

Dear Macomb Resident:

The annual decennial census will be held in March and April of 2010 and your cooperation as a citizen is needed.

The importance of the next Census count to Macomb is hard to over estimate. To put it bluntly, a lot of money is at stake for the entire community. The more accurate the Census count is, the better all segments of the city will be served.

The first and original purpose of the Census is to determine the distribution of seats in the U. S. House of Representatives. However, the Census directly affects us at the local level in several ways including determining: State of Illinois house and senate district boundaries; calculation of the city and county share of state motor fuel and income tax revenue; Title I grants to educational institutions; Head Start program funding; public transportation monies; funding for elderly care programs; assistance to persons in poverty; amount of grants to public libraries and eligibility for a number of state and federal grant or loan programs.

Another very important use of census data is by site consultants and private corporations in researching population counts and demographic trends to determine locations for new stores, shops, offices, distribution centers, plants, housing, health facilities, etc. Governmental agencies at all levels also refer to census data when considering plans for future land use, streets, public utilities, parks, transportation routes and emergency services.

The bottom line is that to be undercounted in the decennial Census is to be shortchanged in a variety of ways. Understanding this fact, the Macomb City Council passed a proclamation in June that declared the importance of the Census and called for the formation of a local Complete Count Committee (CCC). (See City web site for a link to the Proclamation).

We urge you to do your part by simply filling out the shortened questionnaire when you receive it and returning it promptly. All of your answers are kept absolutely strictly confidential.

Any questions concerning this correspondence should be addressed to Community Development Director Ed Basch at 309-833-4944 or cdc@cityofmacomb.com.

Thank you.

Mick Wisslead
Mayor, City of Macomb