

# Agenda Item Number 11.b

## Census Programs

**Presenter:** Byron Vanderpool

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

The 2010 Census is about to get underway. Earlier updates have described the wealth of programs set up for this decade's counting effort. This memo will cover three outstanding issues.

By now each city and the county should be participating in the Complete Count Program. The Complete Count Program is focused on traditionally "hard-to-count" segments of the community, including transient and homeless communities and non-English speakers, as well as rural and small-city residents who use post office boxes and do not receive street-address mail delivery. The Census Bureau's budget for staffed Questionnaire Assistance Centers, as well as for self-serve "Be-Counted" drop-boxes, has been significantly increased due to an injection of stimulus funds, and we hope that a number of these sites can be established throughout Lane County.

For more information, please contact Bill Clingman at (541) 682-4548 or [bclingman@lcog.org](mailto:bclingman@lcog.org), or Ann Mortenson at (541) 682-4373 or [amortenson@lcog.org](mailto:amortenson@lcog.org).

With regard to the PO Box issue under the Complete Count Program, unfortunately there is no national agreement between the Census Bureau and the US Postal Service to ensure census questionnaires are delivered to each post box. Florence was told by their postmistress that they could do an "occupant" mailing and have a census form placed into each post box for about \$2,500. This is an alternative cities may wish to consider

The 2010 Census added a new "Field Canvas" program. In this program, an attempt was made to have GPS equipped census staff physically visit every address

in the nation. Approximately 18 months ago, LCOG provided the Census Bureau an updated list of Lane County addresses to assist in this project. Unfortunately the field personnel did not manage to physically visit each address and have subsequently decided to remove any addresses from the list that were not located in the field. We have just received a list of 11,000 Lane County addresses the Census Bureau wishes to delete from our master list. This could have a serious deleterious impact on Lane County jurisdictions. We are currently in the process of appealing this determination.

Feel free to contact LCOG staff if you have any questions about any Census programs or activities. Please have a look at our website for a brief summary of Census-related activities here at LCOG: <http://www.lcog.org/news.cfm>