



# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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## 2010 Census

### Everyone Counts In Lakewood

by Dottie Buckon

Everyone Counts in Lakewood: The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The census population totals determine

which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal

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of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

The 2010 Census Count for Lakewood: The City of Lakewood has experienced a steady decline in population over the last 20 years. The population of Lakewood in 1990, as reported by the census, was 59,718 and the 2000 census reported a total population of 56,646. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lakewood's estimated population in 2006 was 52,194. The 2010 census is a critical time for Lakewood to make certain that everyone is counted. Should our total population fall below 50,000, Lakewood would lose entitlement status to directly receive significant federal funding that supports road repair, social service program support, economic development programs and Title I funding for our school children.

All Census information is Strictly Confidential: All responses

provided on the 2010 Census questionnaire or to a Census Bureau employee are confidential and protected under federal law. The information cannot be shared with any person or agency including federal and law enforcement entities, the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service or even the President of the United States. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years or both.

**10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete:** With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questionnaire assistance centers will be located in Lakewood for confidential help in completing your forms.

For more information visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)

To suggest ways to help count everyone in Lakewood or to volunteer your time email [HumanServices@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:HumanServices@lakewoodoh.net)