

Today marks the four-day countdown for residents across America to mail back their 2010 Census questionnaires. Households that return their forms after Friday, April 16, may still be visited by census workers, who begin going door-to-door to collect census responses on May 1. Households that don't return a form will be visited by Census workers. When the 10-question form is mailed back, it costs 42 cents in prepaid postage. When a Census worker visits, it's an average \$56 per household. The census is very important to each community because it is how federal taxpayer dollars are distributed for schools, roads, healthcare and more.

State Auditor Susan Montee says a former accountant with the Missouri Veterans Commission embezzled \$107,000, and it appears she might get away with most of it. Back in 2008, The MVC found out that Stacy Griffin-Lowery used her company gas card from 2006 to 2008, racking up \$17,000 in personal charges. Instead of facing felony forgery charges, she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge back in 2008 and repaid the \$17,000. Now, a state audit shows Griffin-Lowery also allegedly charged the state for cash advances on her personal credit card to the tune of \$90,000. Montee says Cole County Prosecutor Mark Richardson doesn't plan to pursue any more charges; so Griffin-Lowery may get away with the \$90,000. "That is what we were told. They were told they worked a plea agreement that would have included anything, whether they knew it or not. She actually pleaded guilty in June of '08. We hadn't even finished the audit so as to why that was included, we did have someone look at it and I'm certain there is some possibilities of filing additional charges. I just would hope that if there is an additional way of doing that it gets investigated," Montee said at a press conference Monday. Montee says a lack of spot-checks allowed this to happen and the MVC says they have changed some of their oversight policies. The MVC could get the money back through a state bond, and it would go back into the general fund. Griffin-Lowery actually worked in the State Auditor's office for 6 years until she moved to the MVC in 2002. She was fired in 2008 when the original embezzlement was uncovered.