

Rep. Michele M. Bachmann (R-MN)

2010 Census Form (Estimated)

Executive Summary

Rep. Michele Bachmann stated on June 17, 2009 that she would not complete the United States Census beyond very minimal information. She said, “I know for my family the only question we will be answering is how many people are in our home. We won't be answering any information beyond that, because the Constitution doesn't require any information beyond that.” Bachmann added that the questions in the Census survey had become “very intricate, very personal.”

To clarify Rep. Bachmann's understanding of the Census (and if necessary to assist the federal government's survey of her residence), Third Coast Research has completed a hypothetical census survey for the Congresswoman. The survey was completed using only publicly available information, with citations to the source for each entry. Additionally, we completed only Rep. Bachmann's personal entry, and not anyone else who might be living in her household.

The results provide several interesting insights into Rep. Bachmann's claims, as well as the opposition research process. Of the 78 questions in the 2000 Census survey, we were unable to complete 16, or 20 percent of the survey. An additional four questions could be resolved by a visit to the Washington County Recorder of Deeds office in Minnesota. Therefore, Third Coast Research has concluded that 85 percent of the U.S. Census questionnaire, at least for Rep. Bachmann, is based on very public and easily available information.

The process used to complete the survey is standard in any opposition research process, and has no doubt been repeated for Rep. Bachmann several times. Questions regarding her real estate property were resolved using the Washington County Assessor as well as the public records search in Lexis-Nexis. The Lexis-Nexis search was restricted to non-authorized usage under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and as such accessed only records appropriate for public viewing.

In addition to this process, an opposition researcher would travel to Rep. Bachmann's principal counties of residence to retrieve court, property and voting records. Such a trip would resolve several other questions, such as whether Rep. Bachmann has a second mortgage or home equity line of credit. It would also determine the sort of mortgage, if any, she holds, for example to determine if she held an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM).

As with any research, this report is a survey of public records. It may contain incomplete or even erroneous data. In any case we emphatically do not speak for Rep. Bachmann, nor do we intend this document to be an official or unofficial filing with the U.S. Census on her behalf. The questions were slightly modified to fit a hypothetical 2010 Census survey. The table lists the survey number, question, answer, source used and comment by Third Coast Research.

Please contact Third Coast Research with any and all questions regarding this document at (312) 733-9334 or will@3rdcoastresearch.com

Bachmann Census Entries

The following table lists potential entries for Rep. Michele Bachmann for the 2010 U.S. Census Survey. Citations are listed for the answers, as well as comments when relevant by Third Coast Research.

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
1	What is this person's name?	Bachmann, Michele M.	Multiple	
2	What is this person's telephone number?	(320) 253-5931	Google Maps	
3	What is this person's sex?	Female	Multiple	
4	What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?	53/April 6, 1956	Almanac of American Politics	
5	Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?	No	Multiple	
6	What is this person's race?	White	Google Images	
7	What is this person's marital status?	Now Married	Almanac of American Politics	
8	At any time since February 1, 2000, has this person attended regular school or college?	No	Multiple	
9	What is this highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED?	Professional degree	Almanac of American Politics	
10	What is this person's ancestry or origin?	Unknown	N/A	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
11	Does this person speak a language other than English at home?	No	http://thomas.loc.gov	Inferred from Bachmann's cosponsorship of HR 997, which would make English the official language of the United States
12	Where was this person born?	Iowa	Almanac of American Politics	
13	Is this person a citizen of the United States?	Yes	Almanac of American Politics	
15a	Did this person live in this house or apartment five years ago?	No	Washington County Assessor	
15b	Where did this person live five years ago?	Stillwater	Washington County Recorder of Deeds/Lexis Nexis Public Records	
	Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?	Yes		
	Name of county?	Washington		
	Name of state?	Minnesota		
	Zip code?	55082		
16	Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:	Unknown	N/A	While we would never claim to be privy to Bachmann's medical records, we can safely assume from her many appearances in the media that she is more than capable of vision, hearing and ambulation.
	Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment	No	Multiple	
	A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as	No	Multiple	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
	walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying?			
17	<p>Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:</p> <p>a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating?</p> <p>b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home?</p> <p>c. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office?</p> <p>d. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Working at a job or business?</p>	Unknown	N/A	Obviously answering these questions would presume private medical knowledge in violation of the Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). We cannot comment on Rep. Bachmann's mental and/or emotional state from a medical perspective.
18	Was this person under 15 years of age on April 1, 2000?	No	Multiple	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
19	a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?	No (skip to 20a)	Multiple	
20a	a. Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard? Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.	No (Skip to 21)	Multiple	
21	LAST WEEK, did this person do ANY work for either pay or profit?	Yes	Multiple	We are presuming that Rep. Bachmann is always “on the job” and hence working for her \$174,000 salary.
22a	At what location did this person work LAST WEEK? If this person worked at more than one location, print where he or she worked most last week.	412 Cannon HOB	Multiple	
22b	Name of City?	Washington	Multiple	
22c	Is the work location inside the limits of that city or town?	Yes	Multiple	
22d	Name of county?	District of Columbia	Multiple	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
22e	Name of state?	District of Columbia	Multiple	
22f	Zip code?	20515	Multiple	
23	a. How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?	Car, truck or van	Clerk of the House	Bachmann's office expense disclosures show that she spent \$1,317 on car lease payments in the year of 2008. However, the records do not indicate whether she shared a ride with staffers or other Representatives.
23b	b. How many people, including this person, usually rode to work in the car, truck, or van LAST WEEK?	Unknown	N/A	
24a	What time did this person usually leave home to go to work LAST WEEK?	Unknown	N/A	While Bachmann's office expenses show she took a car, we cannot presume to know how long her commute was.
24b	How many minutes did it usually take this person to get from home to work LAST WEEK?	Unknown	N/A	
27	Industry or Employer — Describe clearly this person's chief job activity or business last week.			
27a	For whom did this person work?	United States Government	http://thomas.loc.gov	
27b	What kind of business or industry was this?	Government	Multiple	
27c	Is this mainly (Pick one)	Other	Multiple	
28a	a. What kind of work was this person doing?	Legislating	Multiple	
28b	What were this person's most important activities	Voting, drafting	http://www.congressforkids.net/Legislativebranch_house.htm	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
	or duties?	legislation, floor speeches		
29	Was this person-	A Federal government employee	http://thomas.loc.gov	
30a	LAST YEAR, 2009, did this person work at a job or business at any time?	Yes	http://thomas.loc.gov	
30b	How many weeks did this person work in 2009?	52	http://thomas.loc.gov	
30c	During the weeks WORKED in 1999, how many hours did this person usually work each WEEK	40	http://thomas.loc.gov	As members of Congress are prohibited from having second jobs we shall assume that Rep. Bachmann worked a standard 51 weeks at 40 hours a week.
31	INCOME in 2009			
31a	Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs — Report amount before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items.	\$174,000	http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/uscongress/a/congresspay.htm	
31b	Self-employment income from own nonfarm businesses or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships	\$0	http://www.opensecrets.org/pfds/CIDsummary.php?CID=N00027493&year=2007	Rep. Bachmann reported income from both of these sources on her most recently available personal financial disclosure; however the amount was \$0.

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment	
31c	Interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts	\$0			
31d	Social Security or Railroad Retirement	\$0			
31e	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$0			
31f	Any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office	\$0			
31g	Retirement, survivor, or disability pensions	\$0	http://www.opensecrets.org/pfds/CIDsummary.php?CID=N00027493&year=2007		
31h	Any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony	\$0			
32	What was this person's total income in 2009?	\$174,000		http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/uscongress/a/congresspay.htm	
33	Is this house, apartment or mobile home-	Owned by you or someone in this household with a		Washington County Recorder of Deeds	

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
		mortgage or loan		
34	What best describes this building?	A one-family house detached from any other house	Washington County Assessor	
35	About when was this building first built?	2005 to 2008	Washington County Assessor	
36	When did this person move into this house, apartment or mobile home?	2005 to 2008	Washington County Recorder of Deeds	
37	How many rooms do you have in this house, apartment or mobile home	8 to 11 (estimated)		
38	How many bedrooms do you have; that is, how many bedrooms would you list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were on the market for sale or rent?	4 bedrooms	http://www.trulia.com/homes/Minnetonka/Stillwater/sold/21044860-13505-4th-St-N-Stillwater-MN-55082	We assume in addition to the bedrooms and baths that the house contains a living room, dining room and den.
39	Do you have COMPLETE plumbing facilities in this house, apartment, or mobile home; that is, 1) hot and cold piped water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower?	Yes		

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
40	Do you have COMPLETE kitchen facilities in this house, apartment, or mobile home; that is, 1) a sink with piped water, 2) a range or stove, and 3) a refrigerator?			
41	Is there telephone service available in this house, apartment, or mobile home from which you can both make and receive calls?	Yes	Google Maps	
42	Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?	Unknown	N/A	The heating type for residential structures is not listed by the Washington County Assessor (though some county assessors do)
43	How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of your household?	Unknown	N/A	Some counties track car ownership for personal property taxes; alas Washington County, MN, does not
44a	Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?	No	Minnesota Secretary of State	Rep. Bachmann's husband, Marcus, maintains a business called Bachmann and Associates. However its registered address is not at their home address.
44b	How many acres is this house or mobile home on?	1 to 9.9 acres	http://www.trulia.com/homes/Minnesota/Stillwater/sold/21044860-13505-4th-St-N-Stillwater-MN-55082	2.75 acres, if anyone is counting (we are)

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
44c	In 2009, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?	Unknown	N/A	We cannot confirm Rep. Bachmann has not been selling agricultural products from her house. We hope for her sake that if she has been, she has received less than \$25,000 for it.
45a-d	What are the annual costs of utilities and fuels for this house, apartment, or mobile home?	Unknown	N/A	Fuel and utility costs are not usually public records.
47a	Do you have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	Unclear. Lexis-Nexis public records do not indicate a mortgage; however this data is only a broad survey of public records. Having said that, the property was purchased for \$760,000, a veritable steal considering its market assessment of \$1.2 million.
47b	How much is your regular monthly mortgage payment on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	It is possible to calculate approximate mortgage payments using a mortgage calculator (even accounting for PMI and property taxes). However, that information is unavailable in this case.
47c	Does your regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	Scrutiny of the mortgage document will usually reveal whether property tax payments are paid through escrow, or paid to the mortgage holder who then handles the actual payments. Generally this is required for loans with less than a 20% down payment.

#	Question	Answer	Citation	Comment
47d	Does your regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, or flood insurance on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	A mortgage document from the local recorder of deeds would tell us if Rep. Bachmann pays private mortgage insurance (PMI), generally required when less than 20% of the property value is offered as a down payment. However other forms of insurance are usually not disclosed.
48a	Do you have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	Members of Congress are not required to disclose loans on their residences (“residence” being defined as not currently receiving rent from a property). A visit to the Washington County Recorder of Deeds would resolve the question one way or another.
48b	How much is your regular monthly payment on all second or junior mortgages and all home equity loans on THIS property?	Unknown	N/A	