

Census Press Conference
4-26-00
11:30 a.m.
Capitol Steps

Stand up straight. Use low tones.

- Good Morning
- I am pleased to be here this morning to announce the next phase of Census 2000 for the State of Mississippi.
- Tomorrow, Thursday, April 27th, the non-response/follow-up phase will begin across the state. This means that census takers will begin door-to-door visits of those residents who have not received a census questionnaire or did not mail back their form.
- I am asking that every Mississippian cooperate with census officials by taking just a few moments to answer their questions.
- Mississippi's mail back response rate of census forms is great. We are currently at 60%. But we still have much work to do.

- Our state is in jeopardy of losing a congressional seat if we don't get an accurate count.
- So, please take the necessary time to complete that questionnaire when a census taker visits your home.
- Be assured that your answers are kept confidential. Census officials must protect your privacy. It is the law.
- Our state needs its share of the \$200 billion federal dollars the U.S. government distributes every year. There are many improvements that could be made in education, health care, roads, senior citizen facilities and local communities. We have a lot to lose by not being a part of this very important Census 2000 count.
- Let's stand up Mississippi, and be counted. Together, we all count. I hope I can count on every Mississippian to step forward and be counted.
- Let's show the nation that Mississippi is, indeed, the best of the New South.