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## You Deserve to Be Counted

Dear Friends,

With the 2010 Census forms arriving this month, it's critical that all Ohioans are counted. Our government uses the Census to assess need and allocate resources. More than **\$400 billion** each year is allocated to states based on Census data.

That money determines the resources, services, and funding for a diversity of programs – from economic development for small businesses to public safety and transportation infrastructure for counties and municipalities. It determines funding for children's health and education programs like the State Children's Health Insurance Program and Head Start. It determines funds for housing services for the elderly and the disabled.

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It's estimated that Ohio could lose \$12,000 per person over the next ten years for each Ohioan not counted in the Census. That means if we have just a 2 percent undercount from the last census, our state could lose \$2.7 billion in critical funds from the federal government over the next ten years. If we experience a 5 percent undercount, that total value of lost federal funds would increase to \$6.8 billion. Click [here](#) for county-by-county info.

We are all aware of the surge in families who are facing economic hardship – who were once living the middle class American Dream. Too many families are now saddled with rising health costs and are seeking job training and foreclosure assistance. We've also seen local and state budgets facing devastating shortfalls.

An accurate Census count is critical to ensuring needed relief for these families. It's critical for the budgets of cities and counties across Ohio. Ohio cannot afford to lose federal funding because of inaccurate information about the numbers and needs of Ohioans.

The U.S. Census Bureau has opened 18 local offices across Ohio. By peak census time, approximately 18,000 people will be employed in our state to conduct census operations. Peak hiring for many of these jobs will take place in the spring. Ohioans can learn more about these jobs by visiting <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/> or by calling 1-866-861-2010.

It's as important as ever to remind Ohioans that even if they are in temporary housing or facing foreclosure – they must still be counted. The Census counts where you are now – so that assistance is available to you when you need it. And the information collected is only used to produce government statistics. The Census Bureau must follow strict confidentiality requirements – including that they strip data of identifying information – and answers provided cannot be used against respondents by the federal government.

This year's census form is the shortest in history with just 10 questions that should take only 10 minutes to answer. By simply answering a few simple questions, you can make sure Ohio gets its fair share from the federal government.

Federal and state resources should not overlook the very populations they are meant to serve. The Census is critical to ensuring our state can promote economic competitiveness and meet the needs of Ohioans who are struggling. It will help ensure that Ohio receives the resources it needs rebuild our economy. I encourage all Ohioans to complete their forms and mail them in on time. Now, more than ever, Ohio is counting on it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments, concerns, or questions by visiting [www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown



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### Senator Brown's Offices

**Cleveland**  
1301 East Ninth Street  
Suite 1710  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
p (216) 522-7272  
f (216) 522-2239  
Toll Free  
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

**Columbus**  
200 N High St.  
Room 614  
Columbus, OH 43215  
p (614) 469-2083

**Washington, D.C.**  
713 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
p (202) 224-2315  
f (202) 228-6321

**Cincinnati**  
425 Walnut Street  
Suite 2310  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
p (513) 684-1021  
f (513) 684-1029  
Toll Free  
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

**Lorain**  
205 West 20th St.  
Suite M280  
Lorain, OH 44052  
p (440) 242-4100

f (614) 469-2171  
Toll Free  
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

f (440) 242-4108  
Toll Free  
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

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