



By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

It isn't 2010 yet, but Census 2010 is gearing up. One indication of that was the signing of a proclamation Tuesday by Imperial Mayor Annie Longan.

The proclamation stated that the City of Imperial sees the census "as a top priority for all departments and appointed officials, and encourage the community...to partner" with government entities to complete Census 2010.

Beginning in March of this year, census employees are ascertaining via GPS systems and maps which living quarters are occupied in towns and surrounding countrysides.

This coming fall branch census offices will be opened in North Platte and Omaha, joining the office now open in Lincoln.

In March of 2010 forms will be mailed to all households in the nation. The form is one page long with 10 questions. There are no long forms planned for Census 2010.

Those forms must be filled out as to how many people reside in a household as of April 1, 2010. They are then mailed back by May 1.

That's when the branch offices come into play. In the fall of 2010 census workers will start contacting the households that didn't mail in forms.

City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland said a "complete count" committee is being formed in Imperial to make sure that everyone understands how important it is to fill out the census form. "We're getting people from diverse groups and hard-to-count populations, such as Hispanics," she said. Leaders in these areas will contact people within these groups to explain the meaning of the census and its importance.

Leyland also said an assistance center will be set up during Census 2010 to help people fill out their forms, or to give forms to people who didn't receive them.

Applications are being taken from people interested in working for Census 2010. Those interested in the job may call (866) 861-2010 for more information. Interviews were held in Imperial Wednesday.