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Yearning to be Americans

Part of the continuing immigration debate centers on the assertion by some that many newcomers care more about their native land and language than they do about America. Often, we hear criticism that current immigrants are not as interested in becoming "Americans" as those were generations ago.

There was evidence this week to challenge that argument. The figures show that the number of immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship last year was the highest since 1999. The increase in citizenship applications increased by 19 percent from 2005 to 2006. The figures deflate the argument that immigrants are not interested in becoming Americans.

Of course, it is probably that same immigration debate that is prompting this increase in citizenship applications. Any changes in the law could adversely affect those here illegally. Money is also an issue as fees for citizenship applications are proposed to increase later this year. That could be nudging some immigrants to apply for citizenship now. Whatever the reason, it's good news that more immigrants want to become citizens.
