



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: The next U.S. Census will start in less than a year on April 1, 2020 and will be the first ever to rely heavily on online responses; and

Whereas: An accurate census count is critical for determining how much federal funding Washington state receives and for ensuring fair congressional representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and in redistricting state legislatures, county and city councils, and school and voting districts; and

Whereas: Washington state received \$16 billion in 2016 through federal programs based on 2010 census data for a number of critical services including schools, health care centers, roadway and transit improvements, energy assistance, children's health insurance, technical education, and community development block grants; and

Whereas: An accurate census count informs vital decisions about housing needs, human services, emergency preparedness, utility and transportation investment, business growth, and other key programs and services; and

Whereas: The biggest challenge facing the Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups, disproportionately affecting newly immigrated residents; and

Whereas: The Census Bureau reached a 74 percent mail-in participation rate in 2010, relying on trusted partners such as civic, social and religious organizations; and

Whereas: The census is a massive undertaking that requires collaboration and a broad range of partnerships to achieve a complete and accurate count; and

Now, therefore, I, John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as:

2020 Census Awareness Month

and reaffirm Bellevue's commitment to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a complete and accurate population count in 2020.

John Chelminiak, Mayor
Mayor