

**SS.7.C.2.2**

*Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.*

**Also Assesses**

**SS.7.C.2.3** - Experience the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, or federal levels

**SS.7.C.2.14** - Conduct a service project to further the public good

**SS.7.C.2.2 Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will distinguish between an obligation or duty and a responsibility as it relates to citizenship.

The United States government recognizes a **citizen** as a legal member of this country who is either born or **naturalized** in the United States. Being a U.S. citizen means that there are both **obligations** and **responsibilities** that must be met to support representative democracy and the proper role of government.

An obligation is something that a citizen is required to do by law. A responsibility is something that a citizen should do for the sake of the **common good**. Below are examples of obligations and responsibilities:

<b>Obligations of Citizens</b> <i>An action that is required by law</i>	<b>Responsibilities of Citizens</b> <i>An action that benefits the community/people</i>
Obeying laws	Voting
Paying taxes	Attending civic meetings
Defending the nation	Petitioning the government
Registering for <b>selective service</b>	Running for office
Serving on juries	Performing community service

**citizen** - a legal member of a state and/or country

**common good** - beliefs or actions that are seen as a benefit to the community rather than individual interests, also known as the public good

**naturalized** - a person who has gone through the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen

**obligation** – a requirement, something a person has to do

**responsibility** - something a person should do

**selective service** - a system by which men ages 18 through 25 register with the U.S. government for military service



The Florida Joint  
Center for Citizenship  
*A Partnership for Florida's Civic Health*  
<http://floridacitizen.org>