

Make sure you are counted in the Census 2010

Census 2010 is coming to a mailbox near you. Every 10 years, as spelled out in the U.S. Constitution, there is a count of every man, woman and child in the country, both citizens and non-citizens.

The outcome of this count means a lot to all of us, including dollars and cents. The government uses the Census figures to determine how \$300 billion of federal spending will be spread around the country.

Every person missed means money that doesn't come in to Merced or to California.

Esta en nuestras manos

Censo 2010. 10 Preguntas que haran mucho por ti. En marzo del 2010 llegara el Censo.

Al contestarlo, das un gran paso para tener representacion en el Congreso y obtener mejores recursos para tu comunidad.

Tu information es confidencial y esta protegida por ley. Cuando llegue, llenalo y envialo en confianza.

The Census data is used to figure out where to put schools and hospitals, job training centers and roads. Census data is also used to determine the seats in the House of Representatives.

For Merced, the new Census could have a significant impact. The City's population according to the 2000 Census was 63,893. The state Department of Finance estimates we have 80,542 as of January 2009. That's an increase of 16,649 people since 2000.

The 2010 Census contains only 10 questions and the Census Bureau figures it will take about 10 minutes to complete. If you don't return the survey, a Census worker will visit your house.

All answers are confidential and cannot be shared with anyone, not even other federal agencies or law enforcement.

Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including addresses and ownership status of a residence, as well as the names, genders, ages and races of people living in the household. Some households will be asked to fill out a more detailed questionnaire.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS
United States[®]
**Census
2010**
www.census.gov

Don't fall victim to a scam artist pretending to be a Census worker

It didn't take long before scam artists decided there was money to be made with the Census. Some have made fake badges and gone visiting homes, asking for personal information such as Social Security numbers, so they can steal your identity.

There are also people "phishing" and using other online schemes to steal information so they can obtain credit cards and other goods in your name.

Phishing is the criminally fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, social security numbers, bank account or credit card details by

posing as someone trustworthy.

Phishing is typically carried out by email and it often directs users to enter sensitive information at a fake website that looks and feels almost identical to the legitimate one.

The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via email or the Internet.

You may receive an email from the Census Bureau regarding your participation in a survey, however:

✓ The Census Bureau **does not** request detailed personal information through email.

The Census Bureau **does not** send email requesting PIN codes,

passwords, Social Security numbers, nor similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

If you receive an email or find a website you suspect is falsely representing the Census Bureau:

✓ Do not reply or click on any links within the email.
✓ Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain code that could infect your computer.

Forward the email or website URL to the Census Bureau at iso.fraud.reporting@census.gov.
✓ After you forward the email to the Census Bureau, delete the message.

You will not receive a confirmation email after sending the information, however, the Census Bureau will investigate the information and notify you of its findings.

The Census Bureau can use the information, URLs and links you forward to trace the hosting website and alert authorities to help shut down the fraudulent site.

If you have questions regarding the legitimacy of a survey questionnaire received in the mail, a phone call or visit by a Census Bureau employee, or other concerns of a **non-cyber** nature, please call 818-992-3530.

Merced City Council

Mayor Bill Spriggs
Council members:
Bill Blake
John Carlisle
Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Noah Lor
Josh Pedrozo
Mary-Michal Rawling

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834 or writing to Council members at the Civic Center address below.

Council meetings

The Council usually meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org. Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, the Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 19 instead of Monday.

Contacting us

The Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th St.
Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except holidays.

Call us

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
City Clerk	388-7100
Airport	385-6873
Code Enforcement.....	385-6861
Finance	388-7900
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel.....	388-7100
Planning Department.....	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours	385-6905
Parks/CommServices	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....	385-6891
Police Department	385-6912

Ask the City: Why does a new signal take so long?

Ask the City is an ongoing column answering questions that have been submitted to us by mail, email or phone. Readers can submit their questions to the addresses in the column on the left.

I read that it took the City more than 3 years to get the traffic light put in front of the College. Why in the heck does it take so long to put one light in?

Anonymous

The construction for the stoplight at Yosemite Avenue and Stadium Lane in front of Merced College didn't take long. The City approved the bid in August and the light was stopping traffic by December.

But, the hang up with many signals is getting all of the approvals needed. Because we used money from the State, Caltrans had to approve all of the plans, and that took two years of back-and-forth to get the OK on everything.

That does not mean we didn't engineer it



The new traffic signal at Yosemite Avenue and Stadium Lane.

correctly. There are a number of examples where one Division of Caltrans will OK a set of plans while another Division will say "no," creating delays in getting approval.

Fireplace rules in effect

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has a "Check Before You Burn" program in effect from November through February.

The program prohibits fireplaces and wood stove use — including pellet stoves — on days when air quality is expected to be bad unless that is the only source of heat in your home.

Burn status is available at www.valleyair.org, by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO or in the local media.

Evening television newscasts usually include the Burn Day status.

MLK Day parade, celebration; City offices closed for the day

City offices will be closed for the MLK Day holiday, Monday, Jan. 18. All residential refuse collection will be delayed by a day, so the usual Monday collection will be on Tuesday and Tuesday collection will be Wednesday.

The 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March will begin at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18, at 24th and MLK Way near the Amtrak station.

The march will end at the Fairgrounds where there will be a community celebration of his life and works.

Think Green

Got an iPhone? Recycle your old cell phone

Ideas from the Merced County Association of Governments

Old mobile phones can be turned into AT&T at the Merced Mall, Best Buy, Goodwill, Staples, Wal-Mart, or the Merced County HHW Facility.

Mobile phones that still have their charger can be donated to the Area Agency on Aging (209-385-7550). These phones are given to seniors to allow them to make emergency 911 calls.

There are also places for all your dead batteries. Take all old household batteries to the Merced County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Highway 59 landfill. There is no charge for dropping them off.

If the batteries are rechargeable, take them to any Radio Shack. Best Buy and Target accept NiCad batteries (in toys and watches).

Lowe's accepts rechargeable batteries from items like power tools.