

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 <u>law could change</u>. 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.