

The Census 2010 Project is now in the process of soliciting job applications from La Plata County residents to fill a pool of eligible potential census workers. As the census process progresses through the spring individuals from this pool will be offered one of several well-paying positions assisting in the effort to see that every person residing in our county as of Census Day April 1 has been counted. The League of Women Voters of La Plata County urges you to take up this challenge and help get the best possible count. Most of the effort will take place evenings and weekends; so, if you have another job, you will likely still be able to accommodate a part-time position with the Census. If you are bi-lingual, you are especially needed; but there are many spots for English-only speakers. The strategy is to have neighbors counting neighbors.

The first step of the hiring process is to call the toll-free jobs line; 1-866-861-2010 and arrange for a local interview. You will then take a short test, which can be retaken if necessary. If you are nervous about taking a test, more information and a practice test are available on the internet at www.2010censusjobs.gov. When you pass, you join the database of folks ready to be called up as opportunities present themselves. You will receive paid training at the time you agree to a particular position.

There are a number of reasons for making an extra effort to count our resident population accurately. Each person missed means an average of \$1000/year less CO and our local governments receive in federal funds. The count also allocates the number of Congressional representatives accorded to CO and therefore, the number of electoral votes CO gets (plus two for our two Senatorial seats) in presidential elections for the next 10 years. Additionally, the number and geographic distribution of our residents helps align all elective districts right down to the local level according to precepts of fairness developed by Congress and the courts.

This is a crucial matter for La Plata County and for CO. We need you to help out if you can.

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