



# from your Associate Director

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**M**ARCH IS HERE and that means that it is time for the Association to host the Annual Educational District Events. As many of you know, they are scheduled on three Saturdays this month.

**March 7 in O'Fallon**

**March 21 in Rockford**

**March 28 in Bloomington/Normal**

**REGISTER NOW!!**

Complete registration information, as well as, the program agenda are included in this edition of *Perspective*. TOI staff hope that you attend the event closest to your township and bring the entire township board with you. We have put a program together to help get you started thinking about the upcoming township election, as well as, new ideas to benefit what you do in your townships.

Don't forget to check the **Calendar of Upcoming Events** for the scheduled Professional Development Day events and Webinars. We have many events scheduled for the entire calendar year. This information is located in the inside front cover of *Perspective*.

## The importance of the Census for 2020

This month, *Perspective Magazine* is dedicated the 2020 Census. The Township Officials of Illinois became a complete count committee partner with the 2020 census and has met with Census representatives from Governor Pritzker's office and the Census 2020 Illinois officials to see where best the individual townships can assist in getting the count completed.

The 2020 Census Project kicks off officially on **April 1, 2020** nationwide. The Township Officials of Illinois are a designated Complete Count Committee partner and have indicated full support statewide to the generation of materials and information to assist in the complete count of every Illinoisan.

The statistical date from the last census indicates that we did not get a complete count on every citizen of Illinois. In fact, if the count is not completed correctly, we could see many changes in the legislative mapping of the state as well as grant opportunities for local gov-

ernment. The critical component of the census project is that there is short window to get the count completed extending the deadline is not possible. The count starts on April 1, 2020 and concludes in July 2020.

## Benefit Your Community: Be Counted in the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is coming. The count is mandated by the Constitution to count everyone living in the U.S. and has happened every 10 years since 1790.

In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send every household an invitation to complete a simple questionnaire about who lives at your address on April 1, 2020. The 2020 Census is easy, safe and important.

### Why respond?

Census results help determine how billions in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for services and programs, such as schools, clinics and roads. Census results also determine how many seats our state will have in Congress and our community's representation in the state Legislature.

### How to respond?

The 2020 Census marks the first-time people can respond online. You will also be able to respond by phone. If you do not respond online or by phone, you will eventually receive a paper questionnaire form in the mail. For households that do not self-respond, a census taker will follow up in person to have you complete the census.

### Who do I count in my home?

The person completing the form should list all people living in the household as of April 1, 2020. This includes everyone living and sleeping at your home most of the time, such as relatives and friends, people who are formally or informally renting from you.

Remember to count any children living with you, including foster children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, children of friends (even if they are temporarily living with you). Children who split time between homes are counted where they live April 1, 2020.

## What happens to my responses?

When you respond to the census, your answers are protected by law. The Census Bureau keeps your individual responses strictly confidential and used only to produce aggregate statistics.

## What if I have other questions?

Get more info: [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov) To shape the future of your community, be counted.


Together with the information included in this edition of *Perspective* and the link on our website to the 2020 Census Toolkit for State and Local Officials, you can create an event over the next few weeks to promote a good count from your area (township). This is very important in so many ways and your involvement contribute to the success of not only your community but the entire state of Illinois. Help us eliminate the stereotypes and incorrect information about the data gathered and get a valid count of our residents this year.

## Local Government Week is March 2-6

Don't forget that *Local Government Week* is the first full week in March annually. This year that is March 2-6, 2020. As in the past we offer suggestions to celebrate the designation to recognize the benefits and

great things provided by local government in Illinois. Remember that if you cannot schedule it during the actual week you could do it at any time during March. The important thing is that you are promoting township government in your community.

Some suggestions may include:

- Host an open house for your Township
- Invite local elected officials (other than township officials) to your meetings to discuss what can be accomplished in your local community.
- Invite your local newspaper to do an op-ed piece on the township and its recent activities. 

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## Gender Neutral Bathroom Law Now Effective

As of January 1, 2020, all single-occupancy public bathrooms are to be labeled as gender-neutral. Public Act 101-0165 states the following:

(410 ILC 35/32 new)

Sec. 25. All-gender single-occupancy restrooms.

(a) In this Section:

"Place of public accommodation" has the same meaning provided in Section 5-101 of the Illinois Human Rights Act.

"Single-occupancy restroom" means a fully enclosed room, with a locking mechanism controlled by the user, containing a sink, toilet stall, and no more than one urinal.

(b) This Section applies to any existing or future places of public accommodation or public buildings.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every single-occupancy restroom in a place of public accommodation or public building shall be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use. Each single-occupancy restroom shall be outfitted with exterior signage that marks the single-occupancy restroom as a restroom and does not indicate any specific gender.

(d) During any inspection of a place of public accommodation or public building by health officer or health inspector, the health officer or health officer or health inspector may inspect the place of public accommodation or public building to determine whether it complies with this Section.

(e) The Department of Public Health shall adopt rules to implement this Section.