

## Newsom announces new committee for census 2010

### Bay City News

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SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom announced the formation of a committee today that will help the U.S. Census Bureau accurately count residents for the 2010 census so the city receives appropriate federal funding.

Newsom said the last census, which is conducted every 10 years, left out more than 100,000 people who might have been living in single-room-occupancy housing or who simply did not fill out a census card.

He said the undercount, which he claims left out mostly minorities, may have prevented the city from receiving \$290 million in federal funding over the past 10 years.

Most of the counting inaccuracies occurred in the city's Tenderloin and Western Addition neighborhoods, he said.

The committee, which consists of Supervisors Bevan Dufty, **Carmen Chu** and David Campos and several community leaders, will work with the local U.S. Census office on public outreach efforts.

**Chu** said the committee will enlist community leaders to personally ask people to fill out their cards, hopefully in their native language.

Outreach by people who actually live in the communities puts a face behind the cards and results in a better, more accurate count, said Mike Burns, a U.S. Census Bureau deputy regional director.

Burns said the most important message the census can send is that the survey is easy, it's confidential and it will help the city get appropriate funding.

The 2010 Census will help the federal government allocate more \$300 billion in federal funds annually.

Newsom also urged the federal government to recognize same-sex couples in the census. He estimated that about 13,000 children statewide will be counted as living in unmarried households because same-sex couples aren't acknowledged.

"If everyone counts, well then let's count everyone accurately," he said.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Newsom-announces-new-committee-for-census-2010-46292427.html>