

STATE REPRESENTATIVE/DEPUTY SPEAKER

MICHELLE L. COOK

Four Reasons Why You Should
Fill Out Your Census Form

1. Money For Our Communities

An accurate count is critically important for federal funding. More than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed annually using census numbers – that can mean about \$2200 per person in Connecticut. This money is crucial to state and local programs affecting education, housing, job creation, health care and much more. We need everyone counted so our state receives its fair share.

2. Representation And Power

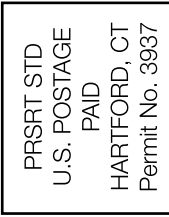
The census determines how many members of Congress we will have, and federal, state and local redistricting is based on how many people are counted. This directly affects whom you can vote for and who will represent you over the coming decade, and how much influence the state and your town will have when important decisions are made affecting all of us.

3. Resources

Government, businesses, non-profits, foundations and others all rely on census data to allocate funds, make decisions affecting healthcare, economic development and jobs, deliver services, react to emergencies, develop housing and so much more. An accurate count directly affects people's jobs, health, safety and support in times of need.

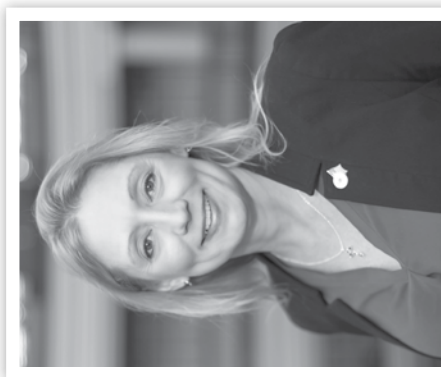
4. It's Safe and Easy!

The privacy of your responses is protected by federal law. Your data is confidential, and can only be used for statistical purposes. It cannot be shared with immigration officials/ICE, law enforcement, other federal agencies or anyone else. You and those in your household will be asked about your names, address, sex, age, race and ethnicity, whether you own or rent, and relationship to each other. That's it. You will never be asked for your social security number or for any financial or political information or to make a donation. Plus for the first time, you can respond to the 2020 census online.



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PROUDLY SERVING TORRINGTON'S 65TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you find this mailer informative. I wanted to give you more information about the 2020 census and about programs that can help you lower costs and save energy during cold months.

Although the census count begins March 2020, preparations have begun to educate and recruit people to prepare, inform and direct the state's effort for the census. The census count is critical to our community. This is the first census where you will be able to use an online method to be counted. Make sure you're counted in the census next year!

Winters in Connecticut are cold and some families have a hard time paying for heat. There is help out there. Questions? Call me at 860-240-0160. We want to help you make it through the winter months.

Sincerely,



ENERGY SAVING TIPS

TURN DOWN YOUR THERMOSTAT

Find a comfortable temperature and keep it fixed there. Remember to turn it down at night and when you're out.

OPEN & CLOSE YOUR BLINDS

Make sure your blinds and curtains are open during the day, allowing sunlight into the house. Close blinds at night in order to trap heat.

WINTERIZE YOUR WINDOWS & DOORS

Use plastic film to cover your windows. Inspect door frames to make sure no drafts are coming into your home.

CHECK YOUR FURNACE

Clean your air filters so that your heating system works better.

USE YOUR CEILING FAN

Set your fan to blow air towards the ceiling. This will allow you to heat a room evenly.

CONTACT YOUR UTILITY COMPANY

Many offer tips by phone, email or website. Some will send a representative to your home. Call Eversource (800-286-2828) or Connecticut Natural Gas (860-524-8361) for more information.

GET AN ENERGY AUDIT

Energize CT offers free home energy audits for qualified people. Visit www.energizect.com to learn more.

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HEATING HELP

Are you struggling? Know your rights. You can't get your heat shut off in winter. Landlords are required to keep all heating, plumbing, electricity and appliances on. You or your landlord may be responsible for water, depending on your contract. Heating must be kept at 65 degrees or above all winter.

READ MORE ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS:

In Spanish: ctlawhelp.org/es/derechos-de-los-inquilinos-informacion-general

In English: ctlawhelp.org/en/tenants-renters-rights-laws

If you have a utility shut off, contact your landlord by phone and in writing. If your utilities are not turned back on, contact your local Health Department or Housing Code Office, and the police department.

WHO CAN HELP

Connecticut has heating help for people who use natural gas, electricity, oil, propane, coal, wood and wood pellets. To avoid a winter shut-off, most gas and electric utility companies offer a Winter Protection Program to low-income residents who are late paying their heating bills. For help, call United Illuminating 1-800-722-5584 / CT Natural Gas customers 860-524-8361.

ARE YOU A HOMEOWNER OR RENTER WHO PAYS SEPARATELY FOR HEAT?

If you live in a vulnerable household (one or more members are age 60 or older, are disabled, or are under age 6) then you may qualify for up to \$725 in winter heating help. If you live in a non-vulnerable household you may qualify for up to \$670 in winter heating help.

ARE YOUR HEATING COSTS INCLUDED IN YOUR MONTHLY RENT?

You may be eligible for between \$150 to \$190 in winter heating assistance depending on your household's income and size.

More about renting rights and responsibilities is here:

www.jud.ct.gov/Publications/hm031.pdf



OPERATION FUEL

Operation Fuel helps families who may have no other way to pay energy costs. It is income-based, and helps anyone with an energy shortage. To apply for help, go to www.OperationFuel.org or call 2-1-1.

Certain veterans and their families may be eligible for emergency help that may include utility or energy bills. For more information, call the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund at 844-454-8900.

**TO APPLY, CALL
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
203-756-8151**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
WWW.CT.GOV/STAYWARM**