

For Immediate Release:

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**IN FIRST NATIONAL REPORT ON CENSUS PARTICIPATIONS RATES,
MOHAWK VALLEY, NORTH COUNTRY COUNTIES TAKE THE LEAD IN NEW YORK**

Questionnaire Assistance Centers Open Across New York to Help People Fill out the Forms

ALBANY – Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez announced today that the U.S. Census Bureau has begun to report questionnaire [mail-back rates](#) for communities across New York. The Village of Lyons Falls in Lewis County is leading the state with a mail-back rate of 70 percent, good enough for the fourth highest community participation rate in the country.

“Participating in the census is one civic duty in which every single person in the country can participate, and the earlier New Yorkers send back their questionnaires, the better,” Secretary Cortés-Vázquez said. “We need everyone to count to help our communities determine where to put schools, hospitals and roads – and to get our fair share of federal funding to help in developing these projects. Working together, we can ensure all New Yorkers are counted this time around.”

Village of Lyons Falls Mayor Ron Dorrity said: “I’d like to congratulate the Village on this achievement; it’s very important that everyone send in their form. The census is important not just to the Village but to the whole county, so I hope more and more people participate.”

The Census Bureau began mailing questionnaires last week, and cities, towns and villages across New York are still in the process of receiving them. As a whole, an estimated 10 percent of New York households have returned their census forms as of this morning; the national average thus far is 13 percent. The Census Bureau will update response rates daily at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map>.

Below are the top mail participation rates in New York state:

<i>Top mail-back rates, by county:</i>
Lewis: 42%
Franklin: 37%
Essex: 35%
Schoharie: 32%
Herkimer: 30%

Earlier this week, hundreds of Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) and Be Counted Sites (BCS) opened up in communities across the state. QACs are staffed by census workers who can help people fill out the census forms if they have any questions or need assistance due to language barriers, visual impairment or other need. Individuals and families who did not receive a questionnaire in the mail can go to a BCS to pick up a form, fill it out and send it back.

To view a complete list of 2010 census participation rates by state, county and community, as well as an interactive map featuring the locations of Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted Sites in New York, please visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map>.

For more information on census updates and events in New York state, please visit www.census2010.ny.gov.

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*Additional news available at <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/about/new2.htm>.
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