

United States[®]
**Census
 2010**



Our Role in Sunshine Census 2010

■ *By Thayumanasamy Somasundaram,
 Member, State-wide Complete Count Committee.*

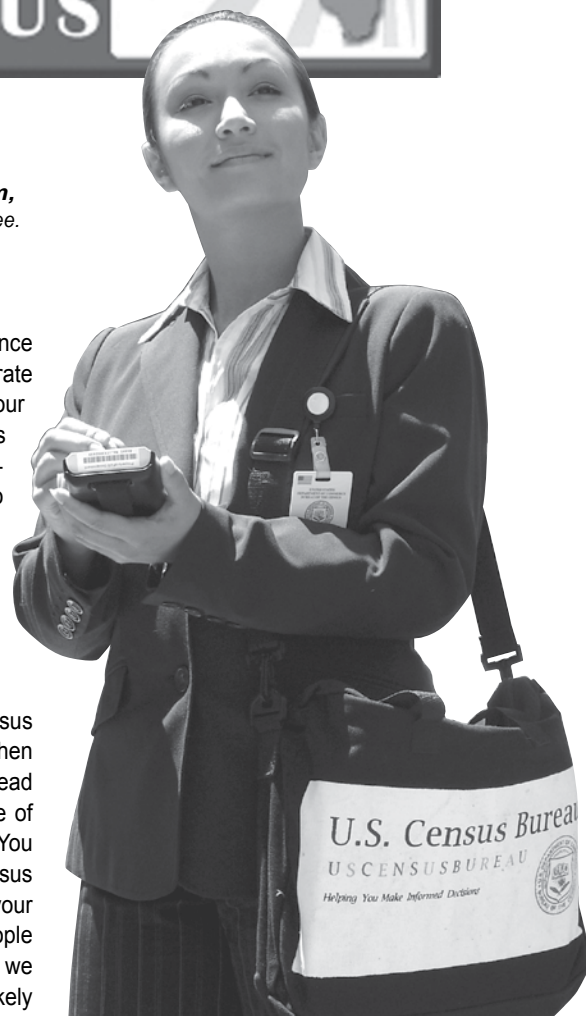
Counting everyone living in Florida is not only a big but an important task. So in April of next year that is exactly what we have to do for the constitutionally mandated Census 2010; count all people living in Florida irrespective of their age, race, language, ethnicity, and citizenship status. The United States government uses the Census data to allocate funds (approximately \$300 billion) for education, public transportation, programs for the elderly, emergency food & shelter, and empowerment zones. So an accurate count will guarantee that our state will receive its correct share of the federal funds.

Approximately 19 million people are now living in our Sunshine state and our population has increased by about 3.5 million during the last decade. Since the last Census 2000 there has also been an increase in the percentage of minorities like Hispanics and Asian Americans mirroring the increasing diversity of our state. With the increased diversity comes the challenge in reaching out to hard-to-count communities like new immigrants, students, and new ethnic minorities.

As a member of community-based complete count committee of the Sunshine Census 2010, I need your help in reaching out to all the members of the Asian communities.

Please spread the word about the importance of Census 2010. Inform people that accurate count will bring needed federal money to our state. Assure people that Census data is very secure; no one except you have access to your data. Census data is also confidential; no court of law can access your individual response. Census Bureau does NOT share your individual responses with any other government agency – not law enforcement agency, not immigration agency, IRS, etc.

I also urge you to participate in Census 2010 by promptly filling out the form when they arrive in mail in mid March 2010. Spread the word! Discuss about the importance of Census 2010 in your community events. You can also invite people from the US Census Bureau (www.census.gov) to address your community's concerns. The more people are aware of the census, the more likely we will have an accurate count and more likely our comparative response rate will be higher than the last census (Florida's comparative response at 63% was below national average during Census 2000). For more information, please visit: www.sunshinecensus2010.com or www.census.gov/2010census. ☎



Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, who lives in Tallahassee, is a member of the Community-based committee of the Complete Count Committee of Sunshine 2010 Census. He can be reached at: GenSecretary.ialth@gmail.com.