



## Newly Naturalized Citizens Can Play Outsized Role in Outcome of 2022 Midterms in Florida, According to New State Report

*To ensure that everyone eligible to cast a vote in Florida is able to do so this November, local organizations join the national, non-partisan 2022 New American Voters Campaign*

**MIAMI** — Florida is home to 429,017 newly naturalized Americans, who became U.S. citizens between 2016 and 2020, and who are eligible to vote in the upcoming and critical 2022 midterms. This number greater than the state's 371,686-vote margin of victory in the 2020 presidential elections, according to [new data released today](#) by the [Florida Immigrant Coalition \(FLIC\)](#), the [Miami-Dade County Office of New Americans](#), [Mi Familia Vota Florida](#), the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#), [Service Employees International Union \(SEIU\)](#), and the U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at the University of California San Diego.

This potential electoral bloc — called New American Voters — is multi-racial, multi-generational, and geographically diverse, with a female majority. Significant to this demographic group is also a majority that originally comes from the Americas, with Cuba, Haiti, Colombia, Jamaica and Venezuela among the top five countries of precedence. The findings are based on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data on naturalization from 2016 to 2020 and the agency's approved naturalization applications in 2021.

"In the past 6 years, we have seen over 400,000 new American citizens in Florida. That is a lot of power, so much so that it could sway the 2022 midterm elections. Even with all the obstacles in our way like blatantly racist gerrymandering, we continue to educate all immigrants as to what civic engagement can look like for them, depending on their status," said **Tessa Petit, Co-Executive**

**Director FLIC.** “We all have a role to play, especially those who can now vote! We have heard from so many folks at our citizenship clinics that one of the main factors for them to want to naturalize is to vote, and we are so happy to be able to help make that come true. We are hopeful that the newly naturalized in our state can deliver victories for champions who care about our communities and want to see us all thrive in the Florida we all call home.”

Voter suppression and other systemic barriers keep many eligible New American Voters from exercising their constitutional right. The growing backlogs in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) have created delays in processing citizenship applications, with more than 76,500 pending in USCIS’ offices in Florida and processing delays of up to 16 months, becoming additional voter suppression issues. Additionally, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and language barriers have prevented many eligible voters from registering, as well.

In response, Florida-based organizations are joining the [New American Voters 2022 Campaign](#), a non-partisan nationwide effort coordinated by the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) to encourage newly naturalized citizens to register and vote.

“The 2022 midterms could see an estimated 5.19 million New American Voters — including more than 429,000 in Florida — who have naturalized in recent years. This voting bloc represents a powerful political force, but is not monolithic. They’ll be drawn to the polls by a variety of issues, their votes informed by diverse political ideologies, experiences, and backgrounds. Ensuring that these voters both register and vote is critical to ensuring a participatory, representative democracy,” said **Nicole Melaku, Executive Director of NPNA**. “We’re proud to team with partners across the country to encourage civic engagement and promote a democracy that protects, represents, and works for all of us.”

Florida’s report also includes the following topline data:

- Newly naturalized citizens in Florida are racially and ethnically diverse, with 79 percent (340,938) originally from the Americas, 11 percent (45,253) originally from Asia, 7 percent (31,365) originally from Europe, and 2 percent (10,493) originally from Africa. The cohort of newly naturalized citizens from the Americas is nearly equal to the margin of votes in the 2020 presidential election.
- Nearly 57 percent of newly naturalized citizens in Florida are women and 53 percent are younger than 45 years old.
- The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area has the highest concentration of naturalized citizens at 1.6 million, followed by the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area with just over 300,000, and then the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford metropolitan area with approximately 270,000.

~~***add an additional partner quote***~~

The [\*\*New American Voters campaign\*\*](#) aims to Naturalize #2MillionBy2022. It is a partnership between the country's leading immigrant, refugee advocacy, service organizations, cities and counties, as well as national advocacy organizations and unions. We are uniting to educate, empower and encourage eligible folks to take the final step on their immigration journey: to become U.S. citizens just in time to vote in this year's midterm election on November 8, 2022.

### ***About the Report's Contributors & Endorsers***

**The Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)** is a statewide coalition of more than 65 member organizations and over 100 allies, founded in 1998 and formally incorporated in 2004. We are led by our membership, including grassroots and community organizations, farmworkers, youth, advocates, lawyers, union members, and more. With staff in six counties and members throughout Florida, FLIC's leadership builds depth in local communities, breadth for statewide reach, and national alignment. Learn more at <https://floridaimmigrant.org/>

**Mi Familia Vota** is a national civic engagement organization that unites Latino, immigrant, and allied communities to promote social and economic justice through citizenship workshops, voter registration, and voter participation. Mi Familia Vota has operations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and Texas. Learn more at <https://www.mifamiliavota.org/>

**The Office of New Americans of Miami Dade County** is a county-wide initiative to assist our immigrant residents overcome any barriers on their path to full citizenship. Its mission is to empower immigrants eligible for naturalization and other immigration benefits to become more civically and economically engaged in our communities by facilitating access to the resources they need to attain citizenship and to prosper. Learn more at <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/citizenship/home.page>

~~**WILL ADD BOILER PLATE FOR OTHER ORGS HERE**~~

**The National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)** is a national multiethnic, multiracial organization that represents 60 of the largest regional immigrant and refugee rights organizations in 40 states. Its members provide large-scale services for the communities, to leverage their collective power and expertise for a national strategy. Learn more at [partnershipfornewamericans.org](https://partnershipfornewamericans.org).

**The Service Employees International Union (SEIU)** unites 2 million diverse members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. SEIU members working in the healthcare industry, in the public sector and in property services believe in the power of joining together on the job to win higher wages and benefits and to create better communities while fighting for a more just society and an economy that works for all of us, not just corporations and the wealthy. Learn more at [www.seiu.org](https://www.seiu.org)

The **U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego** conducts and supports rigorous social science research to advance understanding of the foundations and consequences of U.S. immigration policy. Immigration has played an integral role in American history and is sure to feature prominently in America's future. But what should the immigration policies of our nation of immigrants be? The USIPC brings together leading academics, policy analysts, immigrant rights leaders, and policymakers across all levels of government to conceptualize, debate, and design a new U.S. immigration policy agenda that meets the demands of the 21st century. Learn more at <https://usipc.ucsd.edu/>

###