



## **2010 Census Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Why should everyone participate in the 2010 Census?***

- Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, and more.
- Businesses use Census data to locate supermarkets, shopping centers, new housing and other facilities.
- The Census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the boundaries of legislative districts.

### ***How will the 2010 Census differ from previous Census efforts?***

- In the 2000 Census, one in six households received a long questionnaire asking for detailed socio-economic information. In 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire that is simple and fast to complete and return.
- More detailed information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

### ***Will the information the Census Bureau collects remain confidential?***

- Yes. Every Census worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of Census responses. Violation will result in a jail term up to 5 years and/or fine up to \$250,000.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

### ***Why are partners so important to the 2010 Census campaign?***

- The Census Bureau relies on partners including state and local governments, community and faith-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others to help explain the importance of completing the 2010 Census to people in every corner of the United States. This is particularly important in areas isolated by language or geography. By joining forces with partners, the Census Bureau has a far greater chance to reach every U.S. resident than by attempting this monumental task alone. As part of this effort, the City of Lakeport has partnered with the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census.

### ***How does Census data affect our economy?***

- Data on every subject and aspect of social, economic and cultural matters is distributed through a constantly growing group of data users - the general public, as well as governments worldwide. For example, this data forms the basis for the national unemployment rate, official poverty/income statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI), monthly housing statistics and other economic indicators.

### ***How does Census data affect our community?***

- Surveys undertaken by the Census Bureau provide vital information about emerging social problems, such as the condition of education in the United States, pregnancy and infant death, the prevalence of alcohol consumption and crime.
- The data also describes the health, housing, employment, unemployment, income and consumer expenditures of the population.