

## Important Census Information From Congressman Keith Ellison

Written by

Thursday, 18 February 2010 14:00

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Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau takes a snapshot of America's population as required by the U.S. Constitution. The census establishes how many people reside within the nation's borders, who they are, and where they live. The results help determine the number of your representatives in government, and how federal funds are spent in your community on things like roads, parks, schools, and public safety.

### Why you should fill out your census form...

- Are you tired of waiting in traffic? You should know that federal transportation funds are distributed based on census data. If your child attends a crowded school, remember that census data is used to fund new schools. Hesitant to list your race on the census form? Remember that census data is used to allocate funds to train emergency operators, fire departments, and other emergency services with culturally specific training and interpreter services.
- The allocation of federal funds for 170 programs is based upon census data. Help Minnesota receive a fair share of this funding by submitting your census form.
- Current demographic estimates show that Minnesota may be close to losing one of its eight congressional seats (and one Electoral College vote for President). If we undercount our population by as few as 1,100 Minnesotans, experts say we could lose one-eighth of our representation to a state like Missouri, Texas, or California. You can help prevent this from happening by completing your census form.

### Did you know?

- Census data is protected by federal law. Any personal information you provide to the U.S. Census cannot be shared with anyone, including federal agencies.
- You are not required to be a U.S. citizen to submit a census form.
- Many private businesses use census data when determining where to locate a business or sell their goods. If Minnesota does not accurately count all residents, the lower population numbers could mean the loss of potential jobs and a variety of goods or services.

### Remember "10-10-10 in 2010"

The census form only takes 10 minutes to complete, it is 10 questions, and your responses affect your community for the next 10 years.

<http://2010.census.gov>

### Meet Census Director Dr. Robert Groves

My office is hosting a Census Event for the whole family at Midtown Global Market from 6:00-8:00 PM on Thursday, February 18th, 2010. This event is planned to provide information about the 2010 Census and fun for the entire family!

### Census Taker Job Opportunities

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses. Best of all, census takers work right in their own communities. Starting pay for census takers in Minneapolis is \$16.50 an hour.

All census takers must be able to speak English, but people who have bilingual skills are

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needed in communities where a large number of residents primarily speak other languages. So if you have the appropriate language skills and cultural knowledge to communicate well in your community, you should definitely apply.

To find out more or to apply, please contact the Minneapolis Census Office at 612-216-6170 or you can visit [www.2010CensusJobs.gov](http://www.2010CensusJobs.gov) .