

### The Basics of Becoming a U.S Citizen



#### U.S. CITIZENSHIP DATA REPORT AND STATISTICS 2024

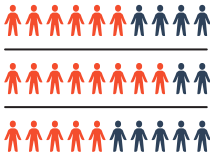
U.S. citizenship trends in 2024 reflect important shifts in naturalization processes and outcomes.

82.9%

of applicants were eligible after 5 years of residency.

878,500

people applied for citizenship in 2024.



THERE ARE

88%

of citizenship applications approved.



### What Does Being a Citizen Mean?

**U.S. Citizenship isn't just a title;** it's a relationship between an individual and the United States.

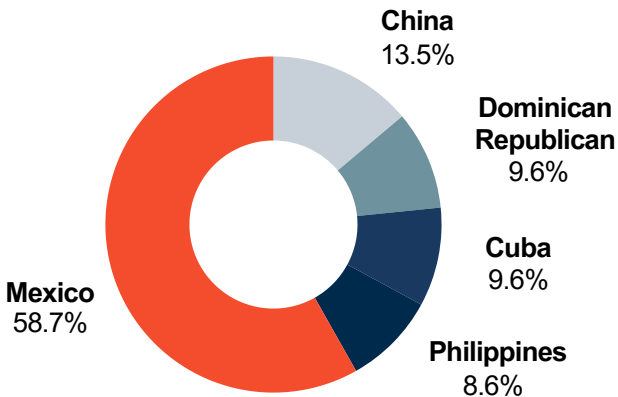


#### THE PATH TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP

There are several ways to become a U.S. citizen, each with specific requirements

- ➔ **By Birth:** Citizen if born in the U.S. or to American parents abroad.
- ➔ **By Marriage:** Marrying a U.S. citizen speeds up the process
- ➔ **By Naturalization:** Meet requirements, pass a test, and take an oath.
- ➔ **By Military:** Active-duty or veterans can get expedited citizenship.

#### ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2023

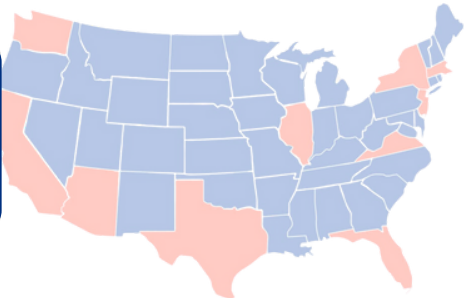


### Eligibility Requirements

In 2023, nearly 60% of lawful permanent residents eligible for U.S. citizenship were in California, New York, Texas, and Florida.

#### LPRs ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE IN 2023

California	2,200,000
Texas	1,150,000
New York	980,000
Florida	880,000
New Jersey	380,000
Illinois	370,000
Massachusetts	220,000
Washington	190,000
Virginia	180,000
Arizona	180,000



Navigating the path to U.S. citizenship starts with **checking your eligibility**, ensuring you meet key criteria that confirm your commitment and qualification.



You must be **18 years old** and have a green card for 5 years.



You must **pledge loyalty to the U.S.** by taking the Oath of Allegiance.



You must have a **good moral character** with no criminal record.



You need **basic English skills** and must pass a U.S. civics test.



You must **live in the U.S. for at least 30 months** out of the last 5 years

*There are **certain exceptions**, including **military members and children under 18 residing in the U.S.**, who may gain derivative citizenship when a parent naturalizes.*

# The Application Process

The **U.S. citizenship application** process involves several key steps that ensure an applicant's eligibility and preparedness for naturalization.

Here's a quick overview of the process:



**TIP:** Always review your application thoroughly before submitting to avoid delays or complications in the citizenship process.

01



## FILE AN APPLICATION

File an application using **Form N-400 with USCIS**. Applications from low-income households may qualify for a fee waiver or reduced fee.

02



## BIOMETRICS APPOINTMENT

Attend the biometrics appointment to **record your fingerprints, photograph, and signature**. This is required for all applicants, including those 75 and older

03



## CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEW

Complete an **interview with a USCIS officer**, answer questions about your application, and take the required English language and civics tests.

04



## USCIS ISSUES A DECISION

It may be granted, continued (**if more information is needed or a test must be retaken**), or denied if the application is not eligible for citizenship.

05



## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

For those whose application is approved, you must **take the Oath of Allegiance**. Attend the ceremony, and take the oath.

## Handling a Denied Application

A **denial** isn't the end of the road, and you still have options to move forward:



**Understand the Denial:** Review USCIS's reason for the decision.



**Reapply or Appeal:** Fix the issue by submitting Form N-336.



**Seek Legal Help:** An immigration attorney can guide your next steps.



**Prepare:** Ensure all documents are complete and practice for the interview.

## Benefits of U.S Citizenship

### RIGHT TO VOTE

As a U.S. Citizen, you gain the **right to participate** in federal elections and influence the nation's future.



### SPONSOR FAMILY

U.S. citizens can **petition for close family members**, such as parents, siblings, and children, to become permanent resident.

### PERMANENT STATUS

No need to renew your green card; **citizenship is permanent**.



### FEDERAL JOBS

**Access exclusive government** positions reserved for U.S. citizens.

### U.S. PASSPORT & PROTECTION

Travel easily with a **U.S. passport** and gain protection from deportation.



