



## IT'S IN OUR HANDS

To all residents of Washington Island,

The countdown to the 2010 Census has begun, and U.S. Census Bureau is looking to the local communities to ensure an accurate count. Census Day is less than a year away, April 1, 2010. The Census Bureau has already launched a critical national effort that affects the apportionment of congressional seats and the allocation of \$400 Billion in federal assistance to state and local governments.

The Door County Board of Supervisors has approved the formation of a 2010 Census Complete County Committee at their May County Board Meeting. The Committee is comprised of members of the League of Women Voters and Door County Clerks including Valerie Carpenter, Town Clerk and Lu Beekman, Deputy Clerk of Washington Island providing a broad representation of Door County. Since this is a nationwide effort to obtain an accurate count, it is important to have representation from the Island and Door County to stay informed on issues that will concern and/or benefit our community.

This is the first of several informational handouts you will see in the months leading up to April 1, 2010, Census Day. The purpose is to introduce you to the 2010 Census and inform you, the residents, as to what the census does and why it is important to participate in the Census. Our goal for the 2010 Census is to have all residents on Washington Island counted on April 1, 2010.

By mid-March 2010, every household will receive a short 10 question form. It will take approximately 10 minutes to fill out. The 2010 Census is using one of the shortest questionnaires in history. It asks for name gender, age, race, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home.

Questions about how we live as a nation such as; our diversity, education, housing, jobs etc. *are not* asked on this questionnaire. That topic is now covered in the *American Community Survey* conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the longer individual form of the past. Also not asked on the 2010 Census questionnaire are questions pertaining to legal status or financial information.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. Strict confidentiality laws protect the privacy of respondents and the information they provide. The Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Look for more upcoming 2010 Census information in future calendars.