



**A Message from
Lois Wexler
Broward County Commissioner
District 5**

You probably haven't thought about it in ten years, but Census 2010 is just around the corner and an accurate count of our population is vitally important to the future of Broward County.

Census data is used to determine how nearly \$300 billion is annually distributed for 170 Federal programs. The data is also used to determine the need for additional social services, including community development block grants and other grant programs essential to Broward County residents.

It is estimated that each individual who remains uncounted by the Census results in a loss of approximately \$1,268 of federal funding per year. In this time of economic uncertainty with budget cuts that result in the elimination or reduction of services, we can't afford to miss opportunities for federal funds.

In Census 2000, the estimated undercount (people **not** included in the population determined by the Census) in Broward County was 19,824. Many of those who did not respond were afraid that the information they provided would be used by code enforcement personnel to fine them for violations on their property or by immigration officials to begin proceedings against them for illegally residing in the country. This could not be further from the truth!

The U.S. Census is required by our nation's Constitution, and all information that identifies respondents or their households must remain confidential for no less than 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone. Many people were also apprehensive of the long forms used in the 2000 Census. However, in 2010 the Census is going to be shorter, easier than ever to fill out, and will only take a few minutes to complete and return by mail.

Census forms won't be sent out until March of next year (2010), but field representatives will be going door to door to update addresses throughout the nation in April of this year. If you have any questions about the Census, or if you would like to get involved, please e-mail **census2010@broward.org** for more information and assistance.

Of course, my office is always accessible and I encourage you to share your thoughts, comments and concerns. I can be reached at (954) 357-7005 or you can e-mail me at **lwexler@broward.org**.

Sincerely,
Lois Wexler
Broward County Commissioner
District 5