



Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP
For Clients
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**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,
the sharing of benefits and burdens
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,
sharing one another’s blessing
recognizing that at the heart of the matter
we are bound to each other.”**

-Mario M. Cuomo-

COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTRIBUTING TO LOW CENSUS RESPONSE

Census organizers are reporting lower than normal census response even in areas that have historically had high levels of participation. CUNY’s [Hard to Count map](#) shows that areas such as the Upper East Side which in 2010 had 62.4% of its residents send back their forms without further prompting by the Census Bureau currently has a response rate of 34.9%.

The Census is conducted every 10 years by the federal government to conduct a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the Census is used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds which impacts healthcare, education, housing, transportation and other public policy. The Census is also used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the United States House of Representatives. An undercount may result in a loss of desperately needed federal funds and the possible loss of congressional representation.

Census organizers believe that part of the reason why there is less Census response in historically high Census tracts of the City such as the Upper East Side, West Village, SOHO and TriBeCa is because many New Yorkers have left the City during the COVID-19 pandemic. Census organizers in New York are considering efforts to engage New Yorkers that have left the City temporarily. Conversely, there have been areas of the City that have reported much higher response rates than in the past such as the Lower East Side, Inwood and Washington Heights. This may be a result of decades of grassroots organizing.

Overall, Census response rate in the City is at 49% which is 15% points lower than the final 2010 response rate of 64%. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census extended its deadlines: See [link](#).

The Census can be filled out [online](#).

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