San Luis Obispo County is committed to counting our entire population, including seniors, immigrants and non-English speakers, children, and homeless individuals. A complete count will give us the data needed to provide fair government representation and vital funding to local programs, while keeping all information completely confidential.

How do you get counted?
Starting in mid-March 2020, each household will get a letter in the mail with information about how to fill out the Census. Most people will do it online, but the Census can also be completed by phone or by requesting a paper form.

One person should fill out the Census for the entire household, including renters and homes with roommates or multiple families. The U.S. Census Bureau will contact households that don’t fill out the questionnaire during the self-response period.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Census and why is it important?
Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau tries to count every resident in America, gathering important data for making congressional and local government districts and distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds to state, county, and city governments. The Census was first taken in 1790.

A correct count of San Luis Obispo County’s population is very important. The Census impacts housing, education, transportation, employment, healthcare, and public policy in communities throughout our county.

What kind of information will I be expected to provide?
The Census includes general questions about the number of people living in each household, including names, gender, age, and ethnicity. The Census questionnaire asks for people’s names to make sure each household member is counted only once. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information it collects and keep it confidential.

The Census will NOT ask for payment to fill out the questionnaire, your Social Security number, or financial information.

Will the 2020 Census include a question about citizenship?
The 2020 Census questionnaire will NOT include a question about citizenship status. For those who have concerns about opening your doors to Census employees, you can complete the Census online or over the phone.

For questions, please visit slocountycensus.org