

Dear Town Supervisor Green:

I hope this email finds you safe and well. I am reaching out to you about the Census 2020 response rates in your community and to ask for your assistance to ensure a full population count.

Yesterday, we released new information on OSC's website dedicated to encouraging a strong Census response. The Census began gathering information from residents in March. As of July 13, New York State has a response rate of 57.6 percent, which is below the national self-response rate of 62 percent. A low response may have negative impacts on federal and state funding, and representation in government.

This is a difficult time for local governments to manage their many priorities, given the health, safety and economic risks related to the pandemic. The Census will have a significant and long lasting impact on New York's finances and governmental representation. I ask you to consider any additional effort possible to raise awareness and encourage your residents to respond. If you are already working to improve the Census response – Thank you! Together, we can make a difference.

Starting August 11, the Census 2020 will begin a new phase – the follow-up interviews with non-respondents. A strong response before this date best positions New York for a complete final count.

We understand that local governments are currently facing very challenging situations and OSC is here to help. If you have any questions, please contact our office at LocalGov@osc.ny.gov or by phone – 518-408-4934 or toll free 1-866-321-8503.

Sincerely,

Elliott Auerbach

Deputy Comptroller

Office of the New York State Comptroller
110 State Street - Albany, NY 12236

