

Citizenship

In early days, people identified themselves more with cities than with countries. A person who was a member of the society of a city was a citizen. The term has expanded to apply to countries and it generally includes the rights to vote, work, and live in that country.

In addition to rights, some say that citizenship also includes obligations to the society in which the person is a citizen such as an obligation to defend it from attack and to make payments to support the projects that are best accomplished by the government.

I propose that citizens of the United States of America have the following responsibilities and rights under law:

- Responsibilities
 - Pay taxes—I propose that all citizens pay some amount of tax. It gives each of us the right to demand good service and responsible behavior from government officials. This would abolish the negative tax system referred to as an “earned income tax credit” which is a euphemism for giving money to citizens with income below a certain level. I’m in favor of helping low income people in other ways. (See Taxes)
 - Service—I propose a requirement that all citizens donate two years of time in service to the country. Current US citizens above the age of 20 at the time the new laws are passed would be grandfathered in. There would be several options including:
 - Military Service—two years in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard
 - Civilian Service (see Safe Streets, Prison Reform, Renew America, Military Support corps.)
 - Disaster Response Corp.
 - Diplomatic service (see Diplomatic ROTC)
 - Voting—If a citizen does not vote in any election for more than five years, they must donate another two years or lose their status as citizen
 - Jury Duty
- Benefits
 - College Associates Degree—during the two years of service, participants would attend class in person or online to work on an associate’s degree or receive two years of tuition at a two-year local college after they left service.
 - Basic preventative and acute health care (see Preventative Health Care and Acute Health Care) for life

Immigrants would be required to donate two years of service as part of their naturalization program.

American citizens who wish to