



• 2010 Census

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Every 10 years the census bureau tallies up the population in the United States, that accounts for San Angelo. At Tuesday's city council meeting a presentation was made on just how important it is to bring awareness on taking part in the upcoming population count.

How many people currently live in San Angelo?

Although it's 2008, preparations for the 2010 census have already begun.

"Every ten years, the census bureau is charged with the task of completely counting as much as possible the whole population of the US," Dr. Kenneth Stewart says.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, council members heard a presentation on how both ASU and the census bureau have joined to take part in the upcoming census count.

"It helps us not only understand who we are, but what we need to do in the community to meet people's needs," Stewart says.

Dr. Kenneth Stewart, chairperson of the complete count committee explains that the 2010 census is not only an attempt to count all the people residing in San Angelo, but also to help the city receive govt. funds.

Stewart explains, "It affects also many billions of dollars worth of state and local and federal funding for a whole range of programs, like housing programs, school programs, recreational programs."

So how do you even begin counting the population of San Angelo? It all starts with employees from the census bureau canvassing streets and addresses finding out where residents reside.

"Then the bureau will mail simple forms to all of those addresses and ask people saying how many people live there, and what their family relations are," Stewart says.

But if you do not participate in sending back your mail-in form, the bureau will then hit the streets taking count.

Stewart says, "Their will be people who's job it is to hit the streets and find people who didn't respond and find out about them."

Even though the 2000 census recorded just under 90 thousand people in San Angelo, the 2010 population count is expected to see an increase because of the large growth in the southwest part of the city.

"This is not only a matter of community pride but also essential in a whole range of planning processes throughout the community. Having to do with schools, and hospitals and roads, and providing services of all sorts in the community," Stewart says.

The questionnaire process will run thru March and April 2010. ASU students are also involved in collecting information for the census count.