



# Census 2020 in Alameda County: What You Need to Know



The U.S. Constitution mandates that every ten years we take a count -- or a census -- of America's population. This means every adult, child, and infant in your household should be counted. Census data is used for two very important reasons:

- **Determining political representation:** each state gets a certain number of seats in the House of Representatives and the electoral college is based on state population size.
- **Distributing federal funding:** using population totals and other census data, the federal government allocates \$675 billion dollars to states every year. California receives \$76 billion through this distribution.

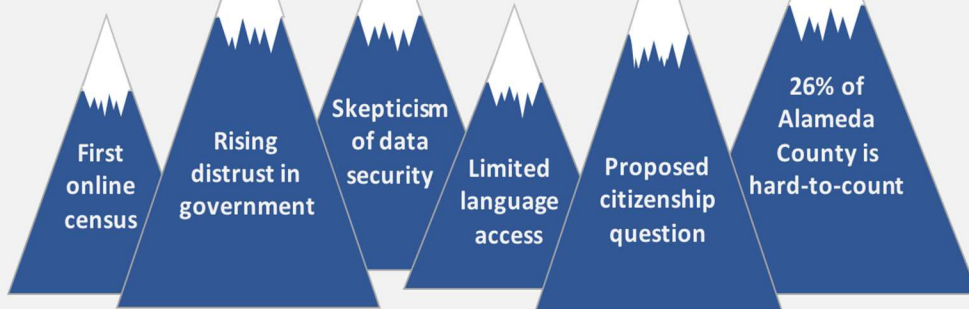
## The Census By The Numbers

Alameda County gets billions of dollars from the federal government for essential services -- healthcare, school programs, housing, transportation, social services and more -- based solely on the census count.

- Approximately **60%** of Alameda County's revenue comes from federal and state resources.
- For every person not counted, our community loses **~\$1,000** in funding per year for ten years.
- An undercount of only 6% means our community would lose **\$1 billion** over the next decade.

An **undercount** means fewer resources for everyone

## The Challenges of Census 2020



### Our hard-to-count populations:

- Immigrants
- People of color
- Young children
- Renters/frequent movers
- Low English proficiency households
- Large or overcrowded households
- Senior citizens
- People without high school degrees
- People with disabilities
- Households without computer or internet access
- People experiencing homelessness



## Addressing Concerns About Census Participation: The Citizenship Question

The census should count everybody. And yet, every census “undercounts” people of color, immigrants, and other hard-to-count populations. The danger of an undercount is worsened with Census 2020 because of the Census Bureau’s recent efforts to add a citizenship question, which is raising fears that Census data might be used to target people. **Here’s what you need to know: Census responses are confidential and there are very strong laws protecting your data.** Under law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s Census data with the public, state or local governments, law enforcement, or other federal agencies. Additionally, Census data can only be used for statistical purposes. If you have questions about the citizenship question or data confidentiality, Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus has attorneys who can speak with you about these issues free of cost. Please contact Julia Marks at [juliam@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:juliam@advancingjustice-alc.org).

# Our Community Counts • Our Community Belongs

For more information & to access our shared resources, go to [www.acgov.org/census2020](http://www.acgov.org/census2020)