



NEWS RELEASE

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Wakulla County Complete Count Committee Celebrates Wakulla Census Rates

Crawfordville, Florida – In June 2009, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners approved the formation of a Complete Count Committee. The Committee began meeting in August 2009 with the goal of increasing the Census participation rates in Wakulla County. Currently, Wakulla County has a participation rate of over 70%, which is a 13% increase over the participation rate in 2000. The Committee’s local catch phrase “You Matter-Help Wakulla County Count” is part of what the Wakulla County Complete Count Committee, chaired by County Commissioner Alan Brock, is celebrating.

“The increase in participation we are seeing is directly related to the hard work of our Complete Count Committee”, stated Commissioner Brock, “Volunteers and County staff like Pamela Joy, Scott Joyner, Lila Strickland and Deana Jones who went above the call of duty to help promote the census, and other Committee leaders such as Jimmie Duggar, School Board, Mickey Cantor, City of St. Marks, Page Evans, City of Sopchoppy, and Tammie Barfield, Wakulla News” are few of the leaders of Committee making these results possible. In addition, the Committee has worked closely with Evelin Ramirez with the Census Bureau who is in charge of helping to increase participation in our region. Currently, Wakulla County has the best participation rate in Florida’s Big Bend, and Ms. Ramirez’s support and advice has managed to make these improvements possible.

The Complete Count Committee held several contests to help promote the census and all of the prizes, almost \$2,000 worth, were donated by local businesses. The Committee was allocated \$1,500 to help promote the census, and will be returning half of that sum back to the County.

Over the next three months census workers will be knocking on doors of households who have not yet returned their census forms. Beginning in May, census workers are instructed to visit a house three different times to encourage participation. It is not too late to return your census form. If you have not received a census form, you can obtain the form at the Wakulla County Public Library or you can call 1-866-872-6868 and request a form be mailed to you. Forms were not mailed to post office boxes, so citizens without a residential mailbox need to request a form, or wait for a visit from a census worker.

Census data provides numerous benefits to the people of this nation and the places we live. For example:

- Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments;
- Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to tribal, state and local governments based on census data – Over 10 years this is over 4 Trillion dollars; and
- Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools and community centers.

These and many other benefits are possible with an accurate count in 2010. Participating in the census is one of best ways the people of Wakulla County can contribute to society and make a lasting difference. For more information, visit www.2010census.gov and don't forget "You Matter- Help Wakulla County Count!"