

## Talk to the people who *started* the "Boycott the Census" campaign!

Headline in the *Washington Post*: **"Census Flap Intensifies; Director Pleads for Compliance."** (Page 1, March 31, 2000). Why is Census Director Kenneth Prewitt *pleading*? Because the "Boycott the Census" movement is making headlines, burning up the phone lines of radio talk shows, spreading like wildfire on the Internet, and putting the Census Bureau's \$7 billion campaign at risk. Who started it all? The Libertarian Party. Take a look at some of the media we've generated—and call for the inside scoop on why we should "Just Say No To Nosy Census Questions."

■ Initially, it was the Libertarian Party that denounced the 53-question census form as being "too intrusive." Leaders of the party, which has 200,000 registered voters, urged Americans to ignore all but the first question on the form, which asks how many people live in their household. — *Washington Times*, March 31, 2000

■ Noting the real purpose of the long form's queries, Libertarian Party National Director Steve Dasbach made headlines recently when he stated, "Census information is used to forge the chains that bind Americans to failed government programs, meddlesome bureaucracies, and a sky-high tax rate."  
— *Lawrence Reed, Detroit News*, March 19, 2000

■ The Libertarian Party is urging citizens to fill out the first question and leave the rest blank. Risk the [\$100] fine, urged George Getz, a Washington-D.C.-based spokesman for the party. "A lot of people wonder what they're going to do with the information. We don't know," Getz said. — *Associated Press*, March 27, 2000

■ The Libertarian Party said in Washington that Americans have a unique opportunity to say "yes" to the Constitution and "no" to what the party calls "busybody bureaucrats in Washington DC" by refusing to answer most Census 2000 questions... Officials of the House Subcommittee on the Census had no comment on the Libertarian Party statements when contacted by CNSNews.com.  
— *Conservative News Service*, March 20, 2000

■ "This big, bossy, busybody government is trying to ask questions they have no business asking," says George Getz, the Libertarian Party's press secretary. According to Getz, Libertarians oppose answering census questions beyond those mandated in the Constitution. — *Utne Reader*, March-April 2000

■ The fact is, innumerable residents across the country are refusing to participate in the census, beyond a simple head-count. Steve Dasbach, leader of the Libertarian Party, is actually encouraging the practice. "The U.S. Constitution says the purpose of the Census is to take an accurate count of Americans for the purpose of apportioning Congressional districts," he said. "But the federal government has gone far beyond that mandate." — *WorldNetDaily.com*, March 22, 2000



**Libertarian  
Party**

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FOR IMMEDIATE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **March 16, 2000**

## **Strike a blow for privacy: Refuse to answer nosy Census questions!**

Americans are shocked by the number of probing Census questions

WASHINGTON, DC — The arrival of 120 million Census forms this week gives Americans a once-in-a-decade opportunity to say “Yes” to the Constitution — and “No” to busybody bureaucrats in Washington, DC — by refusing to answer most of the Census questions, the Libertarian Party said today.

“Want to strike a blow for liberty, privacy, and limited government? Then answer the *only* question required by the Constitution: How many people live in your home?” said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party national director.

“Census bureaucrats say it is your civic duty to answer all the questions. But it’s actually your patriotic duty to *refuse* to answer nosy Census questions that the federal government has no business asking in the first place.”

This week, the arrival of the 2000 Census — both the short and long versions — was met with a swift and unfriendly reaction from the public: The Census Bureau’s hotline was swamped by over 630,000 calls from Americans who complained about everything from the length of the form to the number of shockingly nosy questions, Dasbach noted.

And no wonder: “The U.S. Constitution says the purpose of the Census is to make an enumeration; that is, to take an accurate count of Americans for the purpose of apportioning Congressional districts,” he said.

**“But the federal government has gone far beyond that Constitutional mandate, and uses the Census to ask dozens of probing questions — including the color of your skin, the number of toilets in your home, whether you have trouble bathing, and how many cars you own.**

“In fact, the long version of the Census contains a whopping 52 questions, which is 51 more than the Constitution requires,” he said.

Refusing to answer those nosy questions won’t just send a message to overly inquisitive politicians — it might protect your personal privacy, as well, said Dasbach.

“A poll this week revealed that 50% of Americans don’t believe the government’s promise to keep Census information confidential. And who can blame them?” he asked. “These are the same politicians who once promised to use your Social Security number *only* for Social Security. Should we really trust them about the Census?

**“That’s why, if you believe in privacy and liberty, it is your patriotic duty to respond to the Census by saying ‘none of your business’ to nosy bureaucrats.”**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **March 28, 2000**

## End the growing anti-Census firestorm with the "Census-On-A-Postcard"

WASHINGTON, DC — There's a firestorm of protest growing around the USA about the offensively inquisitive Census, but the Libertarian Party says it has a solution: Get rid of the long form *and* the short form — and replace them both with a Census Postcard.

"We have just one question for the Census Bureau," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "Since the U.S. Constitution requires just a count of the population, why doesn't the Census ask just *one* question: **How many people live in your home?**"

Over the past two weeks — as millions of Census forms have landed in mailboxes — the media has reported that a growing number of Americans are refusing to answer the Census, that Census hotlines are being swamped by calls of complaint, and that millions of people think the Census will violate their privacy. Some recent media comments:

■ "Americans from coast to coast are expressing shock and outrage over the level of detailed questioning [in] the 2000 Census." — The Drudge Report, March 15, 2000.

■ "Many Americans are calling the Census Bureau and Congress to complain about the intrusive nature of the questions." — *The Washington Times*, March 19, 2000.

■ "Innumerable residents across the country are refusing to participate in the census, beyond a simple head-count." — WorldNetDaily.com, March 22, 2000.

**The solution:** "The Census-On-A-Postcard," said Dasbach. "Such a postcard would save taxpayers billions of dollars, end concerns about privacy, and cause the compliance rate to soar. All the Census has to do is follow the old motto: **Keep it simple, stupid.**"

**United States  
Census  
2000**

The Constitution authorizes the U.S. Government to conduct a Census every 10 years so that Congressional districts can be apportioned accurately. Please fill out this Census form, and return it to the address on the reverse side.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people living at this address: