

## Volusia County Complete Count Committee

**VOLUSIA COUNTS.  
EVERYBODY COUNTS.**

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### Volusia County Complete Count Committee

**Joie Alexander**  
Committee Chair  
(386) 740-5224

**Mary Swiderski**  
and **Betty Holness**  
Intergovernmental  
Subcommittee  
Co-chairs

**Jim Cameron**  
Businesses  
Subcommittee Chair

**Missy Kelly**  
Community/Social  
Organizations  
Subcommittee Chair

**Gwen Azama-  
Edwards** and  
**Pam Hamlin**  
Faith-Based  
Organizations  
Subcommittee Chairs

**Sue Habel**  
Colleges and  
Universities  
Subcommittee Chair

**Damien Richards**  
Housing/Homeowners  
Associations  
Subcommittee Chair

**Lisa Doig**  
Farm Workers  
and Agriculture  
Subcommittee Chair

**Pat Kuehn** and  
**Molly Justice**  
Marketing and  
Communications  
Subcommittee  
Co-chairs

**Jeanne Willard**  
News releases

### Countywide census committee marks progress

Cooperation, commitment and shared resources will help to ensure that all residents are counted in the 2010 Census. That message was echoed by members of Volusia County's Complete Count Committee, which met Oct. 8 to discuss the progress of its countywide public awareness campaign.

Members of the volunteer committee represent local governments, colleges and universities, faith-based and community organizations, businesses, housing, farm workers, and marketing and communications professionals.

Chaired by Joie Alexander, Volusia County Council vice chair and at-large representative, the group's goal is to encourage all residents to complete and return their 2010 census questionnaire. Noting that Volusia County's population is estimated at 500,000, Alexander said it will take the efforts of dozens of community volunteers to ensure everyone is counted.

"The power is in this group," Alexander said. "It's through the efforts of all."

Representatives from each subcommittee discussed challenges faced in reaching out to the diverse population in the county. Acknowledging tight fiscal budgets, members shared low-cost ways of reaching the public including a speakers bureau, setting up booths at community events, encouraging the support of local business partners, using social media and e-mail communications, providing articles for agencies' newsletters, and pooling resources.

Volusia County officials have developed web sites in English and Spanish at [www.VolusiaCounts.org](http://www.VolusiaCounts.org) and [www.VolusiaCuenta.org](http://www.VolusiaCuenta.org). As Census Day, April 1, approaches, officials will launch a countywide campaign that includes televised public service announcements, billboard and transit advertising, newspaper ads and social media.

In early March, the U.S. Census Bureau will mail census questionnaires, which are to be completed and returned by April 1. Data collected will affect how more than \$400 billion in annual federal funds will be distributed to state, local and tribal governments over the next decade. It also will be used to forecast housing and transportation needs, drawing school boundaries, developing assistance programs, and planning for health care needs.

Volunteers are needed to make sure everyone is counted, Alexander said. Opportunities exist to serve on subcommittees and the speakers bureau and to staff information booths at community events.

"We need your help," she said. "If we don't all count, it could mean millions of dollars in lost revenues over a 10-year period."

For more information about the county's Complete Count Committee or to find out about volunteer opportunities, please contact Betty Holness at (386) 736-5920, ext. 2603; or Pat Kuehn at (386) 822-5062, ext. 2934. For more information about the U.S. Census, visit [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).