Census Bureau’s address list is up to date. This process is called address canvassing, and it helps to ensure that everyone receives an invitation to participate in the census.

2020

January 21

The U.S. Census Bureau starts counting the population in remote Alaska. The count officially begins in the rural Alaskan village of Toksook Bay.

March 12 - 20

Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

March 30 - April 1

The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

April 1

Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you’ll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

April

Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

May – July

Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven’t responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

December

The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

2021

March 31

By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Census Takers in YOUR Neighborhood

Census takers play a critical role in the 2020 Census.

In May, they will begin visiting homes that haven’t responded to the census to help ensure everyone is counted. These census takers are there to help, and they are legally bound to protect your information. But that’s not the only role they play. You might see census workers in your neighborhood this spring and summer for a few different reasons:

• They are dropping off census materials.
• They are conducting quality checks related to the census.
• They are collecting responses for other ongoing Census Bureau surveys, such as the American Community Survey. (Please note: If you’re invited to participate in one of these other surveys, you’re still required to answer the 2020 Census).

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.
Thank you to the Rowlett 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

I’d like to personally thank those who have volunteered to serve on this important committee. They were charged with raising awareness and promoting participation among Rowlett residents through a variety of methods and channels. They’ll be visiting club meetings, churches and local businesses to encourage everyone to respond to your 2020 Census questionnaire.

Thank you:
- Debby Bobbitt (Rowlett Citizen)
- Elise Bowers (Representative from City of Rowlett)
- Lakisha Culpepper (Representative from Garland ISD)
- Veda Kull (Representative from Senior Advisory Board)
- Jerry Hickman (Rowlett Citizen)
- Lucia Massey (Rowlett Citizen)
- Robert McCrrier (Representative from Diversity & Inclusion Commission)
- Jeff Winget (Rowlett Citizen)

The 2020 Census marks the first time that you can respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail. Sign up for updates and to get a reminder when it’s time to respond.


Why is the 2020 Census important in Rowlett?

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities like Rowlett every year for the next decade. Plans and construction for highways. Grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems. Support for public safety agencies and families in need.

Or think of our local schools. Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, school lunches, and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to respond to natural disasters, and to provide housing assistance for older adults. Census results affect planning and funding for healthcare—including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, State Children’s Health Insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Census results affect our community every day.

2020 Census Day

Wednesday, April 1
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Rowlett Public Library

April 1 is Census Day and will be celebrated with events across the country. In Rowlett, Census representatives, interpreters, Rowlett 2020 Complete Count Committee and Rowlett Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board members will be on hand to answer questions and assist residents completing their Census questionnaire.