

The Census Confidentiality Protection Pledge:

For more than 200 years, the United States Constitution has required an enumeration of all persons residing in the United States every ten years.

The decennial Census required by the Constitution can only succeed if all households participate by completing accurately the census questionnaire.

In 21st century America, households must be confident that information provided to the Census Bureau as part of the Census is confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than producing anonymous statistics. They must be assured that the Census Bureau will not share any data pertaining to a specific individual or household with any other government agency, court of law, or private entity for any purpose, or release any data that could undermine the confidentiality of personal information.

Federal law provides strong and robust protection of Census data confidentiality, including serious penalties for any violation.

Nonetheless, high levels of distrust in government – whether or not such distrust is warranted – reduce confidence among some members of the public that federal law can guarantee the confidentiality of census data.

Therefore, it is important to bolster confidence in census data protection in order to facilitate a successful 2020 Census.

The organizations and individuals subscribing to this Census Confidentiality Protection pledge believe that protection of census data confidentiality is essential to a successful Census and to a successful and healthy United States.

These organizations and individuals pledge to work together from outside the federal government: 1) to monitor for any breach of census data confidentiality, and 2) to use their collective power and influence to prevent, block, and/or bring an end to any breach of the currently-established guarantee and understanding of the confidentiality of data collected as part of the 2020 Census, and 3) to emphasize publicly the critical importance of continued Census safety and security.

We pledge to use transparency, publicity, investigation, and/or litigation to challenge any breach or threatened breach in order to ensure that all of us can remain assured that personally identifiable census data will not be misused and will remain confidential.