

# Will Alaskans' responses to the census remain confidential?



There are strong, long-standing legal protections in place that prohibit the Census Bureau or any other part of the federal government from using census data against the Alaskans who supply it.

1

**Your individual responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and can only be used to produce statistics.**<sup>1</sup> This includes responses on census questionnaires, names, addresses, and residential locations.

2

**By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual's information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.**

In other words, individual census data may not be used "to the detriment" of any census respondent or other person to whom the data relates.<sup>2</sup> This means that a landlord, employer, or business will never have access to your responses to the census.

3

**It is a felony for census workers or Census Bureau employees to publish or distribute individual responses or any information that would identify an individual, business, or organization.**<sup>3</sup> Employees who view individual census responses are sworn to protect the confidentiality of those data for life – anyone who wrongfully discloses census data is subject to a fine of up to \$250,000 and a prison sentence of up to five years.<sup>4</sup>

## Legal Protections to Protect Confidentiality of Census Responses

*The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act*

*The Census Act*

*The Privacy Act*

*The Internal Revenue Code*

<sup>1</sup> 13 U.S.C. § 9(a)(1) (Census Bureau may not "use the information furnished under the provisions of this title for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which it is supplied").

<sup>2</sup> 13 U.S.C. § 8(c). The Census Act does not define "detriment."

<sup>3</sup> 13 U.S.C. § 9(a)(3) (Census Bureau may not "permit anyone other than the sworn officers and employees of the Department or bureau or agency thereof to examine the individual reports").

<sup>4</sup> 13 U.S.C. § 214; 18 U.S.C. §§ , 3571.

