



Local

NEW CITIZENS, NEW VOTERS?

14 organizations seek to enroll the newest Americans so they can vote in November



SCOTT FISHER, SUN SENTINEL

Carole Kaye helps newly sworn-in American citizen Mohammed Yousuf Kahn register to vote following his naturalization ceremony in downtown West Palm Beach on Wednesday.

A RELIGIOUS DILEMMA



By Luis F. Perez
STAFF WRITER

Immigrants like Dulce Somick of Boca Raton are the target.

Minutes after the Venezuelan national swore her allegiance to this country, she was swarmed by people with pens and clipboards.

Register to vote. You only have until Oct. 6 — the deadline to register, said the clipboard holders wearing white Democracia USA T-shirts.

It didn't take much convincing for Somick to register.

"I want to exercise my right to vote," she said, after filling out a registration form. "It's one of the most important rights citizens have."

In South Florida and across the country, groups such as the Miami-based Democracia USA target newly minted American citizens. It's part of national effort by the We Are American Alliance, which includes 14 groups, to get eligible immigrants to the polls. Teams work naturalization ceremonies and canvass door-to-door in immigrant-rich areas. They focus on Hispanics, but don't turn anyone away.

Democracia USA teams go to Hollywood, Davie and Weston at least twice a week. They canvass in Fort Lauderdale and Deerfield