CENSUS 101
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

City of Watsonville
EVERYONE COUNTS

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.
Census data determine how more than $675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.
After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.
Completing the census is required: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!”
Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.
Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.
In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.
YOU CAN HELP

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.