

**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 7:** Students will evaluate the impact of civic participation has on society, government, or the political process.

Each **citizen's obligations** and **responsibilities** have a major impact on society, government, and the political process.

Obligations of a Citizen	How does this Obligation Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?
Obeying the laws	It is important to obey laws in order to have a safe community.
Paying taxes	Taxes make a difference in whether the government will be able to provide services to citizens.
Jury duty	Jury duty has a major impact on a citizen's right to a fair trial and on how the trial will turn out.
Defending the nation	People who defend the nation keep the country safe.

Responsibilities of a Citizen	How does this Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?
Voting	Voting impacts elected leaders who make political decisions.
Attending civic meetings	Decisions that impact the government and society are made at civic meetings (for example, at a city council or school board meeting).
<b>Petitioning the government</b>	Petitions can impact decisions made by the government and can bring about change in communities because citizens use petitions to communicate with government.
Community service	Communities and neighborhoods are improved when people volunteer their time and skills.

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

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

**petitioning the government** – the right to ask the government to solve a problem or to express an opinion about how the government is being run

**responsibility** - something a person should do



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