

# 2012 CENSUS OF GOVERNMENTS

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF  
AMERICA'S GOVERNMENTS

Measuring America – People, Places, and Our Economy

The 2012 Census of Governments is here. All of us have a strong interest in the successful completion of the 2012 Census as it will identify the scope and nature of the nation's state and local government sector.

The Census of Governments will identify, measure, and provide insight into state and local government activity and serve as the foundation for developing national economic and public policy.

This information will be used by a variety of entities such as the U.S. Congress, state and local governments, federal agencies, and the general public when measuring government activity. Students from elementary school through college will use this information to gain an understanding of state and local governments.

The enclosed questionnaire is the Survey of Public Employment and Payroll. The Survey of Public Employment and Payroll is part of the employment component of the 2012 Census of Governments and will provide measures of employment and gross payrolls by function and type of government for approximately 90,000 state and local governments in the United States.

You can contribute to a successful 2012 Census of Governments by ensuring that the questionnaire receives prompt attention and that it is completed and returned as soon as possible. Please accept our appreciation in advance for ensuring the success of the 2012 Census of Governments.

*"Every city has a strong interest in the successful completion of the 2012 Census of Governments, as it will identify the scope and nature of the nation's local government sector. It identifies, measures and provides insight into state and local government activity and serves as the foundation for developing national economic and public policy."*

**Don Borut,**  
Executive Director  
National League of Cities

*"The public service provided by the Census of Governments programs to produce data that allow users to understand the performance of the state and local sector is, in my mind, almost immeasurable."*

**Dr. Robert Inman,**  
The Wharton School  
University of Pennsylvania

*"The Census of Governments is the only comprehensive source of data on local governments that is crucial not only to developing profiles of local governments for comparative purposes but also to providing data that can be merged with other sources of local government data, such as the surveys conducted by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), which focus on local economic development, sustainability, service delivery, and other research topics. By collecting uniform, comprehensive organizational, employment, and financial data, the Census of Governments provides the breadth of a complete census, which cannot be achieved through individual efforts outside of this federal agency."*

**Evelina Moulder**  
Director, Survey Research  
International City/County Management Association



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