



Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938
Office: (518) 382-5000
Cell: (518) 424-0483
Fax: (518) 382-5272
gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov

COVID-19 Incident Team

Dial: 911 for Immediate Police, Fire or EMS

Schenectady Fire Department
Fire Department Phone: (518) 382-5141
Raymond Senecal, *Fire Chief & Incident Commander*
Donald Mareno, *Assistant Fire Chief*
Cpt. Stanley Wilgocki, *Fire EMS*
Andrew Koldin, *Corporation Counsel*
Alex Sutherland, *Director of Operations*
Paul Lafond, *Commissioner of General Services*
Christopher Lunn, *Chief Building Inspector*

Schenectady Police Department
Police Department Phone: (518) 382-5200
Michael Eidens, *Public Safety Commissioner*
Eric Clifford, *Chief of Police*
Michael Seber, *Assistant Police Chief*
Lt. Ryan Macherone, *Neighborhood Engagement*
Sgt. Jeffrey McCutcheon, *Public Information Officer*
Carissa Vazzana, *Assistant to the Mayor*
John Coluccio, *Signal Superintendent*

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PRESS RELEASE

Mayor McCarthy Asks City Employees and Residents to Complete 2020 Census Questionnaire

*Mayor Launches 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge
Households Can Respond Online, by Phone, or by Mail*

SCHENECTADY – While many families practice social distancing by staying at home, Mayor Gary McCarthy is urging all Schenectady residents to use this time to respond to the 2020 Census. The Mayor has also directed City staff during this time to contact friends, neighbors, and relatives urging them to respond to the [2020 Census](#).

“The novel coronavirus has caused significant disruption in our daily lives, but it is essential as a community that we continue to strictly practice social distancing in order to slow the spread,” **said Mayor McCarthy**. “During these difficult times, I am asking all Schenectady residents to respond to the 2020 Census either online, by phone, or by mail.”

Mayor McCarthy also launched the 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge to encourage the community beat the City of Schenectady’s 2010 response rate. In 2010, the City of Schenectady had a response rate of 60.6 percent – and for 2020, Mayor McCarthy has challenged City residents to reach 80 percent by May 30, 2020.

The United States Census Bureau recently published the [2020 Census Response Rate Map](#), which is updated daily and shows how cities and towns across the country are currently responding. As of March 30th, the 2020 Census Response Rate so far in the City of Schenectady is 27.9 percent.

“Most households have received their invitation to respond, which includes detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online,” **Mayor McCarthy said**. “As more households self-respond online, by phone, or by mail, this will minimize the number of households that census takers must visit in-person.”

Mayor McCarthy’s announcement came as the federal government is set to allocate a significant relief package for COVID-19 assistance and are considering additional assistance. Mayor McCarthy signed on to a letter from the United States Conference of Mayors to members of Congress supporting direct emergency assistance to cities as part of the federal relief package.

“The Census determines how billions of dollars in funding are distributed across the country each year, including for emergency responses,” **Mayor McCarthy added**. “Responding online is the easiest and fastest way to complete the 2020 Census. Every person counts. You have the opportunity to shape our community’s future.”

To respond online to the 2020 Census, please visit: www.2020census.gov