

Public Opinion and Messaging Guide

Denaturalization and Equal Protection for Naturalized Citizens

In a nationwide YouGov survey, conducted July 24 to July 25, 2025 on 1,030 registered voters, a strong majority affirmed that all citizens, whether they are naturalized or U.S.-born, should receive equal protection under the law. The results reveal broad opposition to denaturalization and highlight key demographic trends that can inform messaging and advocacy strategies.

Strong Support for Equal Protection Regardless of Birthplace

- 73% of voters believe naturalized citizens should have the same legal protection as those born in the U.S. Only 21% think native-born citizens deserve more protection.
- Even 60% of Republicans and 74% of independents support equal protection.
- 85% of Hispanic voters support equal protection, well above the national average.
- Only 21% think native-born citizens deserve more protection.

Takeaway: Across every demographic—age, race, party, gender, and more—voters reject the idea of second-class citizenship, especially in communities with immigrant ties.

Majority Oppose Denaturalization

- 65% of voters (including 41% of Trump voters) oppose the idea that the government should be able to revoke citizenship “for any reason.”
- Only 20% of voters support revocation “for any reason.”

Takeaway: Broad revocation powers are deeply unpopular, and even have fairly weak support among Trump’s base.

Support for Targeted Denaturalization Is Conditional

- A majority of voters (69%) support revocation only in extreme cases like war crimes.
- Revocation has more support (74%) for people who “committed fraud to get their citizenship or who were not eligible for citizenship when it was granted.”
- However, only 18% support revocation for political activism or speech; 74% oppose, including 59% of Trump voters.

Takeaway: Voters differentiate between criminal conduct and constitutionally protected speech. Any kind of immigration fraud provokes a very strong response, even more than war crimes.

Voters Reject Government Expansion of Denaturalization Powers

- 72% of voters disagree (51% strongly) with expanding denaturalization efforts, including 54% of Republicans,
- Only 16% support expansion of denaturalization powers.

Takeaway: There is little public appetite for a broader campaign to strip citizenship.

MESSAGING & TALKING POINTS

To Mobilize Progressive Base

Goal: Activate core supporters by emphasizing justice, solidarity, and historical abuses.

- **There are no second-class citizens.** Citizenship is lifelong, not a status that can be taken away because of politics or prejudice.
- **□ communities built this country.** No government should strip citizenship from the very people who helped shape it, except in extreme cases and with due process.
- **Stripping citizenship is a political weapon.** It is used for repression and silencing dissent. History has shown us where this leads, and it's towards authoritarianism.
- **This is already happening.** The Trump administration has floated denaturalizing political opponents like NYC mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani and vocal critic Rosie O'Donnell.

To Persuade Moderates and Independents

Goal: Emphasize fairness, stability, and the threat of government overreach.

- **This is not about justice; it is about politics.** The Trump administration has pledged to “maximize” denaturalization, expanding it from only rare and extreme cases like Nazi war criminals to vague claims of wrongdoing.
- **Citizenship should never be used as a weapon.** People agree that accountability and fairness mean the rules apply to everyone, including the government.
- **We already have laws to prevent and punish fraud and crime.** There is no need to invent new tools that undermine the foundational rights of Americans.
- **Equal protection is a core American value.** A vast majority of Americans agree that whether you were born here or chose to naturalize, your rights should not depend on where you started.
- **Let's address real threats, not create new ones.** Dividing Americans into tiers based on birthplace undermines the principles of equal protection and further divides our already fragmented country.

To Neutralize Conservative Opposition

Goal: Reframe the issue around constitutional rights, abuse of government power, and personal risk.

- **Revoking citizenship without due process is dangerous.** No one should have to fear the government stripping away their rights without evidence or a fair hearing.
- **This is not a new tactic, and its return is a warning of worse things to come.** The United States has used denaturalization before to punish political opponents and silence marginalized voices. We should not allow that history to repeat itself.
- **If the government can do this to immigrants, they can do it to you.** Once the government starts deciding who is not American enough, it will not stop at immigrants.
- **The Constitution protects every citizen.** Our rights should not depend on how we got here, but on the fact that we are Americans.