Census 2020: Could Minnesota Lose a Congressional Seat?

A publication of the Association of Minnesota Counties.

The 2020 Census places Minnesota in a vulnerable position of potentially losing one of our congressional seats. Counties can perform crucial groundwork through the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) to give Minnesota the best opportunity to retain our full congressional delegation.

Census Data Impact on Minnesota Communities

The census is important, not only because it apportions seats in the U.S. House of Representatives; impacting a state’s Electoral College representation, but it also:

- Informs the redrawing of political districts for federal, state, and local elected offices;
- Determines the annual distribution of $400 billion in federal funding for infrastructure and services;
- Advises businesses on economic opportunities, market trends, and where to grow their industries; and
- Forecasts needs for new transportation infrastructure, housing, health care facilities, and schools.

Opportunity for Counties to Protect Minnesota’s Congressional Seats

The 2020 Census is critical because Minnesota is at risk of losing a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Current projections show that Minnesota has gained residents since 2010, but not as quickly as other states such as Texas and Florida. With a slower growth rate, Minnesota is vulnerable to dropping from eight U.S. Representative seats to seven. Losing a U.S. Representative seat means Minnesota will have less influence over federal policies and one fewer Electoral College votes.

To ensure Minnesota has the best chance to retain all eight of its congressional seats, the state needs an accurate count of its whole population in the 2020 Census.