

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EAST ALABAMA (the "LWVEA")

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

MEETING SUMMARY:

NW AUBURN TASK FORCE, COUNCILWOMEN CONNIE FITCH TAYLOR PRESIDING

Boykin/Donahue Campus (400 Boykin Street)

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 6:00 p.m. CDT, with approximately 40 people attending

(Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2019)

For additional information contact:

Councilwomen Ms. Connie Fitch Taylor (334.704.3970) ctaylor@auburnalabama.org

I. MAJOR TOPICS ADDRESSED:

A. August 13, 2019, Meeting Summary:

1. **Strategic Plan:** Councilwomen Taylor presented the Task Force's goals or Team objectives, of which there are 16. Slogan is "*We Will Never Move Forward, if We Keep Looking Back*" (attached, 1 pg.). Attendees are encouraged to sign up for one or more of 16 teams on the list.
2. **Joint Use of the Boykin Center medical center and library:** Councilwoman and others stressed the importance of creating a library at the Boykin Center for use by students, possibly sharing space with the medical center given lack of other suitable space at the Boykin Community Center.
3. **Property Development:** Neighborhood property owners encouraged to self-develop their property rather than sell to nonresidents.
4. **Youth Probation Project:** Meeting with Judge McLaughlin [sic] to encourage judgements to include having youth and young adults join the Task Force for work and education related assignment. May require establishing 501.c.3.
5. **2020 Census:** The importance of everyone participating in the 2020 Census was emphasized.

B. September 10, 2019, Meeting Summary:

1. **Fall Festival:** Councilwomen Taylor commented that she has reserved Martin Luther King (the "MLK") Park for a Fall Festival on October 26th. The celebration will be oriented towards children. Donations, including food, would be greatly appreciated. The hope is that food for children under 12 will be free. Negotiations with vendors are underway.

2. **Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors:** Plans are underway to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for seniors free of charge. Donations are appreciated.
3. **Christmas Dinner for Seniors at Julie Collins Museum:** Last year the Museum and Councilwomen provided dinner for approximately 50 seniors, with costs shared. The hope is that more seniors can and will be invited to the event.
4. **Library:** Councilwomen Taylor reintroduced the topic first discussed last month's meeting noting that, given current student scores and with other medical facilities nearby, priority need be given to establishing an education center for students. She had suggested sharing space with the already approved medical facility in the Boykin Community Center. The Councilwomen further commented that she had met with City Manager Jim Buston regarding the topic. Subsequently, he provided her with a draft plan titled *Boykin/Donahue Campus - Concept Plan # 2* (attached, 2 pp.). The proposed plan is further identified as Item # 17 in the Legend.
5. **African American Museum:** Councilwomen Taylor updated those in attendance on the establishment of an African American history museum commenting that the search for a suitable place is ongoing. Mr. Lindbergh Jackson commented that the African American history dates to 1619 when 20 slaves deboarded a slave ship in Virginia. He referenced a New York Times article by Ms. Nicole Jones titled *The 1620 Program*. It and others are viewable on several *YouTube*, among others. Mr. Jackson further commented that he had met with Auburn City School Superintendent and encouraged her to use an existing high school curriculum on the history of the African American experience to school children [See Mr. Jackson for a copy].
6. **Ward 1 Neighborhood Student Cookout:** Councilwomen Taylor is planning a ward/neighborhood cookout with the intention of getting to know student constituents. Date, place and time will be announced later. Participation is encouraged; volunteers, and donations are appreciated.
7. **Team Reports:** Mr. Herb Denmark representing the Voter Registration team reported that he has contacted the *Lee County Voters League* regarding coordinating voter registration efforts with the Task Force.

C. Speakers:

1. **State Representative District 82 - Ms. Pebblin Warren:**

Representative Warren commented that while municipalities have Home Rule and counties do not; hence, much of the State's time is spent on county- and state-wide issues. She provided a sampling of legislation approved this past session. The State passed a **10-cent gas tax** that will be implemented over a three-year period, with the first phase going into effect July 1, 2019. Representative Warren serves on both the Black and Democratic caucuses. **Medicaid** is a big issue. The **Department of Corrections** is another big issue. Currently, the Department faces numerous lawsuits, with the Federal Government threatening a takeover of the system. A concern with a takeover is the possibility of prematurely releasing many prisoners. Governor Ivey is attempting to solve the problem by building new prisons, but

funding is a real challenge. **Mental illness** is another problem; the term includes drug addiction. According to Representative Warren, money is available for **Youth Enrichment Programs**; the problem is the program is underutilized (reference was made to Item A.4 above as a possible candidate for currently unallocated funds). Lastly, **Gerrymandering** continues to be a significant issue, both locally and nationally. She cautioned drivers to be aware of the new law that limits the length of time a driver may drive on the left lane of a four-lane road without being ticketed; the left lane is intended to be a passing lane. Representative Warren encouraged everyone to complete the **Census 2020** form. Lastly, she commented that some form of **gun legislation** is needed to discourage future gun violence.

2. Reverend Satch (Satch Tech Construction and Training):

Rev Satch owns and operates a training and construction firm in Tuskegee. The major thrust of his presentation was to find ways for teenagers and adults to take out their aggression through other than the use of guns. One solution: job training and gainful employment. Another alternative for resolving differences is through the old-fashioned method of putting on the boxing gloves and letting guys go at each other in a controlled, supervised environment - the ring. It lets both sides feel the pain yet tends to be relatively temporary in nature. As a trainer and contractor, Rev. Satch has used both method with success.

3. Ms. Yolanda Fears- A Census Report:

Ms. Fears commented that the Census is taken once every 10 years. It's critical that every person be counted. It funds food, health, housing, transportation, medical, education, recreation, senior citizens, disaster relief, and many other programs. Without an accurate account of Alabamians, the State will lose funding for many needed, worthwhile programs and projects. Ms. Fears noted that Census survey will be issued April 1, 2020. Assistance is available to those people unable to complete the forms on their own. She commented that part-time positions in the range of \$13 - \$15/hour are available for qualified applicants and stressed the importance of answering the door when Census takers arrive in the neighborhood. Also, she urged everyone to request their pastor to make an announcement of the importance of completing the Census forms and of census takers arriving in parishioners' neighborhoods. It should be noted that Census information is considered confidential for a period of 72 years. Also, in the absence of any other document (e.g., in the case of a natural disaster, etc.), a person may call upon the Census Bureau for select documentation verifying a person's personal information such as age. Lastly, except for U.S. Senate seats, the Census information is used to determine the number and geographic area representation of both State and congressional members. (Flyer distributed, 1 page).

4. Mr. Troy Booth, BNB & Associates, LLC:

Mr. Booth is a real estate and mortgage broker offering a full range of affordable housing services, including listing, financing, and construction services. (Contact information: Phone: 877.846.6307; www.bnb-associatesllc.com). Mr. Booth has been working in the Jetter, Carver and other areas of Opelika providing affordable housing in part through a grant program sponsored by the City of Opelika. Mr. Booth commented that for all intents and purposes there are three components that must be looked at when evaluating a project. They are land, structure, and financing costs. BNB attempts to work in all three areas: i.e., buying the land, construction the homes, and providing reasonable financing. Mr. Jackson commented that land prices are the key variable differentiating Auburn from Opelika, and until that's addressed building affordable housing will remain a challenge.

II. ADJOURNMENT: Councilwomen Taylor adjourned the meeting circa 8:00 p.m. CDT.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
at the Boykin Community Center.*

END OF SUMMARIES

Summary by Bruno Ulrich

“We Will Never Move Forward, if We Keep Looking Back”

Teams

- Young men Programs (Coaching, dress code, Fight against Violence etc.)
- Young Ladies Programs (Parenting, cooking Skills, etc.)
- Mentors (Being a Friend, Being a Good Listener) Privacy Act
- Education -Preparing For GED and High School Diplomas
- Donations (Monetary, vans, Food, Etc.)
- Entertainment Programs (Gospel, Jazz, blues, Etc.)

Teams

- Secretaries (Taking Notes during Meetings)
- Callers (calling and sending Texts)
- Making flyers (for events)
- Event planners (Back to School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Trips to Museums)
- Bringing Minority Business into the community

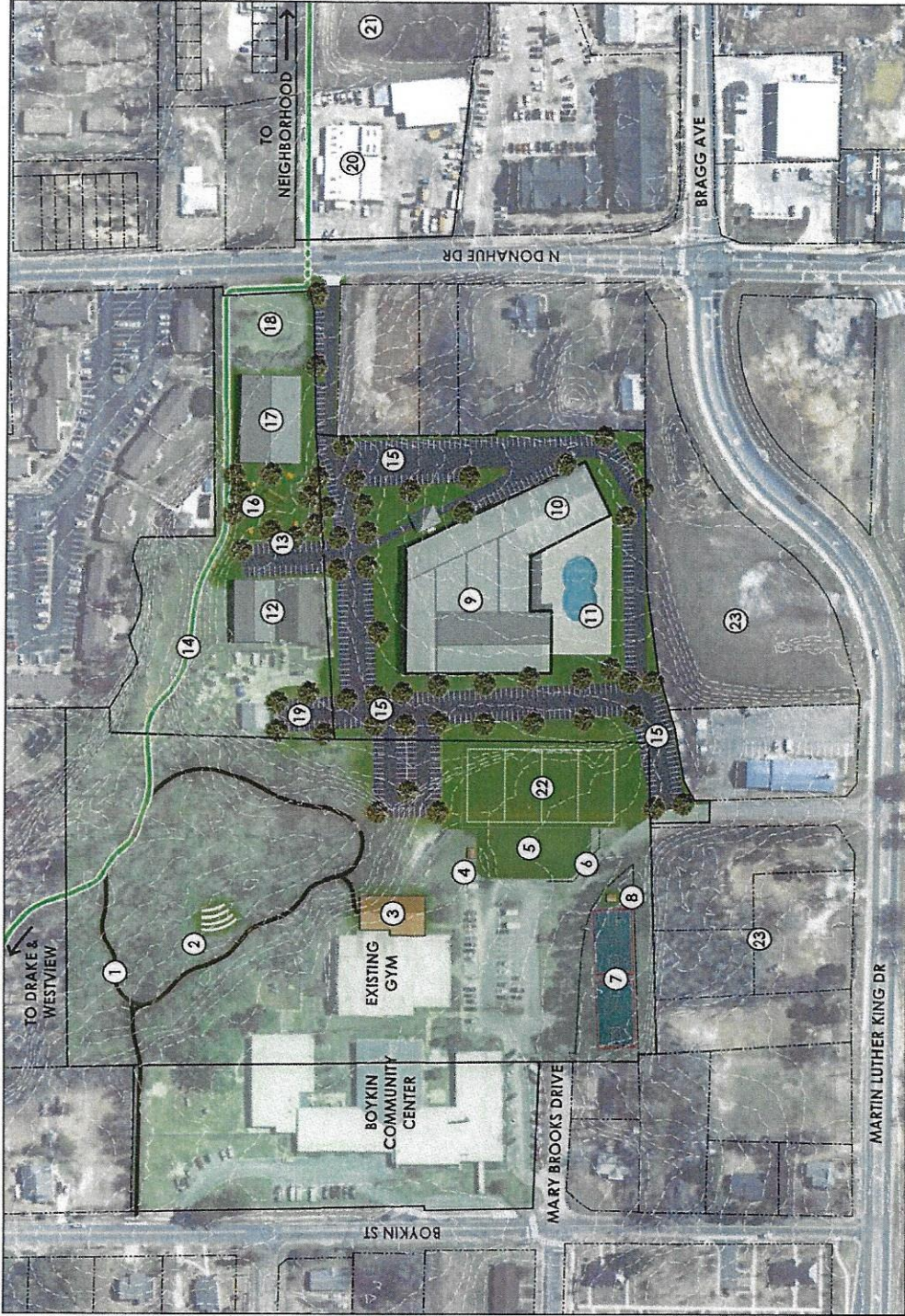
Teams

- Radio, News and TV (Advertisement) (announcing Events associated with the NWA Taskforce)
- Property Owners (investing in your property)
- Senior Programs (Picnics, Trips, house and Yard work, etc.)
- Children Programs (Touring, Trips, I am my Brother's Keeper, Girl Scouts, Boys Troops, Big Brother etc.)
- Voter's registers

CONCEPT PLAN #2

LEGEND

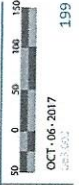
- ① WOODLAND NATURE PARK AND TRAIL
- ② OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & WOODLAND CLEANUP
- ③ BUILDING EXPANSION - 40' X 60' CLASSROOM
- ④ SMALL SHELTER AT MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
- ⑤ IMPROVE 100' X 180' OPEN PLAY FIELD
- ⑥ PROTECTIVE FENCE - 6' TALL
- ⑦ (2) FENCES ON EXISTING BASKETBALL COURTS
- ⑧ 10' X 12' SHELTER FOR BASKETBALL
- ⑨ FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTER WITH NATATORIUM
- ⑩ RENOVATE BUILDING INTO NEW GYM
- ⑪ OUTDOOR POOL
- ⑫ EXPAND EXISTING BUILDING AS MAINTENANCE FACILITY
- ⑬ PUBLIC ART
- ⑭ FUTURE GREENWAY LINK TO DRAKE & WESTVIEW PARK
- ⑮ EXPANDED PARKING LOT
- ⑯ PLAY STRUCTURE
- ⑰ 10,000 SF BRANCH LIBRARY
- ⑱ NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ⑲ MAINTENANCE YARD / COMPLEX
- ⑳ CONVERT TO RECYCLING DROP-OFF FACILITY
- ㉑ CONVERT THE WHITE STREET DETENTION POND TO PRACTICE FIELD
- ㉒ MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
- ㉓ LAND EXPANSION



BOYKIN / DONAHUE CAMPUS

AUBURN, ALABAMA - 400 BOYKIN STREET

10.64 ACRES



NARRATIVE #2

Boykin Community Center is a former elementary school converted into a community center that sits on 10.64-acres on Boykin Street. The center includes a gymnasium, facilities for the Auburn Boys and Girls Club, senior center and a variety of other community services. The Donahue tract is an adjacent 6.17-acre site used for the Auburn Environmental Services facility and the fleet maintenance shop on the opposite side of Donahue Drive. In the future, the activity on this site may be moved to a new location, leaving this valuable and centrally located site available for potential parks and recreation development. Behind the fleet maintenance shop-site are two lots on White Street that currently function as open detention ponds.

Recommendations:

- Woodland Nature Park and Trail:** A large, depressed, area in the woodlands behind the existing gym is proposed to be a nature park with a soft surface loop trail under the trees. The trail and area can be made accessible from the Community Center and Gym.
- Outdoor Classroom and Woodland Cleanup:** The woodland site is thick with invasive undergrowth that needs to be removed for the health of the forest and to open views into the space. The slopes around the edges of the space are perfect for developing a small wooden amphitheater as an outdoor classroom for the Community Center and others.
- Building Expansion - 40 x 60 Classroom:** The Boys and Girls Club space is currently too small to accommodate their demand. The club has been spilling over into the adjacent community center building spaces to accommodate their needs. There is space on the east side of the gym to add a 2400 square foot expansion for classrooms and activity space that also opens out onto the adjacent site.
- Small Shelter at Multi-Purpose Field:** The small turf field adjacent to the parking lot is used by the Boys and Girls Club to hold games and events. A small shelter at the end of the field is needed as a meeting, post-up, teaching space for the various activities that occur on the field.
- Improve 100' x 180' Field:** The small grass field is in poor condition and has no defined edges. A simple turf renovation and irrigation system on the field will improve the quality of the turf and the use of the field.
- Protective Fence Six (6) Feet Tall:** The small grass field and basketball courts border on Mary Brooks Drive. A six (6) foot fence along the end of the grass field will keep activities and balls from spilling out onto the street.
- Fence Existing Basketball Courts (Outdoor) - Two (2):** The city recently completed construction of two (2) new outdoor basketball courts. They are flanked on two sides by tall retaining walls but are open on the remaining two (2) sides. Cars parking on the street and fronting into the unprotected side of the basketball courts are so close that they become a boundary for play. A six (6) foot containment fence between the cars and courts protects the courts, keeps players off the vehicles, and keeps balls out of the street.
- Shelter for Basketball:** The new courts are squeezed between a tall retaining wall and Mary Brooks Drive with little gathering, waiting or viewing space around the courts. A small space at the open end

- of the courts is an excellent location for a small (10 x 12) shade structure for post-up and waiting.
- Future Community Center with Natatorium:** The central location of the Donahue site within the city is a perfect location for any of the more high-end expensive recreational facilities such as covered courts or a natatorium. Such expensive facilities need to be better located near the population center so they can better serve more citizens. The Donahue site is the perfect location for a larger recreation center combined with a natatorium and other facilities. The proposed complex contains two (2) indoor pools, indoor gym / courts, classrooms and support facilities.
- Renovate Building into a New Gym:** There is a large metal building on the Donahue site that can be converted into covered courts and be incorporated into the overall recreation center building.
- Outdoor Pool:** The natatorium is best served by including an outdoor pool and splash pad water feature.
- Expand Existing Building as Maintenance:** The current Environmental Services office building is being expanded by 1,000 square foot. When the overall site becomes available for development, this building is best converted into a satellite parks maintenance facility.
- Public Art:** The site development program includes a wide variety of uses and attracts a wide spectrum of patrons. Public Art is identified as a potential enhancement and improvement to the site by placing it in strategic locations around the park. The art can also be set on a rotating schedule.
- Future Greenway Link to Drake School and Westview Park:** A greenway is identified along the northern edge of the Donahue site that connects eastward across N. Donahue Drive past the Fleet Services building, along the White Street detention ponds and over to Canton Avenue where it can continue up Fraizer Street to West Drake Avenue. The greenway route goes westward across the north side of the Donahue site, through the woodland nature park and along the stream bank over to Boykin Street. The route turns north along Boykin Street until it connects to the greenway in Westview Park and Drake Middle School.
- Expanded Parking Lot:** Parking is expanded around the site to serve the increased demand on the new facilities.
- Play Structure:** The new Donahue site is centrally located so that a neighborhood destination play structure / playground is a very desirable addition to this facility. It is best located adjacent to a dedicated library to make it more available to patrons and to add a sense of security.
- Branch Library:** This section of the city is in dire need of a branch library. A 10,000-square foot building is designated for this site and should have a visible presence from Donahue Drive. See the Library Section of the report for additional data.
- Neighborhood Park:** There is a small neighborhood park on the Donahue Drive frontage of the site that serves residents in the area. It needs to be improved and maintained to continue to serve the residents in the same capacity.

- Maintenance Yard / Complex:** A portion of the site is fenced off adjacent to the former office building to serve as a maintenance yard for this park and others.
- Recycling Drop-off Facility:** The Fleet Services facility is to become a recycling center or parking. It is not good to locate recreational assets on the opposite side of a street which may encourage youth to carelessly cross a traffic artery without looking.
- Convert the White Street Detention Pond:** It is possible to clear out the bottom of the White Street detention ponds and grade them to become informal practice fields. They can still function as a detention ponds but most of the time they will be available for open play and practice.

22. Multi-Purpose Field: A full size multipurpose athletic field can be incorporated into the site plan adjacent to the Boykin small grass field. The presence of a large multi-purpose field accommodates a variety of games and practices including use by patrons of the Boykin Community Center.

23. Land Expansion: The city should consider trying to acquire land south of the site fronting on Martin Luther King Drive and convert Mary Brooks Drive into an internal park road.

COST ESTIMATE #2

| # | ITEM | QTY | UNIT | UNIT \$ | TOTAL \$ |
|--------------------------|--|--------|-------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | WOODLAND NATURE PARK | | | | |
| | A. TRAIL SYSTEM SURFACE 8" WIDE | 900 | LF | 12.00 | 10,800.00 |
| | B. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM | 1 | LF | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 2 | WOODLAND CLEANUP AND UNDERBRUSHING | 4 | AC | 3,500.00 | 12,500.00 |
| 3 | BUILDING EXPANSION - 40' X 60' CLASSROOM | 2,400 | SF | 150.00 | 360,000.00 |
| 4 | SMALL SHELTER AT MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD (PHEAF) | 1 | LS | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 5 | IMPROVE 100' X 180' FIELD (TURF AND IRRIGATION) | 18,000 | SF | 1.00 | 18,000.00 |
| 6 | PROTECTIVE FENCE 6' TALL | 100 | LF | 20.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 7 | FENCE (6) EXISTING OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS (OUTDOOR) | 200 | LF | 28.00 | 7,840.00 |
| 8 | SHELTER - 40' X 12' FOR BASKETBALL (PHEAF) | 1 | EA | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 9 | FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTER W/ NATATORIUM | 1 | ALLOW | 6,000,000.00 | 6,000,000.00 |
| 10 | RENOVATE BUILDING INTO NEW GYM 90' X 110' | 3,900 | LS | 310.00 | 1,209,000.00 |
| 11 | OUTDOOR POOL - OLYMPIC (82' X 184') | 25,000 | SF | 325.00 | 8,125,000.00 |
| 12 | EXPAND EXISTING BUILDING AS MAINTENANCE | 1,000 | SF | 150.00 | 150,000.00 |
| 13 | PUBLIC ART | 30 | EA | 3,000.00 | 90,000.00 |
| 14 | FUTURE GREENWAY LINK TO DRAKE & WESTVIEW PARKS 1/2" | 2,100 | LF | 50.00 | 105,000.00 |
| 15 | IMPROVE 100' X 180' FIELD | 460 | EA | 900.00 | 414,000.00 |
| 16 | PLAY STRUCTURE | 1 | EA | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| 17 | BRANCH LIBRARY | 10,000 | SF | 150.00 | 1,500,000.00 |
| 18 | NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (RECONSTRUCT) | 1 | ALLOW | 1,000,000.00 | 1,000,000.00 |
| 19 | MAINTENANCE YARD/COMPLEX | 1 | LS | 100,000.00 | 100,000.00 |
| 20 | RECYCLING DROP-OFF FACILITY (RENOVATION FOR REUSE) | 8,000 | SF | 40.00 | 320,000.00 |
| 21 | CONVERT THE WHITE STREET DETENTION POND | 1 | LS | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 22 | TRAIL TO NEIGHBORHOOD 10' WIDE SIDEWALKS | 800 | LF | 350.00 | 280,000.00 |
| 23 | MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD 110' X 135' (GRASS, IRRIGATION) | 37,000 | SF | 2.25 | 83,250.00 |
| 24 | LAND EXPANSION (COST OF LAND UNKNOWN) | 1 | LS | 3,100,000.00 | 3,100,000.00 |
| GENERAL ITEMS | | | | | |
| | A. LANDSCAPE / IRRIGATION ALLOWANCE | 1 | ALLOW | 1,200,000.00 | 1,200,000.00 |
| | B. UTILITY UPGRADES AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS | 1 | ALLOW | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| | C. STAGING, DEMOLITION, EROSION CONTROL, SITE WORK, GRADING ETC. | 1 | ALLOW | 1,000,000.00 | 1,000,000.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL | | | | | 15,486,800.00 |
| 25% CONTINGENCY | | | | | 3,871,700.00 |
| ENGINEERING AND FEES 10% | | | | | 1,548,680.00 |
| TOTAL COSTS | | | | | 20,907,180.00 |

BOYKIN / DONAHUE CAMPUS

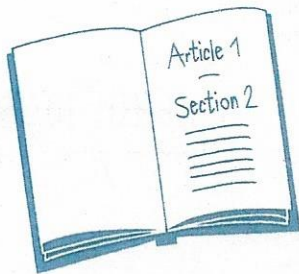
AUBURN, ALABAMA - 400 BOYKIN STREET

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

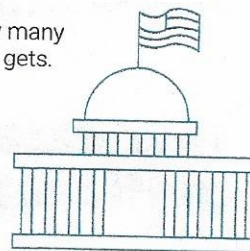


It's in the Constitution.

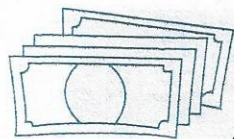
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

It's about fair representation.

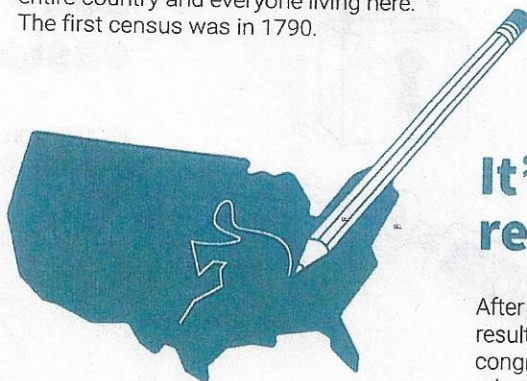
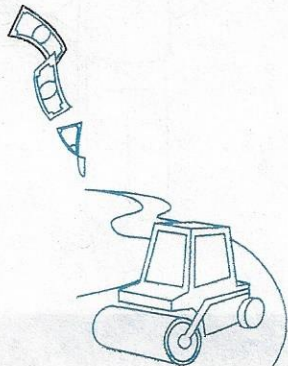
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It means \$675 billion.



Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

