

May 2020 *Newsletter*

Mayor's Message



Spring is typically a time of change and I'm sure we all need a change at this point. Working from home (if you are fortunate enough to still be working) and sheltering in place has become a bigger challenge than some of us expected. Add the kids being home schooled into the mix and it makes for a stressful environment. The good news is I see more and more families out walking around Mountain Park together than I have ever seen before. I truly hope this exercise with family continues long after COVID-19 isn't a part of our day to day lives and we are all the healthier for it.

I continue to meet "virtually" online every Tuesday with our State Senator John Albers, Fulton Commissioners Ellis & Hausmann and the other 5 Mayors of North Fulton for updates on the current state of the pandemic and how it affects us here in The Park. This week, the Governor decided to let his "shelter in place" declaration expire on May 1st. I felt we should extend our declaration but drop the "curfew" aspect of it when ours expires on May 2nd. My thinking was by extending ours a little longer to May 13th that will give the City of Mountain Park the opportunity of two weekends to see if citizens from surrounding communities respond by "flocking" to our lakes and parks. This extended declaration allows RPD and DNR to continue their enforcement of our 10/6 rules (less than 10 people/more than 6 feet apart) as well as enforcing City fishing/boating permit requirements. If things go well we can rescind the current declaration at any time. My goal is to protect the residents of Mountain Park as long as possible but within reason.

You, the residents of Mountain Park, continue to be good neighbors, good friends and good stewards of the community. The Front Porch Food Drive has provided much needed items for those folks that desperately needed them. Citizens willingness to step up and run errands, buy groceries and pickup medications for those that need the help makes all of us proud to be a part of this town.

Unfortunately it is with a heavy heart I share that Mr. Jerry Ray and Miss Ruby Braswell passed last week. Mr. Ray and Miss Braswell were both longtime residents of Mountain Park and will be sorely missed. My condolences go to both families for their loss.

Please take care of your friends, your family and yourself until the time we can all come together on The Green and get reacquainted.

Take care,
Jim Still-Mayor

Mountain Park lost 2 longtime residents in April. Our deepest condolences go out to their friends and family.



Obituary for Mr. Jerry Brice Ray

On April 18, 2020, Jesus held him gently and angels sang so sweetly as Jerry Brice Ray, age 82 went to his Heavenly home. He was preceded in death by his son, Timothy Ray and by his much-loved dog Ginger. Those left behind to miss him the most are his wife of over 59 years, Judy, his perfect children, according to him, daughter Teresa, son Terry of Cumming and his adopted, by choice, son Adam Jones of Cumming; his brother, Perry (Stella) Ray of Cumming, his chosen brother and sister-in-law, The Good Reverend Tony and Carole Allen of Cumming, sister-in-law, Peggy Allen of the Villages, FL., sister-in-law, Eva and Paul Guidry of Dunwoody, Mary Sue and Jeff Richards of Marietta, many nieces and nephews, the best neighbors in the whole world, Joani Yarbrough and Mike Bruce and the many friends at the Woodstock Waffle House. He was retired from the US Army Corp of Engineers and very proud veteran of the US Army. At his request, his ashes will be scattered, like the hash browns at his beloved Waffle House, at the Georgia National Cemetery at a later time. No service is planned now. The family wants to thank the staff and employees of Woodstock Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Agape Hospice Care for being the angels who stood in the gap during this difficult time. Thanks for the care and loving compassion shown to Brice. To know Brice was to love him. Rest in peace sweetheart, until we meet again on the other side of Jordan.



Obituary for Mrs. Ruby Dean Braswell

Ruby Dean (Vaughan) Braswell, born March 3, 1925 at home in Alpharetta, Georgia, peacefully passed away April 23, 2020 in her home surrounded by her kids in Mountain Park, Georgia. She was 95.

Ms. Ruby was born in a little country house on Hwy 9 where now Slopes BBQ sits. Ms. Ruby attended The Beehive one room school house, Hopewell Elementary School, and Milton High School.

She is survived by her four children, (Twins) Nancy and Jon Braswell of Mountain Park, Georgia, Todd Braswell of New Orleans, Louisiana and David and Susan Flynt of Woodstock, Georgia and three Grandsons Jordan, Caleb, and Preston Flynt.

Ruby lived a long, selfless life of always putting her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first, her children and others second, and always herself third. She'll Always Be Forever Loved and Missed. We Love You Mama.

Ms. Ruby will be laid to rest Monday April 27, 2020 at Greenlawn Cemetery in a Private Ceremony officiated by Trey Stow. Arrangements by Northside Chapel Funeral Directors.



MPVFR NEWS



Mountain Park family and friends,

This month, we are grateful to see the multitude of acts of kindness throughout our community. The outpouring of love and support towards each other are like none other. Your community fire department greatly appreciates the kind words, meals, chalk drawings, and love.

Over the next few weeks, you may notice water in the streets and firefighters flushing and testing our city fire hydrants. This is very important as it ensures that all hydrants have adequate water pressure and function properly in case of a fire. Please exercise patience and extreme caution if you encounter one of our firefighters in the roadway.

While there are many mixed emotions in regards to Governor Kemp's order to open the state back up, please understand that those businesses are given a choice to open up or to remain closed. You are also given a choice. You can choose to stay at your homes or you can choose to venture out and support these businesses. No matter what choice you and your family decide to make, please choose to practice kindness. Whether you are for or against this decision, we always encourage you to take extra precautions.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people that are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissues after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.

Limiting the exposure of your nose, mouth, and eyes to unwashed hands can help to protect from the spread of all germs and illnesses. Additional information can be found online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

As we continue to respond to emergencies, you will notice that Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Rescue personnel are taking all steps possible to reduce the spread of this virus to our families and the community. Our responders are required to wear full personal protection equipment including masks and goggles on all medical emergencies. For patients experiencing flu symptoms, coughing, or sneezing, our responders will wear a gown for additional protection. With your continued support, we will get through this, Mountain Park!

Sincerely,

Chad Miller

Captain | Chaplain

Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Rescue

cmiller@mpvfr.org

Civic Club News

The Mountain Park Civic Club will remain on hold for the time being. We had thought we might hold a meeting in May with the agreement of the members, but with our state being the first in the nation to remove restrictions on so many venues, and with our weak state testing program, we think it is wise to hold off for now. So, no regular meeting in May.

We will continue to monitor this virus problem, take cues from our Mayor and City Council and schedule the next meeting when it is wise to do so. We welcome comments from our members and the community in general.

STAY STRONG WORLD! (Video from Mountain Park)

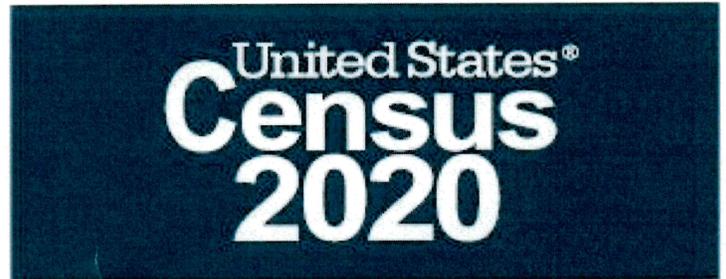
Dave Pardue along with other residents from Mountain Park made a great video that you can watch on YouTube through the following link. Everyone came together at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to do this. Dave said this about the project 'Our video grew larger than originally intended, as lots of citizens stepped forward and wanted to be included. I believe their love and compassion come through loud and clear in the video'. Take a look and see what you think! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5F4Rw-nVnK4>



2020 Census-Still Time to Reply!

It's important to know that you can still respond to the Census Online, via Telephone or paper. Some people may think that since April 1, has passed, they've missed their opportunity. The online or self-response rate has been extended to October 31, 2020 due to COVID-19. Please see the attached flyer for additional information about how to respond to the 2020 Census.

Help us ensure an accurate count.



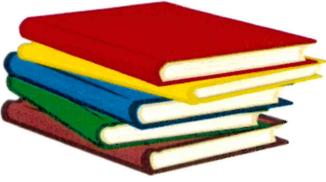
Learn more at 2020census.gov.

You may have heard that the Field Operations have been pushed out a few weeks, in light of the current pandemic, but the Census is still going strong. Census takers will begin dropping off paper questionnaires at front doors starting June 13th and begin interviewing households in person that have not responded online, by phone, or by mail starting on August 11th. If you have not responded to the Census yet please do so today. The response rates continue to improve daily. Mountain Park's current response rate is 63%.

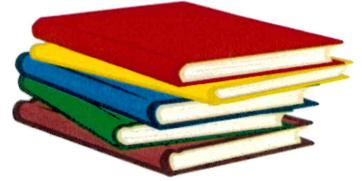
Statewide General Primary / Presidential Primary Election Moved to June 9, 2020

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has announced that, pursuant to the authority vested in him by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-50.1, he is postponing the Statewide General Primary/Presidential Preference Primary Election until June 9, 2020.

Elections for the Remainder of the Year	Registration Deadline	Election Date
Presidential Preference Primary, General Primary Election, Nonpartisan General Election, and Special Election	May 11, 2020	June 9, 2020
General Primary Runoff, Nonpartisan General Runoff, and Special Runoff for Local and State Offices	May 11, 2020	August 11, 2020
General Primary Runoff Election for Federal Offices	July 13, 2020	August 11, 2020
General Election and Special Election	October 5, 2020	November 3, 2020
General Election and Special Election Runoffs for Local and State Offices	October 5, 2020	December 1, 2020
General Election Runoff for Federal Offices	December 7, 2020	January 5, 2021



Know Your City Code



Mountain Park is unique for its wooded beauty and surrounding lakes. In order to keep our community's beauty the City of Mountain Park staff would like to remind you that it is unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw, leave, cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing or leaving of litter on any public or private property in this city or any waters in this city. The litter and debris, including yard clippings, ends up in our streams and lakes.

Sec. 105-365. - Prohibition against littering public or private property or waters.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw or leave or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing or leaving of litter on any public or private property in this city or any waters in this city unless:
- (1) The property is designated by the state or by any of its agencies or political subdivisions for the disposal of such litter, and such person is authorized by the proper public authority to use such property;
 - (2) The litter is placed into a receptacle or container installed on such property; or,
 - (3) The person is the owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, or has first obtained consent of the owner or tenant in lawful possession, or unless the act is done under the personal direction of the owner or tenant, all in a manner consistent with the public welfare and all other applicable laws and ordinances.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), when such property or waters is a construction site, construction site operators must control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality. "Control waste" means to properly contain and dispose of waste. Loose construction debris (e.g., packing materials, scraps of lumber, etc.) shall be promptly contained and removed from the site and properly disposed of.

Sec. 105-366. - Vehicle loads causing litter.

No person shall operate any motor vehicle with a load on or in such vehicle unless the load on or in such vehicle is adequately secured to prevent the dropping or shifting of materials from such load onto the roadway. This shall require at a minimum covering any waste load with a tarp.

Sec. 105-369. - Penalties.

Any person who violates this article shall be guilty of a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as follows:

- (1) By a fine of not less than \$200.00 and not more than \$1,000.00; and
- (2) In addition to the fine set out in subsection (1) above, the violator shall reimburse the city for the reasonable cost of removing the litter when the litter is or is ordered removed by the city; and
- (3) a. In the sound discretion of the court, the person may be directed to pick up and remove from any public street or highway or public right-of way for a distance not to exceed one mile any litter he has deposited and any and all litter deposited thereon by anyone else prior to the date of execution of sentence; or
b. In the sound discretion of the court, the person may be directed to pick up and remove any and all litter from any public property, private right-of-way, or with prior permission of the legal owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, any private property upon which it can be established by competent evidence that he has deposited litter. Pick up and removal shall include any and all litter deposited thereon by anyone prior to the date of execution of sentence; and,
- (4) The court may cause to be published, at the convicted violator's expense, the names of persons convicted of violating this article.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 2nd.....Dumpster Day 7am-10am

1. Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
2. ONE TRUCKLOAD OR TRAILER LOAD PER RESIDENCE.
3. All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less.

Please note that this is a service provided by Waste Pro as a courtesy and the City of Mountain Park does not have any control over what time they arrive/depart or the rate which the dumpster fills and the amount it can hold. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

May 6th.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

May 14th.....Work Session @ 7pm

FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen participation is welcome – Please give advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.

May 18th.....Regular Council @ 7pm

May 25th.....City Hall Closed

REMINDER

Water bills are due by the last day of every month. Please use the drop box at City Hall or pay online at https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign_in. Payments received on the 1st of the month or later will be assessed a \$25 late fee.

REMINDER

Trash and recycle pick-up is now on Wednesday. Please ensure you put your cans out the night before after 6pm or by 7am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 8am on Thursday. No yard debris is allowed. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please e-mail City Hall at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com or call City Hall at 770-993-4231 on Thursday morning to report it.

REMINDER

If you see a street light out in the City of Mountain Park please contact City Hall at 770-993-4231 to report it.

The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 30 Days to Slow the Spread

The White House has released the following guidelines on March 31, 2020:

- Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.
- **IF YOU FEEL SICK**, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- **IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK**, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.
- **IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE** for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.
- **IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON**, stay home and away from other people.
- **IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION** that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible
- **IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY**, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
- **AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS** in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts - **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS**
- **AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL**, shopping trips, and social visits
- **DO NOT VISIT** nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- **PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:** Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface. Avoid touching your face. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Know how it spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - » Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - » Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - » These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - » Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone should

Clean your hands often



- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact



- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay at home as much as possible.**
- **Put distance between yourself and other people.**
 - » Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - » This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.** www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html



Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others



- **You could spread COVID-19 to others** even if you do not feel sick.
- **Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public**, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - » Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people** in case you are infected.
- Do **NOT** use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to **keep about 6 feet between yourself and others**. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect



- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces** daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

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ACT NOW!

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to shape the future of our communities.

Census results have an impact on programs, such as health insurance, hospitals, childcare, food assistance, schools, early childhood development, and much more.

Every household should have received a letter asking to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire.

Responding to the census is easier than ever! You can complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail using the Census ID provided. If you do not have a Census ID, you can still respond by entering your home address.

Count everyone in your home on the 2020 Census. The household count should consist of all persons living at the recorded address on **April 1, 2020**.

Be sure to include all adults, babies, young children, foster children, and nonrelatives in your household count.

Please respond today!

ONLINE: MY2020CENSUS.GOV

OR BY PHONE:

English
844-330-2020

Spanish
844-468-2020

Chinese (Mandarin)
844-391-2020

Chinese (Cantonese)
844-398-2020

Vietnamese
844-461-2020

Korean
844-392-2020

Russian
844-417-2020

Arabic
844-416-2020

Tagalog
844-478-2020

Polish
844-479-2020

French
844-494-2020

Haitian Creole
844-477-2020

Portuguese
844-474-2020

Japanese
844-460-2020

TDD (Telephone Display Device)
844-467-2020

Puerto Rico
English: 844-418-2020

Spanish: 844-426-2020

MAIL:

1. Complete the paper questionnaire upon receipt.
2. Use blue or black ink to fill in the questionnaire. (Do not use a pencil)
3. Upon completion, return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.

Questions can be directed to **(800) 923-8282** or ask.census.gov.

The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.

Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.



Your census responses are safe and secure.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you.

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.



The law is clear—no personal information can be shared.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

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There are no exceptions.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep everyone's information confidential. By law, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way. The Census Bureau will not share an individual's responses with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow that information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits. Title 13 makes it very clear that the data we collect can only be used for statistical purposes—we cannot allow it to be used for anything else, including law enforcement.

It's your choice: you can respond securely online, by mail, or by phone.

You will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by law.

Your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats.

The Census Bureau takes strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy, and our cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once the data are received, they are no longer online. From the moment the Census Bureau collects responses, our focus and legal obligation is to keep them safe.

We are committed to confidentiality.

At the U.S. Census Bureau, we are absolutely committed to keeping your responses confidential. This commitment means it is safe to provide your answers and know that they will only be used to paint a statistical portrait of our nation and communities.

Learn more about the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program at www.census.gov/privacy.



Laws protecting personal census information have withstood challenges.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that even addresses are confidential and cannot be disclosed through legal discovery or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In 2010, the U.S. Justice Department determined that the Patriot Act does not override the law that protects the confidentiality of individual census responses. No court of law can subpoena census responses.

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