

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 1, 2019**

**Dallas County Launches New “Dallas County Counts” Website and Twitter,  
and Discusses 2020 Census Efforts Underway**

*Hundreds of Millions in Federal Tax Dollars Are at Stake for Dallas County in the 2020 Census*

Dallas, TX – With Census Day exactly one year away, Dallas County rolled out its Dallas County Counts website today (<https://www.dallascounty.org/2020-census>); this will be a resource for Dallas County leaders and residents to obtain information about the 2020 Census. Residents can also get updated information on the new twitter handle @DallasCoCounts.

*“We are working with our cities and private partners because we recognize it will be harder than ever to get a complete Census count. There are always hard-to-count populations like, for example, children under five years of age. Now, with the Trump Administration’s focus on immigrants and the uncertainty around the Administration’s inclusion of a citizenship question, hundreds of thousands of our residents will feel pressured to skip the Census.*

*“44% of children in Dallas ISD are English Second Language learners, and one in four Texas children are from mixed-status families, where at least one family member is undocumented. Dallas County will be particularly impacted by the Administration’s actions because we are a very diverse county. It is critical that we all work together on a local level with a consistent message:*

- *The census determines our communities share of federal funding for schools, healthcare and other services;*
- *Filling out the census is an important and safe activity for all;*
- *People involved in the taking of your personal information cannot share that information with any other branch of government;*
- *Sharing personal information subjects violators to a \$250,000 fine and/or up to five years in prison.*

*“We need you to get counted. This isn’t about politics. It’s about money. Every person undercounted in the county will cause our residents to lose \$15,000 in federal funding over the next ten years. Are you in?”* **said County Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins.**

As the 9th most populous county in the country, and one of the most diverse, Dallas County will be particularly impacted by the 2020 Census. The State of Texas in general has a larger population of hard-to-count communities than most other states. Dallas County in particular is particularly at risk of having tens of thousands of families go under counted.

The leaders of local government in Dallas County recognize that with a diverse county with many hard to count areas, working together is critical. They’ve formed a Dallas County

Counts committee of employees, mayors and the County Judge to work together and to promote best practices.

Private sector partners and philanthropy are also pitching in.

*“The North Texas Commission is taking the lead across the 13 county regions to advocate and share census information with local government and business. This is a critical Census for our region and everyone must be counted. We look forward to working with Judge Jenkins, Dallas County Counts and other regional leaders to get a complete count for North Texas,”* **said Chris Wallace, President/CEO North Texas Commission.**

*“The 2020 Census will shape Texas’ future for the next decade in terms of our political power and the corresponding funding to fuel our state. With our shared goal of a thriving North Texas for all, we are excited to see philanthropy help stand up this public-private partnership and support our coordinated efforts over the next year,”* **said George Tang, Managing Director Educate Texas at Communities Foundation of Texas.**

County Judge Jenkins will continue to convene roundtable meetings of the mayors and city managers who lead the 26 cities and towns in Dallas County. The Dallas County Complete Count Committee, which is composed of local business and community leaders, working closely with Dallas County Cities, will coordinate efforts to advance a complete and accurate count. Judge Jenkins will also be working with the North Texas Commission, Community Foundations of Texas and others to reach out to county leaders in our region and across Texas to support similar efforts in the region and state.

For more information and continuous updates, visit: <https://www.dallascounty.org/2020-census> and follow the Twitter handle: [@DallasCoCounts](https://twitter.com/DallasCoCounts)

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