



Talking Points – Citizenship Day

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This Citizenship Day, the New Americans Campaign is celebrating new and prospective citizens by helping hundreds of aspiring Americans take their final step towards citizenship at dozens of workshops in 17 different cities. Find a workshop near you: <http://newamericanscampaign.org/our-impact/calendar#1>

Our Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, setting the foundation for a burgeoning nation that would become a beacon of hope and a home for millions of immigrants. Today, we continue to be a dream destination for a long line of intrepid aspiring citizens who are ready to start businesses, raise their families here, and constantly contribute to our growing communities.

Every year, thousands of aspiring Americans commemorate the signing of our Constitution by celebrating Citizenship Day. They celebrate by taking their final step towards their American dream – earning their citizenship.

Each of these new citizens traversed a long road to get to this point – they immigrated to our country, became permanent residents, and then committed time and resources to becoming full members of our society.

All of this proves: The American Dream is as alive and relevant as ever.

On Becoming a Citizen

Taking the final step towards becoming a citizen can be challenging and scary for a green-card holder. It entails finding trustworthy legal assistance, studying for the English and civics exams, filling out the necessary forms, and making a financial commitment to the process – sometimes in excess of \$2,000 for a family.

For many, the process is too daunting to complete alone, and a significant number of green-card holders never become citizens because of the challenges.

Through extensive collaboration and unprecedented adoption of technology, the New Americans Campaign is making it easier to become a citizen. We've helped more than 120,000 green-card holders apply for citizenship. Through the CitizenshipWorks tool, we help green-card holders take the final step toward citizenship in the comfort of their own homes. By engaging partners such as libraries and businesses, we offer citizenship assistance in the most convenient places – where green-card holders work and spend time.

On the Benefits of Citizenship

There are many reasons to become a citizen – citizens stand to earn up to 11 percent more in wages over a lifetime, they have access to more and better-paying jobs, they can travel with a U.S. passport, and they can help their children under 18 become citizens.

But it also goes beyond that – citizenship gives you an equal voice in American society. It empowers you to exert control over what happens to your family and community. It gives you an extra opportunity to make a real, tangible difference in American society.

For many, attaining citizenship brings a priceless sense of belonging, of having arrived after an arduous journey.

Join us in celebrating Citizenship Day by taking your final step towards the American dream – attend one of our citizenship workshops near you this September.