



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Marion County Office of Public Information

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MARION GEARING UP FOR 2010 CENSUS

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 28, 2009) – It determines the number of representatives each state has in Congress, helps estimate the number of people displaced by national disasters and helps local, state and federal governments accommodate the services needed by citizens. The 2010 Census is coming soon, and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and local community leaders are gearing up to make sure every Marion County citizen is counted.

County leaders are forming a 2010 Census Complete Count Committee to aid the federal government in spreading the word about the census. Local government and community leaders will meet for the first Marion Complete Count Committee meeting on Nov. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the McPherson Government Complex (601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala). During the meeting, attendees will learn more about the census and how to reach out to local citizens and make sure every person is counted in the upcoming census.

Through the committee's efforts, officials want to spread the message about the importance of all residents completing a census form. Census officials will mail the census form to all households in Marion County and across the nation starting in March 2010; the official Census Day is April 1, 2010. Starting in May 2010, census workers will begin following up with people who didn't respond to the mailed census questionnaire.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States. The U.S. Constitution mandates it. Census data are used to distribute congressional seats to states, to allocate more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and make decisions about what community services to provide.

The 2010 Census represents one of the shortest in history and consists of only 10 questions, taking approximately 10 minutes to complete.

For more information on local census efforts, contact Marion County's Census team leader, Marion County Growth Management Senior Planner Chris Rison, at (352) 438-2600 or christopher.rison@marioncountyfl.org. For more information on national census efforts, visit www.census.gov/2010census.

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