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April 1, 2010

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Follow Sarasota County's census participation at www.scgov.net

A Census Bureau "widget" has been placed on the Sarasota County Web site to track the county's mail participation rate for the 2010 census on a daily basis. The county Web site is at www.scgov.net.

The Census Bureau also has posted a searchable national map of participation in the census at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>. The site contains information about the current participation percentage and 2000 census participation levels.

The Census Bureau is challenging communities to achieve a higher rate in 2010 than they did in 2000. Nationally, the goal is to beat the 2000 Census rate of 72 percent.

Census data help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed to state and local areas each year. A complete count of Sarasota County in the census will help ensure that the county gets its fair share of census-based funding for the next 10 years.

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