Wednesday, April 1st
Census Day @ DPL
*Special Library Hours*: 8am - 7pm

Assistance available with filling out the online Census form:
*You MUST bring the code mailed to your home in order to fill out the form online.*

- Links to the online Census form on public use computers and catalog computers
- Library staff available to help
- Extra computer time added when needed
- April 1st, from 4pm - 7pm, a Spanish speaker will be available
- Between March 12th and April 30th: No DPL card necessary to complete your Census form online

Important dates.

- **March 12-20**: An invitation to respond online to the census will be mailed to all households.
- **March 16-24**: A reminder letter will be mailed.
- **March 25-April 3**: A reminder postcard will be mailed.
- **April 8-16**: A reminder letter and paper questionnaire will be mailed.
- **April 20-27**: A final reminder postcard will be mailed before we follow up in person.
**CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

- **Everyone counts.**
  The census counts every person living in Alabama once, only once, and in the right place.

- **It’s about fair representation.**
  Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to re-apportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats Alabama gets. We stand to lose a representative without an accurate count.

- **It’s in the Constitution.**
  The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

- **It’s about $13 billion.**
  The distribution of $13 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to our state’s, counties, and communities are based on the census data. That money is spent on schools, healthcare, hospitals, roads, and other vital programs.

- **Taking part is your civic duty.**
  Completing the census is mandatory: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!”

- **Census data is being used all around you.**
  Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

- **Your privacy is protected.**
  It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

- **2020 will be easier than ever.**
  In 2020, you will be able to complete your census online at census.gov, by phone, or by completing the traditional paper form.

**Here is the Timeline**

- **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 and at DPL! (see above) By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
- **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.

The Census Bureau released the sample copy of the 2020 Census form. The questions are easy to answer and focus on the number of persons living or staying in a household and the basic demographic information about those persons. [Click here to learn more about the questions and view the sample form.](https://www.census.gov)

Information on this page taken from the Alabama Counts! Census page. [CLICK HERE](https://www.census.gov/alabama) to visit that site for more great information.

You can also [CLICK HERE](https://www.census.gov) to visit the federal census site.