Access to naturalization is important for healthy, connected, and strong community life. Becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen brings benefits to individuals and families by conferring protection from deportation, enabling greater economic security, and supporting active civic engagement in democratic activities such as voting and serving in elected office. More than 3 out of every 4 naturalization-eligible immigrants in the United States have become naturalized citizens, and in several key states, the number of immigrants likely eligible to naturalize outnumbered those states’ margins of victory in the 2020 presidential election. Obtaining citizenship – and the right to vote – not only ensures that immigrant voices are heard in U.S. policymaking but also promotes a sense of belonging among immigrants in the United States.

**31.6M**
Number of immigrants who are naturalized or likely eligible to do so

**7.4M**
Likely eligible to naturalize (23.4%)³

**24.4M**
Already U.S. citizens (76.6%)

**14.5M**
Approximate number of immigrants who are not eligible for naturalization*

**9.9M**
Undocumented immigrants (68.2%)⁴

*Immigrants are not eligible for naturalization when they do not meet the requirements to become U.S. citizens, such as age, English proficiency, length of stay in the country, or legal status.
States with the highest naturalization rates include Florida (82.7%), West Virginia (82.1%), Vermont (81.8%), and New Jersey (81.7%).

States with the lowest naturalization rates include Arkansas (65.3%), New Mexico (66.4%), Indiana (70.1%), and Kansas (70.2%).
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN WITH THE HIGHEST/LOWEST NATURALIZATION RATES

- Lebanon 93.3%
- Hong Kong 92.8%
- Yugoslavia 92.3%
- Bulgaria 90.5%
- Taiwan 90.2%
- Cambodia 90.1%
- Republic of the Congo 58.4%
- Australia 57.5%
- Mongolia 56.7%
- Japan 52.2%

Demographics

7.4M
Number of immigrants in the United States who are likely eligible to naturalize but have not yet done so. This represents 33.6% of the noncitizen population.

TOP LANGUAGES SPOKEN AMONG NATURALIZATION-ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

- Spanish 43.5%
- Chinese 4.0%
- Filipino/Tagalog 2.4%
- Hindi 2.2%
- Korean 1.9%
- Other 46.0%

STATES WITH LARGEST POPULATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE LIKELY ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE

- CA 1.9M
- TX 789,500
- NY 714,200
- FL 574,800
- IL 290,800

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR NATURALIZATION-ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

1 in 4 ♀ ♂ ♂ ♂
Naturalization-eligible individuals are Mexican immigrants.

- Mexico 2.2M
- China 424,800
- Cuba 216,000
- El Salvador 229,400
- India 578,700
Importance of Becoming a Citizen

Becoming a naturalized citizen creates an opportunity to deepen the feeling of belonging among immigrants by enabling them to more actively participate in the country’s community and civic affairs. U.S. citizenship comes with the right to vote in elections, and it also allows individuals to run for office and become eligible for certain government jobs.

Immigrants make up **13.8%** of the U.S. population, and **10.0%** of eligible voters.

In eight states, including several battleground states such as Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, the number of non-citizens likely eligible to naturalize is larger than the margin of victory in the 2020 election.\(^5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Immigrants Likely Eligible to Naturalize</th>
<th>Margin of Victory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>574,800</td>
<td>371,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>789,500</td>
<td>631,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>164,400</td>
<td>10,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>11,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>153,300</td>
<td>80,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>102,200</td>
<td>33,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>138,200</td>
<td>74,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>20,682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Benefits of Naturalization

In 2022, immigrant households earned $2.1 trillion in total income. If the eligible immigrants became naturalized, they would benefit, on average, from an 8.9 percent increase in their individual earnings.⁶

Immigrant households pay a significant amount in taxes, despite being underrepresented in voting power. They paid $382.8 billion in federal taxes and $196.3 billion in state and local taxes, making up 16.2% of all taxes paid by U.S. households in 2022. Obtaining U.S. citizenship — and the power to vote — gives immigrants a voice in how their tax dollars are spent.

ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from the American Immigration Council analysis of the 1-year sample of the American Community Survey from 2022.


## Data Appendix - Select States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Immigrants Likely Eligible to Naturalize</th>
<th>Top Language Spoken by Naturalization-Eligible Immigrants</th>
<th>Immigrant Share of Total Population</th>
<th>Immigrant Share of Eligible Voters</th>
<th>Total Taxes Paid by Immigrant Households (B$)</th>
<th>Share of All Taxes Paid by Immigrant Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1,932,800</td>
<td>Spanish (34.1%), Chinese (7.8%), Filipino/Tagalog (3.9%)</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>$151.3</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>714,200</td>
<td>Spanish (34.1%), Chinese (7.8%), Bengali (2.8%)</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>$68.1</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>102,200</td>
<td>Spanish (69%), Filipino/Tagalog (8.4%), Japanese (1.5%)</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>$6.1</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>789,500</td>
<td>Spanish (58.1%), Telugu (2.5%), Chinese (2.3%)</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>$50.3</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>Spanish (31.2%), Telugu (4.6%), Korean (3.3%)</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>$13.6</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>96,600</td>
<td>Spanish (46.2%), Chinese (2.7%), Filipino/Tagalog (2.6%)</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>$6.7</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>153,300</td>
<td>Spanish (25.2%), Chinese (8.2%), Hindi (3.0%)</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>$13.1</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>46,300</td>
<td>Spanish (49.6%), Chinese (4.8%)</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>$2.5</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>138,200</td>
<td>Spanish (34.2%), Telugu (6.3%), Hindi (3.6%)</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>$9.8</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>122,700</td>
<td>Spanish (23.3%), Arabic (6.7%), Telugu (4.5%)</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$8.1</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>82,800</td>
<td>Spanish (13.7%), Chinese (7.0%), Nepali (6.3%)</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>$7.0</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>