



Someone not born a citizen can become one:

- ▶ at least 18 years old
- ▶ lawful permanent resident
- ▶ live in U.S. for 5 years
- ▶ of "good character"
- ▶ read & write English
- ▶ take test on U.S. history and government
- ▶ take oath of allegiance



- ▶ Obey laws
- ▶ Pay taxes
- ▶ Serve on jury if summoned
- ▶ Register with Selective Service



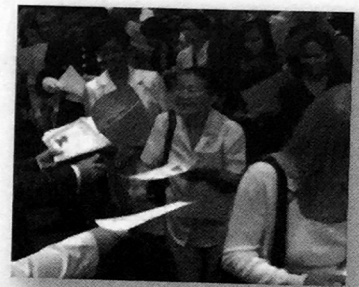
Obligations of Citizenship (the "musts" of citizenship)

Birthright Citizenship

Naturalization Process

U.S. Citizenship

The Obligations, Responsibilities, and Rights of Citizens



Responsibilities of Citizenship (the "shoulds" of citizenship)

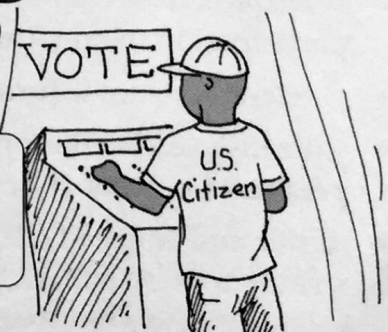
- ▶ Be informed about public affairs
- ▶ Vote in elections
- ▶ Join a political party
- ▶ Run for political office
- ▶ Serve on local committees
- ▶ Attend public meetings
- ▶ Petition officials
- ▶ Volunteer for service projects

Rights of Citizenship

- ▶ No Bill of Attainder, peacetime suspension of writ of habeas corpus or ex post facto laws.
- ▶ Individual rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- ▶ Amendments guaranteed the right to vote: 15th, 19th, 24th, 26th Amendments

Exclusive Rights of U.S. Citizens

- ▶ Right to vote in U.S. elections
- ▶ Right to carry U.S. passport
- ▶ Right to hold many government jobs



Review Cards: The Obligations, Responsibilities, and Rights of Citizens

Obtaining United States Citizenship

- ▶ A **citizen** is a legally recognized member of a nation.
- ▶ In the United States, the Fourteenth Amendment specifies two paths to citizenship: through birthright and naturalization
- ▶ A person receives “birthright” citizenship by the “Law of Soil,” if they are born in the United States, or by the “Law of Blood,” if born outside but both parents are American citizens. If only one parent is an American citizen, the “Law of Blood” applies if he or she recently lived in America.
- ▶ Others can become citizens through **naturalization**. To become a “naturalized” U.S. citizen, a person must know English, be of good character, be at least 18 years old, and have been a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years. Then they must complete an application, pass a test on American history and government, and swear an oath of allegiance.
- ▶ A person who is not a citizen but who lawfully lives and works in the United States is a “**lawful permanent resident**,” or legal alien. Lawful permanent residents hold “green cards.”
- ▶ Legal aliens have the right to live and work in the U.S, receive professional certification, leave and re-enter the United States, and be protected under the Bill of Rights. They cannot vote.
- ▶ The naturalization process has made America more attractive to immigrants, who enrich America with their own talents, cultures and traditions.

The Obligations of Citizenship

- ▶ Citizens have an obligation to obey the law, to pay taxes, and to serve on juries. Visitors must also obey the law and pay taxes, like local sales taxes, or income taxes if they work.
- ▶ All draft-age males, whether citizens or visitors, must also register with the Selective Service and fight in the military if **conscripted**; however, conscription has not happened since 1973.
- ▶ Drafted men are generally chosen at random, based on birthdate. **Conscientious objectors** can refuse to fight on religious grounds. The draft ended in 1973, but all men still must register.
- ▶ Citizens are called to jury duty with a **jury summons**. They can request an excused absence.
- ▶ Jury members are chosen randomly from a **juror pool** of people who received the summons. Lawyers have the right to remove jurors before the trial begins. Trial by a jury of **peers** is a constitutional right. However, we can only preserve this right by meeting our obligation to serve as a juror when called.

The Responsibilities of Citizenship

- ▶ A citizen’s civic responsibilities are not enforced, but they are encouraged. These include participation in and knowledge of local, state, and national affairs and events.
- ▶ Citizens who are **informed** and active in public policy ensure a working democracy.
- ▶ Citizens exercise their right to vote on **Election Day** by casting a ballot at the **polling place**. A person who is not at home on that day can send an **absentee ballot**.
- ▶ Active and engaged citizens communicate their views by joining political parties, running for office, writing to newspapers, posting blogs, or communicating with politicians. They also attend **civic meetings** and **volunteer** for local service projects in order to promote the **common good**.

The Rights of Citizenship

- ▶ The U.S. Constitution protects certain rights of all people in America, both citizens and non-citizens. State constitutions, like the Florida State Constitution, also protect citizens' rights.
 - ◆ Everyone is guaranteed the right to a **writ of *habeas corpus***, a court order releasing someone from imprisonment so that they can appear before the court.
 - ◆ Everyone is protected from a **Bill of Attainder**, an act by a legislature which condemns and punishes individuals without a trial.
 - ◆ Everyone is protected from ***ex post facto* laws**, which would prosecute a person for an act committed before the law was passed that made that act a crime.
- ▶ The Constitution protects the rights of citizens within states: all “privileges and immunities” granted by a state must apply to everyone in that state, not just to state citizens.
- ▶ The Bill of Rights applies to everyone in the United States—citizens and non-citizens alike.
- ▶ The **Ninth Amendment** states that people have other, **unenumerated rights** that are beyond those listed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- ▶ Only American citizens can vote and hold political office in the United States.
- ▶ The 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th Amendments guaranteed voting rights to specific groups (all races, women, and those over 18 years of age) and banned poll taxes for voting in federal elections.
- ▶ Other benefits of citizenship include the right to live permanently in the United States, the right to have a U.S passport, the right to hold certain jobs and military offices that require citizenship, the right to have priority in applying to bring family members from other countries to the United States, and the right to enjoy certain other government and private benefits, such as some college scholarships.