



For Immediate Release

October 24, 2025

Press Contact:

Daniela Ruiz - daniela@communicationsshop.us 202- 945-8320

Weaponizing Citizenship: How the Trump Administration is Attacking Democracy

New Mexico - This week, the Trump Administration's new, more difficult citizenship test took effect, another calculated attempt to block immigrant communities from fully participating in our democracy. Instead of making citizenship more accessible, this administration has chosen to create new barriers, delay integration, and deepen fear.

The processing times for naturalization applications have already increased from [5.2 months to 7.9 months](#), and delays are expected to grow as additional hurdles are added. Rather than facilitating the path to citizenship, the administration is weaponizing the process, discouraging eligible residents who have met all the requirements from exercising their rights.

This test is part of a broader strategy: drastically raised immigration fees that price families out of citizenship, the militarization of USCIS with officers empowered to carry firearms and make arrests, and intimidation tactics that include detaining people at their own citizenship interviews.

This climate of fear is not only cruel, it is an attack on the very foundation of our democratic society. By erecting obstacles and sowing fear, this administration is eroding our nation's values and undermining the principles of fairness, inclusion, and democracy itself.

Across New Mexico, Somos Un Pueblo Unido continues to support lawful permanent residents (LPRs) through its Citizenship Now! program, which provides assistance and education to immigrant families in Santa Fe and rural communities already facing fee hikes and limited access to attorneys. These programs help residents take the final step toward full civic participation and strengthen our communities.

The City of Santa Fe has long recognized that citizenship strengthens not only our democracy but also our workforce and families. Recently, the City renewed its partnership with Welcoming America, reinforcing Santa Fe's ongoing commitment to building a more inclusive and welcoming community for all. This partnership, alongside community-based efforts like Citizenship Now!, shows how local leadership and grassroots action can come together to ensure every resident has a fair opportunity to belong and contribute.

“Citizenship is a promise of belonging and safety, not a political weapon. These discriminatory barriers serve only to divide us and weaken our nation. Every new citizen strengthens our democracy; we must fight for a process rooted in dignity, opportunity, and equal participation,” **said Marcela Díaz, Somos un Pueblo Unido Executive Director.**

###

About Somos Un Pueblo Unido

Somos Un Pueblo Unido is a statewide immigrant-based civil and workers' rights organization with membership teams in eight counties and worker centers in Santa Fe, Hobbs, Roswell, and Farmington.