



## HARRISONBURG & ROCKINGHAM ARE COUNTING ON YOU FILL OUT THE 2020 CENSUS!

The census is conducted every ten years in the United States. Mandated under Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the census provides data necessary to determine how people will be represented in state and federal government. The purpose of the census is to get an understanding of the population within the United States. The framers of the Constitution also meant for the census to provide a form of political empowerment of the people over government.

More info: [JMU.edu/civic](https://www.jmu.edu/civic)



# 2020 CENSUS: IT'S ABOUT MONEY & POWER!

## Why the Census Matters (in brief)

The number of residents in states determines congressional representation. The data gathered from the Census is used to redraw Congressional and state legislative districts, school districts, and voting precincts. Census data also guides decisions on how to distribute funding by the federal government. JMU students are counted in Harrisonburg. A complete count is important because it will guide decisions about **student loans & Pell Grants**, our campus voting precinct, and other decisions like **bus routes** in Harrisonburg and **attracting businesses** to the area. Faculty and students also use census data for **research**, so a complete count is important for using evidence and drawing accurate conclusions.

## Where You Count

- **ON CAMPUS** If you live on campus or in JMU-owned housing, JMU will include you in "Group Quarters." You will work with someone at JMU Residence Life to complete the census. Also, tell your guardians not to count you in their household.
- **OFF CAMPUS** If you live in off-campus housing or if you're a student who typically lives in off-campus housing but are not there because of temporary closures due to COVID-19 responses, use your school address where you would have been on April 1. Coordinate with your roommates and designate one of you to complete the form for ALL of you at <https://my2020census.gov/>. Talk to your roommates about the Census and make sure everyone in your unit is counted. If you have an uncomfortable roommate situation....tough, but talk to your roommates. It's important that you're counted in Harrisonburg.
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** If you're an international student studying in the U.S. this spring, you will be counted in the Census.
- **COMMUTER** If you're a commuter you are counted where you live. If you live with a guardian, they count you. If you live on your own, please fill out the form where you live!
- **STUDY ABROAD** If you are going to be studying abroad in Spring of 2020 and out of the country for **less than six months**, fill out the census when you are back in the United States using your campus address. You will not be able to complete online from abroad.