



2020 Census deadline extended, Council encourages Navajo People to continue responding

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PHOTO: The U.S. Census Bureau was ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Lucy H. Koh to remain open for 2020 Census data collection activities throughout the month of October.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Council encourages all Navajo citizens to continue responding to the 2020 Census after being informed by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (NNDOJ) that the U.S. Census Bureau was ordered to continue operations for the month of October by U.S. District Court Judge Lucy H. Koh.

Anyone can complete the 2020 census online at my2020census.gov, via phone by calling 844-330-2020, or by mailing a completed paper questionnaire.

Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon (Baahaali, Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) stated, “Navajo People face challenges brought about by the coronavirus pandemic on a daily basis. This action helps us by allowing more people to self respond. We want to see that all Navajos are counted.”

As of Thursday, Oct. 1, the Navajo Nation’s self-response rate remained at 21.4 percent, which is 8 percent lower than the Navajo Nation’s total self response rate from the 2010 census and significantly lower than the 66.5 percent national self-response rate.

The Navajo Nation joined a lawsuit Sep. 1 shortly after the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce announced the “Replan” of Census activities on Aug. 3. That replan imposed a new data collection deadline of Sept. 30 in response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. However, the Navajo Nation and other national organizations contended that the Census Bureau and Department of Commerce would cause a significant undercount of minority populations, like the Navajo Nation.

Council Delegate Edison Wauneka (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) and Vice Chairman of the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission said, “I am encouraging each and every Navajo person to use this extension to help positively impact future of the Navajo Nation by self-responding to the 2020 Census.”

The Navajo public is reminded that the U.S. Census count is performed every ten years and is distinguished from the tribal census enrollment program.

More information can be found online at 2020census.gov.

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