THE FIRST CENSUS

• Conducted in 1790
• Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson was the Chief Administrator of the first census
• 3.9 million people counted
2010 Census: A Snapshot

- **What:** A count of everyone in the United States.
- **Who:** Everyone in the United States must be counted – both citizens and noncitizens.
- **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population.
- **When:** Census forms will be delivered or mailed in mid-March 2010. Census Day is April 1.
- **How:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires as soon as possible after receiving them. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. After that, census workers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.
Complete and Accurate Count

Why is a complete and accurate count important?

- Every year, the federal government distributes more than $400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data.
- Census data affect college and university tuition grant and loan programs.
- Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior centers and more.
- Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
• **March-July 2009**
  – Approximately 140,000 census employees checked 145 million addresses by walking almost every U.S. street using secure GPS handheld computers.
Census Timeline

• **March-April 2010**
  - Census forms and postage paid envelopes mailed to households
  - Extra Census forms will be available at select public sites.
  - Questionnaire Assistance Centers will be set up to help people complete the form.
  - April 1, 2010 is Census Day.
Census Timeline

• May - July 2010
  – Census employees visit households that didn’t return questionnaire by mail.

• December 31, 2010
  – By law, the Census Bureau delivers the populations counts to the President.

• February-March 2011
  – Redistricting data delivered to states
• **2000 Census**
  – 66% response rate for Paducah-McCracken County (percentage of households that returned their questionnaire initially)
  – KY return rate 66%
  – U.S. return rate 67%
  – For Paducah-McCracken 49,100 people (includes City of Paducah and County population with density of at least 1000 people per square mile)
  – If reach 50,000 then achieve Urban Area Status.
• **2010 Census**
  - Recently created Complete Count Committee to help spread the word about the ease and importance of filling out the census questionnaire.
  - Members include representatives from City and County governments, Housing Authority, County School System, and City School System. Will ask Chamber of Commerce, WKCTC, and other organizations to help spread the word.
• **Road Tour**
  – 13 vehicles started touring the U.S. on January 4
  – Vehicle will be in Paducah on Wednesday afternoon, March 3 at McCracken County Library parking lot.
  – Interactive panels explaining census importance, the questions, and history.

• **Kentucky Census Quilt**
  – McCracken County quilt block showing Quilt Museum
2010 Census Form

- **10 Questions:** shortest form in history
  - # of people living at residence on April 1, 2010 (2 questions)
  - Name, age and date of birth, gender, race, Hispanic origin, do you own or rent, telephone number, do you sometimes live somewhere else (such as college housing, military, etc.)
  - Complete the form for each person at residence
  - Does NOT ask for Social Security Number.
2010 Census Form

• **Confidential**
  – By law the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities
  – All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.
Census Job Opportunities

Temporary census jobs are available with flexible schedules.
$11.25 per hour

Call 1-866-861-2010
For information on the 2010 Census, visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) or [www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov)