

# Center of Population Event

## Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

**September 21, 2022**

- Good morning, everyone. It's an honor to be here as your director of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Hartville, Missouri, is a beautiful, friendly town . . . and it's the center of population of our wonderful nation.
- How about that?! Congratulations!
- Thank you, Mayor Rob Tucker, and thank you to the many folks in Hartville who coordinated with census—along with our counterparts from our sister agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for hosting us today.
- I also want to acknowledge my colleagues from the Census Bureau: Vincent Osier, from the Geography Division, and Marilyn Sanders, our Director of the Chicago Regional Office.
- Well, everyone, the Census Bureau measures our nation's people, places, and economy.
- We most famously enumerate the U.S. population once a decade, as prescribed by Article 1, Section 2, of our U.S. Constitution.
- The official counts are then used for congressional seat apportionment and legislative redistricting.
- AND—once a decade, we use the census to calculate where in our bountiful United States the center of population lies.
- The center of the U.S. population signifies the average location where we all live in the United States.
- That's the reason we are all here in Hartville today!
- So again, Congratulations to Hartville for this wonderful recognition.
- You'll be famous for this wonderful designation for the rest of our nation's history.
- And you will have bragging rights for the rest of this decade! Not bad.
- Now that you have your just bragging rights, please allow us to do a little bragging of our own.
- OK, just to put it out there . . . yes, I confess we are data nerds at the Census Bureau . . . we love our data because we know all the good it can do to help our country.
- Hey, our data literally preserve our democracy! That's gotta be cool, right?
- But the Census Bureau does so much more than just the decennial census!
- We do two other censuses—the Census of Governments and an Economic census of businesses.
- We also conduct over 130 surveys annually on America's population and businesses.
- We help you—the people we serve—understand who we are as a nation, a state, a town, a neighborhood.
- That even helps towns like yours here in Hartville figure out if you need a bigger school or health facility, where the best spot is for a fire station or a stop light, how to attract businesses, whether more housing is needed . . . All kinds of stuff related to economic development and quality of life.

- And using our data, the federal government distributes literally trillions of dollars to states and communities across the decade.
- The bottom line is that Census data—in all its forms and from all its sources—helps our nation to function, grow, and prosper.
- Now, we understand all these uses and take them incredibly seriously.
- That’s why we are so mission driven.
- And that’s why we are so excited to be here today.
- Our work at the Bureau is driven by our values of scientific integrity, objectivity, independence, and transparency.
- But it is also driven by our passion to help people, to serve the public.
- And that means everyone . . . including you, and you, and you . . . and Hartville.
- Understanding the needs of our diverse communities is really important to us. So is providing you data that we know will help your beautiful community.
- That’s why it’s such a pleasure to be with you here today.
- We wanted to get to know Hartville better.
- And now, through your new role as our center of population, we celebrate this tremendous recognition with you.
- Thank you for hosting us today.