From Newcomers to Citizens

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June 8, 2011, Change of Colors, University of Missouri
National Statistics

37 Million Foreign Born

42% Naturalized
58% Non-citizens
33% Entered post-2000
75% Fully-employed

US Census – 2005-2009 American Community Survey
Foreign-born Origins

- **37 million foreign born = 12% of population**
  (33 million have at least one immigrant parent)
Immigrant Integration

- A dynamic two way process through which immigrants become full participants in an inclusive society.

Newcomer  Community
Skewed Federal Priorities

- **Enforcement-only wasteful spending**
  - In 2010, taxpayers spent $23,000 to deport a single immigrant
  - $4.5 billion per year to remove non-criminal tax-paying immigrants

- **Underinvestment in integration**
  - $18 million for Office of Citizenship
SPENDING ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Bush and Obama Administrations


www.AmericasVoiceOnline.org
Fear-based Economics

- **Maricopa County (AZ)**
  Joe Apaio
  “America’s Toughest Sheriff”

**Under 287(g) and SB 1070 (2005-2010)**

- Local immigration enforcement spending ballooned: $37 to $72.5 million—four times the rate of the county’s population growth
- 11,000 homes foreclosed
- Average drop in home prices: %50
- Above-average unemployment
Immigration: No Correlation With Crime

- U.S.-born men ages 18-39 are five times more likely to be incarcerated than are their foreign-born peers.

- Unauthorized immigration doubled between 1994 and 2005; violent crime declined by nearly 35% and property crimes by 26% over the same period.

- 35% of California's adult population is foreign-born, they account for only about 17% of the adult prison population.
Immigrants & Jobs

2010 UC-Davis Report

• No evidence that immigrants crowd out U.S.-born workers in either the short or long run

• Immigration expands job opportunities rather than by displacing native-born workers.

• Expands state economy’s productive capacity by stimulating investment and promoting specialization

• Produces efficiency gains and boosts income per worker
Immigrants & the Economy

• $421 billion in the Social Security Administration’s “Earnings Suspense File” Officials believe most of these contributions derived from unauthorized immigrant workers

• Immigrants make up 30-60% of workforce in major cities

• Immigrants in Boston alone contribute about $9.5 billion to the regional product and create an additional 35,368 jobs

• In Mass., immigrants paid $1.2 billion in income taxes, $346 million in state sales and excise taxes, and $1.06 billion in property taxes in 2006
Advantages of Citizenship

• Voting in local, state and federal elections
• Sponsorship for family-based immigration
• Not subject to detention and deportation
• Access to certain federal jobs
Other Advantages

- **Obtaining citizenship for children born abroad**
- **Mobility**: fewer travel restrictions for U.S. citizens than for Chinese citizens.
- **Social Security**: prohibited from receiving Social Security payments if outside the U.S. for more than 6 months
- **Estate Tax Laws**: estate tax laws benefit U.S. citizens over noncitizens.
- **U.S. Consular Services**: U.S. citizens are eligible for services from the American Citizen Service
- **The Requirement to Carry ID**: Citizens do not need to carry proof of citizenship. LPRs are required by law to carry their green cards.
- **Green Cards Must Be Renewed**: LPRs need to renew their green cards every 10 years
- **Government Benefits**: U.S. citizens are entitled to some government benefits for which certain LPRs are not eligible.
Citizenship and Democracy

- *Civic republican* tradition, Greece, 322 BC
- Reinvigorate electorate (youth & diversity)
- Voices of naturalized citizens reflect America’s demographics
- Deeper community and financial ties to US
- Shared ownership
Nation Building

- Common symbols
- Common myths/narrative
- Universal Rights
- Open political structure
- Shared language
- Shared law
- Shared Social Benefits
One or Many?

Multicultural America

Integrated Society

One America

White

Asian

Latino

Native

Black

Newcomers to Citizens   June 8, 2011
Increase Naturalization Rate

**Educate**

- More awareness
- More classes
- More civics
- More participation in ceremonies
- More emphasis
- More expectation
- More assistance

**Advocate**
Who is a citizen?
The 14th Amendment

- The Citizenship Clause: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States”

- **Dred Scott v. Sandford** (1857)

- **Wong Kim Ark v. United States** (1898)
Who is a US Citizen?

- **Acquisition**: Anyone born in the US and subject to the jurisdiction of the US is a US citizen (mandated by the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution)
  - People who are born in another country to parents who are US citizens may become citizens themselves through acquisition of citizenship
  - Exception: children born to high-ranking foreign diplomats while in the US are not US citizens
Who is a US Citizen?

- **Derivation**: after February 27, 2001
  - Child under 18
  - Legal Permanent Resident
  - Parent becomes United States Citizen
  - Physically present in the United States
  - In the physical and legal custody of USC parent
Who is a US Citizen

- **Naturalization**: Process by which an immigrant applies to become a US Citizen

- **What’s the process?**
  - Application
  - Biometrics (Fingerprints)
  - Interview
  - Swearing-in
Legal Requirements for Naturalization

- At least 18 years old
- Legal Permanent Resident (LPR)
- Physically present in the US for at least half of the 5 year period (except under certain circumstances)
- No disruption of US residence for 5 years
Current Challenges to Citizenship Law

- Denying birthright citizenship to children born to unauthorized immigrants

- “...subject to the jurisdiction thereof”

- 340,000 of the 4.3 million babies born in 2008
Barriers in Obtaining Citizenship

• 11.9 million in 4.4 million linguistically isolated households (all members 14+ are LEP)

• Adult ESOL is vastly underfunded and often inaccessible

• $680 per application fee for Naturalization

• Lack of access to application and legal services
New Processes & Initiatives

- Federal Integration Office
  - White House Office of New Americans
  - National strategy for integration (ESOL, citizenship, civic participation)

- Public Education & Media Campaigns

- Expand Programs
  - AmeriCorp citizenship services
  - Savings-match, grants, and loans
New Processes & Initiatives

- English Language Acquisition
  - Public-private funding for CBOs, community colleges, religious institutions
  - Dept. of Labor evaluation and technical assistance
  - Workplace ESOL
  - Eliminate distinction between Title 1 and Title 2
New Processes & Initiatives

• Workforce Development
  ▫ Spur and support immigrant entrepreneurs at local, state, and federal level
  ▫ National review of licensing requirements vis-à-vis expediting foreign re-credentialing
  ▫ Adult ABE & College/Vocational transition programs
  ▫ Combat wage theft
New Processes & Initiatives

• Access to Services
  ▫ Vigorously enforce Title VI of Civil Rights Act
    • Executive Order 13166 – LEP Guidance
  ▫ Government employees training on immigrant eligibility, privacy protections, and participation
  ▫ USCIS guidance on public charge
  ▫ Affordable health care coverage and services
Reform

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- DREAM Act
- Fee reform & funding for USCIS
- State-based executive orders
  ▫ Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, Maryland
Oct. 24-26, 2011
National Immigrant Integration Conference
Seattle, Washington