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Campaign to urge residents to fill out 2010 census form

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Starting in January, Boone County residents will see a public relations campaign aimed at getting them to complete their 2010 census form.

• <http://rodeo.cincinnati.com/getlocal/comm.aspx?id=100039>">More Boone County news at NKY.com/Boonecounty

Kevin Costello, executive director of the Boone County Planning Commission, said the pieces will start in January but will really focus in February and early March. He said the forms will come out approximately March 15.

Costello said "people have to realize it's a federal law that you have to abide by and a lot of people don't understand that." He said on one hand people are concerned about giving information that is considered private but on the other hand there is the whole idea of getting an accurate count for various programs, noting the funding of transportation.

The U.S. Constitution requires a census take place every 10 years.

The form has 10 questions and there is no long form for the 2010 census.

In the 2000 census, Boone County had a 74 percent response rate. That was better than Kentucky's rate of 66 percent and the national rate of 67 percent. It was the highest rate among the three Northern Kentucky counties.

Among Boone County cities, Union's response rate was 80 percent, Florence's rate was 75 percent and Walton's rate was 67 percent.

The census should show that Boone County is still growing. The 2000 census found the county had a population of 85,991. Costello has said the new census should show the county having close to 120,000 people. That would mean in just a decade, the county's population would have increased by 39.5 percent.