



Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Benefits

1. *If you are a citizen:* you qualify for some benefits that are not always given to permanent residents (food stamps, social security, general assistance). Right now you may be receiving assistance, but the law could change. To protect yourself it is better to become a citizen so you can be sure that you will always be able to get what you need.

Traveling

2. *If you are a citizen:* it is easier to travel. You can get a US passport; you don't have to use travel documents to leave the country. You can also live outside of the US without losing citizenship.

Family Reunification

3. *If you are a citizen:* you can apply for more family members to move here from other countries. There is also a shorter waiting time if you are a citizen.

Voting

4. *If you are a citizen:* you can vote in elections. Many times laws are made which you don't agree with. If you are a citizen you have more power to control this.

Access to Jobs

5. *If you are a citizen:* you can apply for federal jobs. Some state jobs also require you to be a US Citizen.

Security Against Deportation

6. *If you are a citizen:* you are protected from removal (deportation). Citizens cannot be deported. As of September 1996, non-citizens found guilty of certain crimes might be deported.