

# Officials Urge Residents to Complete Census Forms



**Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar was joined by County officials and Mayors across Macoupin County urging residents to return census forms. Participants included Circuit Clerk Mike Mathis, Sheriff Don Albrecht, Regional Superintendent of Schools Larry Pfeiffer and representatives from the Macoupin County Mayor's Council including Carlinville Mayor Robert Schwab, Bunker Hill Mayor Raymond Chapman, Girard Mayor John M. Lutz and Richard Ficker representing the City of Staunton Mayor John Willmon**

Carlinville - With the 2010 Federal Census just around the corner officials from across Macoupin County are urging complete participation in the census among County residents.

Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar, Circuit Clerk Mike Mathis, Regional Superintendent of Schools Larry Pfeiffer, Sheriff Don Albrecht and representatives from the Macoupin County Mayor's Council gathered to urge everyone in Macoupin County to fill out and return census forms that will be distributed in the coming weeks.

"The message is very simple," said Chairman Manar, "filling out your census form and mailing it back is a small act of citizenship that will have a positive impact on your city, your county and your school district."

Officials said that a complete count of the residents of Macoupin County is important because vital funding for local government programs, including our school districts, relies almost completely on information gathered by the census.

"Everything from accessing grants that help provide police protection to determining how money is distributed between Chicago and Downstate Illinois for road maintenance are determined by the census," said Circuit Clerk Mike Mathis, "that's why we are asking for people to stand up and be counted."

Regional Superintendent of Schools Larry Pfeiffer noted that funding for programs that are directly allocated to school districts in Macoupin County are based on data collected from the 2010 Census.

"If our population count isn't complete, our school districts won't receive funds they rightfully deserve," said Pfeiffer.

Sheriff Albrecht said that vital public safety grants that provide funding to the Macoupin County Sheriff's Department on an annual basis are also dependent upon data gathered from the Census.

Representing the Macoupin County Mayors Council were Carlinville Mayor Robert Schwab, Bunker Hill Mayor Raymond Chapman, Girard Mayor John M. Lutz and Richard Ficker representing the City of Staunton Mayor John Willmon.

According to Manar, during Census 2000, 72 percent of households nationally returned their census forms in the mail by the April 2000 cut-off. Officials are challenging residents of Macoupin County to take an active role in citizenship by participating in the census.

Manar said the census is completely confidential and information contained on the census form is protected by federal and state law. To view a list of 25 ways Macoupin County local governments can benefit by a complete count in Macoupin County, visit [www.macoupincountyil.gov](http://www.macoupincountyil.gov).