

NEWS RELEASE



DANIEL HARRIGAN, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit and City of Akron Announce 2020 Census Partnership

On October 26, 2018, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and City of Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan held a press conference to announce their Complete Count Committee (CCC) partnership for the 2020 Census. As members of a CCC, Summit County and the City of Akron will collaborate with other municipalities, various County and City entities and community leaders to help the U.S. Census Bureau get a complete count of Summit County and Akron.

The U.S. Census Bureau advises municipalities to form Complete County Committees to develop and oversee a census awareness campaign. The County and the City will work together with diverse community partners to meet four goals: communicate the importance of the census through local messaging; raise awareness of the census throughout the County; motivate every household in the County to participate in the census by completing the questionnaire thoroughly and in a timely manner; and increase the County's self-response rate.

Census data is used to draw federal, state, and local legislative districts, distribute over \$675 billion annually in federal funds, forecast future transportation needs, plan for hospitals and nursing homes, and more. In 2020, residents will be able to respond online, by phone, or by mail, and online forms will be available in multiple languages.

“Ensuring a complete census count of Summit County is vital to the next 10 years of growth and development in our community,” said Executive Shapiro. “The census is used to determine how many voices we have in the state and federal legislatures, and how much funding we receive for a

variety of public programs. I encourage everyone to participate in the 2020 Census and to make sure your friends and family know we are counting on them to participate as well.”

The County and the City will both allocate funding to hire a coordinator who will lead the day to day activities of the CCC. Executive Shapiro and Mayor Horrigan anticipate strong support and participation from the community, and plan to build a coalition of leaders from education, business, healthcare, the faith community, and others. The CCC will utilize local knowledge and existing resources to educate Summit County residents about the census.

“We will not be able to meet the goals of this Committee on our own,” said Mayor Horrigan. “We all have a stake in this and we truly need widespread community support in gathering an accurate census count. Subcommittees will be created to assure strong grassroots participation. This includes locating all members of our community - senior citizens, veterans, the homeless, ex-offenders, new Americans and students– reaching and engaging everyone is vital to this process.”

The Complete Count Committee members are Ilene Shapiro, Dan Horrigan, Helen Humphrys, Rick Justice, Dr. Sadie Winlock, Jim Mullen, Judi Hill, Dr. John C. Green, Don Mullen, Pamela Hickson-Stevenson, Brian Gage, David Hamilton, Liz Walters, Margo Sommerville, Jeff Fusco, Derran Wimer, David James, Dr. Cliff Deveny, Grace Wakulchik, Dr. Brian Harte, Malcolm Costa, Dawn Distler, Omar Banks, and Steve Millard. U.S. Census Bureau officials will provide training to CCC members on December 12, 2018 and local events will be planned following this training.

To learn more about the 2020 Census and Complete Count Committees, visit https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete_count.html.



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