

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon County Has Highest Census Response Rate In The State

Hunterdon County presently has the highest Census response rate in the state, at 71%, Freeholder Board Deputy Director Susan J. Soloway reported at the May 19th Board meeting,

Soloway said, "The high response rate is reported by the Hunterdon County United Way which is partnering with the Census program. It is extremely welcome news and I congratulate our residents. However, we should not rest on our laurels, more people need to respond, our goal should be 100%.

Remember, the population count made through the census is critical to ensuring the county receives its fair share of funding. The census effects the amount of state and federal funding for things like infrastructure aid, our schools and community mental health services. The count also affects the number of Congress members and electoral votes from each state."

Soloway continued, "The Census information is especially important for the senior population, 65 and older. The count ensures federal funding for programs and services for the next decade and includes funds for new hospitals, long-term care facilities and senior centers."

"The count is not yet complete, and workers continue to gather data. It's not too late to respond and be counted. So, if you haven't yet completed your census form, please do so soon. Information on how to respond is available on the County website," Soloway concluded.

For more information about the Census, and how to respond, copy and paste the following website into your browser: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/planning.htm>