



## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. We are a nation bound not by race or religion, but by the shared values of freedom, liberty, and equality.

Throughout our history, the United States has welcomed newcomers from all over the world. The contributions of immigrants have helped shape and define the country we know today. More than 200 years after our founding, naturalized citizens are still an important part of our democracy. By becoming a U.S. citizen, you too will have a voice in how our nation is governed.

The decision to apply is a significant one. Citizenship offers many benefits and equally important responsibilities. By applying, you are demonstrating your commitment to this country and our form of government.

Below you will find several rights and responsibilities that all citizens should exercise and respect. Some of these responsibilities are legally required of every citizen, but all are important to ensuring that America remains a free and prosperous nation.

### More Information

- [N-400, Application for Naturalization](#)
- [The Citizen's Almanac \(PDF, 8.53 MB\)](#)
- [A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigrants](#)
- [Pocket Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States \(PDF, 725 KB\)](#)
- [Important Information for New Citizens \(PDF, 163 KB\)](#)

Rights	Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedom to express yourself.</li> <li>• Freedom to worship as you wish.</li> <li>• Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.</li> <li>• Right to vote in elections for public officials.</li> <li>• Right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>• Right to run for elected office.</li> <li>• Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and defend the Constitution.</li> <li>• Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.</li> <li>• Participate in the democratic process.</li> <li>• Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.</li> <li>• Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.</li> <li>• Participate in your local community.</li> <li>• Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.</li> <li>• Serve on a jury when called upon.</li> <li>• Defend the country if the need should arise.</li> </ul>