



Citizen Next: Full Transcript

**GFX Cards

**[01:00:05:09] TITLES: *Why don't more legal immigrants become U.S. citizens?*

[01:00:19:06] [Spanish] VICENTE MAYORGA: I came to the United States exactly, I will never forget on November 7, 1994.

[01:00:28:13] [Spanish] BIANEY GARCIA: I emigrated from my country, Mexico, from Veracruz almost 10 years ago. Basically escaping from the homophobia and transphobia that we have in Mexico.

[01:00:42:01] KARLA SANCHEZ: I came here when I was three years old. My parents were able to bring me here.

**[01:00:47:04] TITLES: *There are an estimated 4.6 million Latino lawful permanent residents of the U.S. who are eligible for citizenship.*

[01:01:00:13] CARLOS VENTURA: A permanent resident is a resident of the United States, but you're still not quite there yet to be uh, to be able to be a citizen.

[01:01:09:04] MAIRA LOPEZ: Just being a resident isn't enough, there's still a chance that for whatever reason, someday, if the laws change, like I CAN get deported because I don't have that 100% legal status here.

[01:01:21:11] IRIS TRIVINO: I'm a mom, I have a son 9 years old. My son is a citizen, I'm not, I'm afraid of like, losing my status here if something goes wrong.

[01:01:35:06] [Spanish] KARINA BERNABE: More than anything I love this country. My children were born in this country. What will happen if they deport me? I don't want to leave my children all alone.

[01:01:46:16] KARLA: Definitely the issue of anti-immigration has come up, and that has persuaded me even more to try to get my citizenship.

[01:01:56:06] [Spanish] JOSÉ R. LOPEZ: The main obstacle for me has always been the language. Some pick it up right away. Others don't.

**[01:02:04:11] TITLES: *Some requirements for becoming a citizen include: 5 years as a legal permanent resident*

A criminal background and security check An English language and civics exam.

[01:02:20:08] BARBARA PINTO: To become a citizen the application process is \$680, which can be very expensive for a lot of families, especially if it's more than one person trying to become a citizen.

[01:02:31:20] [Spanish] KARINA BERNABE: A lot of us don't really have enough money to make the payment. A lot of people don't know the process that comes with becoming a citizen.

[01:02:42:06] CARLOS VENTURA: You know there's millions and millions of people applying for this, not all of them get it. You know, doing all of the paperwork, coming to talk to a lawyer, and then you know, the whole citizenship process is definitely difficult, but one of my biggest dreams is to become a citizen.

[01:02:56:00] SPEAKER 1: Candidates for citizenship, would you...

[01:02:57:21] SPEAKER 2: Please raise your right hand.

**[01:03:00:04] TITLES: *Over the past 8 years, 2.2 million foreign-born Latinos became US citizens and became eligible to vote.*

[01:03:11:02] [Spanish] KARINA BERNABE: It was just a few days ago that I interviewed to become a citizen, and I passed. Now I'm waiting to take my oath.

[01:03:19:19] MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

[01:03:25:22] BARBARA PINTO: I think of it as the highest legal status or privilege that you have.

[01:03:30:15] SPEAKER: Against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

[01:03:33:18] CROWD: Against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

[01:03:37:01] IRIS TRIVINO: The word citizen for me, means you gonna take this country as yours. You gonna respect and follow the rules, and, you know, you just have to feel like it's yours. This is where you belong to, you know?

[01:03:52:15] SPEAKER: I hereby declare that from this day forward, each of you is a citizen of the United States of America.

[01:04:00:01] *cheering*

[01:04:02:02] [Spanish] JOSÉ R. LOPEZ: It's everything. Something that when I first arrived here I

never thought I would attain. It's everything for me.

[01:04:10:05] [Spanish] GRACE GOMEZ: I was proud to get my citizenship. That was December 11, 2015.

[01:04:18:03] [Spanish] KARINA BERNABE: We need to reach our goal. What is our goal? Citizenship. It's not going to be easy but we have to do it.

[01:04:27:05] [Spanish] VICENTE: A citizen has the constitutional right of determining the destiny of all the people of the United States. Tomorrow I will be able to elect my representatives at the state level and my representatives at the city level. Tomorrow I will be able to elect the president.

**[01:04:51:10] TITLES: *28 million Latinos are eligible to vote in 2016 ... 13% of the electorate.*

**[01:04:55:18] TITLES: *4.6 million new voting citizens could be a major influence in future elections.*

**[01:05:02:09] TITLES: *Citizen Next*

**[01:05:05:01] TITLES: *Ciudadano Yo*

END