



# What's Next?

**1. COMPLETE APPLICATION.** It is YOUR responsibility to know what information/documents are missing and YOUR responsibility to bring any missing information/documents to World Relief!

You can bring missing information the following times:

World Relief Aurora	World Relief DuPage
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9am-11:30am and 1-4pm 73 S. LaSalle Street Aurora, IL 60505 (630) 906-9546	Mondays 9-11:30am and Fridays 1-4:30pm 191 S. Gary Avenue Suite 130 Carol Stream, IL 60188 (630) 462-7660  For DuPage Office Applicants: Please call <u>ONLY</u> during the <u>Citizenship Hotline Hours</u> which are <u>Mondays 2-4pm</u> and <u>Thursdays 9-11am</u> at <u>(630) 462-7660 extension 1053!</u>

We will NOT accept any missing information or documents outside of these hours!

**2. APPLICATION IS MAILED.** When your application is complete our team will review it again. We will mail your application by certified mail to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. When we mail your application, we will send you a copy of the application to your mailing address.

**3. NATURALIZATION PROCESS BEGINS.** USCIS will send you mail during each step of the application process. The current processing time from start to finish is approximately 7.5 months. This is what to expect:

NOTICE	When to expect it	Description
<b>RECEIPT</b>	3-4 weeks after mailing application	Save this letter. It has your receipt number that you can use to check your case online. <a href="https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus">https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus</a> No action required
<b>BIOMETRICS APPOINTMENT (Fingerprints)</b>	Varies. 3-4 weeks after receipt notice but it could take up to 90 days	USCIS will send <u>one</u> of the following types of notices. One type of notice will say it is not necessary to appear for a biometrics appointment. The other type of notice will be a letter instructing you to go to an "Application Support Center" and have your fingerprints taken. The address, date, and time of your

		appointment will appear on the notice. Do not miss this appointment!
<b>INTERVIEW NOTICE</b>	Varies. Within 3-8 months after your receipt notice.	USCIS will instruct you to go to Chicago for your interview. You will be tested in Speaking, Writing and Reading English as well as the civic and history exam. The officer may also ask you any question on your application.
<b>OATH OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	Varies. Within 1-2 months after interview	If you pass the citizenship interview, you will receive a letter inviting you to an oath ceremony. Please answer the questions on the back of this notification. Do not miss this appointment.

**WHEN TO CONTACT WORLD RELIEF.** You can call with any questions regarding case status inquiries, processing times, change of address, or more. Please call:

- ✓ If you receive any additional notices other than the expected notices above, especially Request For Additional Evidence
- ✓ If you do not receive any receipt notice from immigration
- ✓ If you believe your case is outside of processing time
- ✓ If you do not pass your first interview
- ✓ If you would like to be represented by an attorney or by DOJ accredited representative at your interview. You need to let us know as soon as you receive your interview notice
- ✓ If you change address or phone number at any point during the application process
- ✓ If you come in contact with law enforcement while your case is pending

**World Relief Chicagoland wishes you the best on your way to becoming a U.S Citizen! Thank you for choosing us!**



# What to Bring To Interview

When you receive your Interview Notice you will need to start preparing for the interview with USCIS. You will need to bring the following documents with you:

- ✓ A copy of the N-400 mailed to USCIS – if you have lost or misplaced the copy please call the **Citizenship Hotline Hours** or you can come in during the **Document Drop off hours** to obtain a copy.
- ✓ Your interview notice.
- ✓ Your Permanent Resident Card.
- ✓ State-Issued Identification.
- ✓ Evidence of Current Marital Status – If married, you will need to bring marriage certificate. If you or your spouse were previously married, you will also need to bring the divorce certificate from the previous marriage(s).
- ✓ Passports or Travel Documents – If traveled outside the U.S.
- ✓ Tax Returns – the last 5yrs (or 3yrs if married to a USC) of tax returns.  
<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>
- ✓ Child Support – any court or government order to provide financial support **and** the last 5yrs proof of financial support (regardless if a court order exists or not) such as bank statements, evidence of wage garnishments, a court or agency printout of child support payments and, if available, a letter from the parent or guardian who cares for your child(ren).
- ✓ Certified Court Disposition(s) – please bring the original disposition(s) for each incident (even if the incident was dismissed or dropped).
- ✓ Evidence of legal name change – Documents include marriage certificate or divorce decree, name change petition or other official records of name change.
- ✓ Proof of Selective Service Registration – Only for males who lived in the U.S. between ages 18 and 26.
- ✓ Evidence demonstrating all children listed on application are yours.
- ✓ If applying under the 3yr rule – you will need to bring spouse’s birth certificate and/or certificate of naturalization, marriage certificate, proof of termination of all prior marriages of your spouse, and documents referring to you and your spouse:
  - Tax returns, bank accounts, leases, mortgages, or birth certificates of children; **or**
  - Internal Revenue Services (IRS) – certified copies of the income tax forms that you both filed for the past 3yrs; **or**
  - An IRS tax return transcript for the last 3yrs.
- ✓ **Any other document(s) advised by WRCL to bring to the interview**

# English Test

There are three parts to the English test that you will be tested on at your interview. You need to prove that you can **SPEAK, READ** and **WRITE** basic English.

**1. SPEAKING.** From the moment that you meet the Immigration Officer at your interview he or she will be testing your ability to speak basic English. In addition to the ten questions he/she will ask about on U.S. government & history, he/she will also ask you questions about your application.

He/she might even ask you questions about the weather outside or how you got to the interview! If you can generally understand the questions and respond truthfully in English, you should pass the speaking portion of the English test. You can ask the officer:

- ✓ To repeat any question you did not understand
- ✓ To speak with a supervisor if you think that an officer has been unfair
- ✓ To provide his/her name and title

***\*\*If you qualify for a language waiver, you are responsible to bring your own interpreter.***

**2. READING.** You will be asked to read one sentence, out of a list of three sentences, and understand the meaning of the sentence. The sentence you read will be a question made up of words from the Reading Vocabulary List (see attached page). The reading test will be scored as follows:

**Pass:**

- ✓ Read one sentence without extended pauses
- ✓ Read all content words (it is okay if you forget short words that do not interfere with meaning)
- ✓ It is okay if you make pronunciation errors that do not interfere with meaning

**Fail:**

- ✓ Pause for extended periods of time while reading the sentence
- ✓ Leave out a content word or substitute another word for a content word
- ✓ Make pronunciation errors that interfere with meaning

**3. WRITING.** You will be asked to write one sentence, out of three sentences, that the Immigration Officer says out loud. The sentence you write will be the answer to the question you read in the previous portion of the test. The sentence will be made up of words from the Writing Vocabulary List (see attached page). The writing test will be scored as follows:

**Pass:**

- ✓ Sentence has the same meaning as the sentence spoken by the officer
- ✓ Sentence may contain some grammatical, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization errors that do not interfere with meaning
- ✓ It is okay to leave out short words that do not interfere with meaning
- ✓ Numbers may be spelled out or written as digits

**Fail:**

- ✓ Write nothing or only one or two words
- ✓ Sentence is completely illegible
- ✓ Sentence does not communicate the meaning of the sentence spoken by the officer

# Interpreters

If you qualify to complete the interview in your native language, it is important that you look for an interpreter with experience and who specializes in the area of immigration.

During the interview, the official will ask questions about the information on your citizenship application. Some of the questions are simple because they ask for questions like your address, the members

of your family, your work experience and the trips you have taken. However, many questions are more complex and, if they are not interpreted correctly, you may give the wrong information and it may put your citizenship in jeopardy.

It is important for the interpreter to have a copy of the N-400 application. The questions from section 10 are the most difficult to translate correctly.

## Required Qualifications for Interpreters

Be **very** careful about asking a family member or friend to interpret for you. Immigration officials want qualified neutral interpreters.

We recommend that you look for an interpreter who knows both languages and cultures well. Also, the interpreter should be very familiar with the immigration process. He/she should know the exact terminology used in English and in your native language. In addition, it is important that he/she know how to ask the more complex questions so that you always understand what is being asked. Finally, the interpreter should be familiar with the

history and government of the United States. If the interpreter does not use the correct words, the official may not be able to determine if you know the right answer. For example, if the official asks, *"If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?"*

The interpreter must know the correct term for Speaker of the House in both languages. If the interpreter translates by saying "President of the Chamber," the official may consider the answer incorrect.

# English & Citizenship Preparation Classes

## English as a Second Language Classes / Clases de Inglés

World Relief DuPage/Aurora..... 630-888-0023  
<https://worldrelief.org/chicagoland/education/english-classes-in-the-suburbs/>

## Citizenship Preparation Classes / Clases de Ciudadanía

World Relief Chicagoland..... 630-888-0023  
Only virtual classes  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SBVpXEuePUH6cjjKLM1xVDLwCL-d3fq7eDpq6e61iEc/edit>

Elgin Community College..... 847-214-6975 (English)  
Classes in Elgin 847-214-6983 (Español)

College of DuPage..... 630-942-3697 (English)  
Classes in Addison and West Chicago 630-942-2551 (Español)

Township High School (District 214)..... 847-718-7730  
Classes in Arlington Heights 847-718-7911 (Español)

Joliet Junior College..... 815-280-1333  
Classes in Joliet

Family Focus..... 630-844-2550  
Classes in Aurora



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Questions? 📞 630.888.0023

# The Oath of Allegiance Explained

The final step in becoming a U.S. citizen is the Oath of Allegiance, which you will take at a formal naturalization ceremony. The language of the Oath is a bit formal, so we have created this summary below so you can better understand it.

## The Oath

I hereby declare, on oath,

that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

*I promise to give up loyalty to other countries;*

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

*I promise to defend the Constitution and laws of the United States;*

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

*I promise to obey the laws of the United States;*

that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

*I promise to fight in the U.S. military if needed;*

that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by law;

*I promise to serve in the U.S. military if needed;*

that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;

*I promise to do important work for the nation if needed;*

and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

*and I promise that I am taking this oath because I want to, not because someone else is making me do it.*





## Civics Questions and Answers (2008 version)

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

**Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.**

### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

#### A: Principles of American Democracy

1. **What is the supreme law of the land?**
  - *the Constitution*
2. **What does the Constitution do?**
  - *sets up the government*
  - *defines the government*
  - *protects basic rights of Americans*
3. **The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**
  - *We the People*
4. **What is an amendment?**
  - *a change (to the Constitution)*
  - *an addition (to the Constitution)*
5. **What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
  - *the Bill of Rights*
6. **What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?\***
  - *speech*
  - *religion*
  - *assembly*
  - *press*
  - *petition the government*
7. **How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
  - *twenty-seven (27)*

\* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

8. **What did the Declaration of Independence do?**
  - *announced our independence (from Great Britain)*
  - *declared our independence (from Great Britain)*
  - *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*
9. **What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?**
  - *life*
  - *liberty*
  - *pursuit of happiness*
10. **What is freedom of religion?**
  - *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*
11. **What is the economic system in the United States?\***
  - *capitalist economy*
  - *market economy*
12. **What is the “rule of law”?**
  - *Everyone must follow the law.*
  - *Leaders must obey the law.*
  - *Government must obey the law.*
  - *No one is above the law.*

#### B: System of Government

13. **Name one branch or part of the government.\***
  - *Congress*
  - *legislative*
  - *President*
  - *executive*
  - *the courts*
  - *judicial*
14. **What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?**
  - *checks and balances*
  - *separation of powers*
15. **Who is in charge of the executive branch?**
  - *the President*
16. **Who makes federal laws?**
  - *Congress*
  - *Senate and House (of Representatives)*
  - *(U.S. or national) legislature*
17. **What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?\***
  - *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*
18. **How many U.S. Senators are there?**
  - *one hundred (100)*

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19. **We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?**
  - *six (6)*
20. **Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?\***
  - *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]*
21. **The House of Representatives has how many voting members?**
  - *four hundred thirty-five (435)*
22. **We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?**
  - *two (2)*
23. **Name your U.S. Representative.**
  - *Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]*
24. **Who does a U.S. Senator represent?**
  - *all people of the state*
25. **Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?**
  - *(because of) the state's population*
  - *(because) they have more people*
  - *(because) some states have more people*
26. **We elect a President for how many years?**
  - *four (4)*
27. **In what month do we vote for President?\***
  - *November*
28. **What is the name of the President of the United States now?\***
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](http://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the President of the United States.*
29. **What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?**
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](http://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Vice President of the United States.*
30. **If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
  - *the Vice President*
31. **If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
  - *the Speaker of the House*
32. **Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?**
  - *the President*
33. **Who signs bills to become laws?**
  - *the President*
34. **Who vetoes bills?**
  - *the President*
35. **What does the President's Cabinet do?**
  - *advises the President*

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**36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?**

- *Secretary of Agriculture*
- *Secretary of Commerce*
- *Secretary of Defense*
- *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Energy*
- *Secretary of Health and Human Services*
- *Secretary of Homeland Security*
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Secretary of the Interior*
- *Secretary of Labor*
- *Secretary of State*
- *Secretary of Transportation*
- *Secretary of the Treasury*
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
- *Attorney General*
- *Vice President*

**37. What does the judicial branch do?**

- *reviews laws*
- *explains laws*
- *resolves disputes (disagreements)*
- *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

**38. What is the highest court in the United States?**

- *the Supreme Court*

**39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the number of justices on the Supreme Court.*

**40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?**

- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.*

**41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?**

- *to print money*
- *to declare war*
- *to create an army*
- *to make treaties*

**42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?**

- *provide schooling and education*
- *provide protection (police)*
- *provide safety (fire departments)*
- *give a driver's license*
- *approve zoning and land use*

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43. **Who is the Governor of your state now?**
  - *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]*
44. **What is the capital of your state?\***
  - *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]*
45. **What are the two major political parties in the United States?\***
  - *Democratic and Republican*
46. **What is the political party of the President now?**
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](http://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the political party of the President.*
47. **What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](http://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. **There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.**
  - *Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).*
  - *You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.*
  - *Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)*
  - *A male citizen of any race (can vote).*
49. **What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?\***
  - *serve on a jury*
  - *vote in a federal election*
50. **Name one right only for United States citizens.**
  - *vote in a federal election*
  - *run for federal office*
51. **What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?**
  - *freedom of expression*
  - *freedom of speech*
  - *freedom of assembly*
  - *freedom to petition the government*
  - *freedom of religion*
  - *the right to bear arms*
52. **What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?**
  - *the United States*
  - *the flag*
53. **What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?**
  - *give up loyalty to other countries*
  - *defend the Constitution and laws of the United States*
  - *obey the laws of the United States*
  - *serve in the U.S. military (if needed)*
  - *serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)*
  - *be loyal to the United States*

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54. **How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?\***
- *eighteen (18) and older*
55. **What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**
- *vote*
  - *join a political party*
  - *help with a campaign*
  - *join a civic group*
  - *join a community group*
  - *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*
  - *call Senators and Representatives*
  - *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
  - *run for office*
  - *write to a newspaper*
56. **When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?\***
- *April 15*
57. **When must all men register for the Selective Service?**
- *at age eighteen (18)*
  - *between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)*

## AMERICAN HISTORY

### A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. **What is one reason colonists came to America?**
- *freedom*
  - *political liberty*
  - *religious freedom*
  - *economic opportunity*
  - *practice their religion*
  - *escape persecution*
59. **Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**
- *American Indians*
  - *Native Americans*
60. **What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?**
- *Africans*
  - *people from Africa*
61. **Why did the colonists fight the British?**
- *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*
  - *because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)*
  - *because they didn't have self-government*

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- 62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**
- *(Thomas) Jefferson*
- 63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?**
- *July 4, 1776*
- 64. There were 13 original states. Name three.**
- *New Hampshire*
  - *Massachusetts*
  - *Rhode Island*
  - *Connecticut*
  - *New York*
  - *New Jersey*
  - *Pennsylvania*
  - *Delaware*
  - *Maryland*
  - *Virginia*
  - *North Carolina*
  - *South Carolina*
  - *Georgia*
- 65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**
- *The Constitution was written.*
  - *The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.*
- 66. When was the Constitution written?**
- *1787*
- 67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**
- *(James) Madison*
  - *(Alexander) Hamilton*
  - *(John) Jay*
  - *Publius*
- 68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?**
- *U.S. diplomat*
  - *oldest member of the Constitutional Convention*
  - *first Postmaster General of the United States*
  - *writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"*
  - *started the first free libraries*
- 69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?**
- *(George) Washington*
- 70. Who was the first President?\***
- *(George) Washington*

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## B: 1800s

71. **What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**
- *the Louisiana Territory*
  - *Louisiana*
72. **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.**
- *War of 1812*
  - *Mexican-American War*
  - *Civil War*
  - *Spanish-American War*
73. **Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.**
- *the Civil War*
  - *the War between the States*
74. **Name one problem that led to the Civil War.**
- *slavery*
  - *economic reasons*
  - *states' rights*
75. **What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?\***
- *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
  - *saved (or preserved) the Union*
  - *led the United States during the Civil War*
76. **What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?**
- *freed the slaves*
  - *freed slaves in the Confederacy*
  - *freed slaves in the Confederate states*
  - *freed slaves in most Southern states*
77. **What did Susan B. Anthony do?**
- *fought for women's rights*
  - *fought for civil rights*

## C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

78. **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.\***
- *World War I*
  - *World War II*
  - *Korean War*
  - *Vietnam War*
  - *(Persian) Gulf War*
79. **Who was President during World War I?**
- *(Woodrow) Wilson*
80. **Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?**
- *(Franklin) Roosevelt*

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81. **Who did the United States fight in World War II?**
- *Japan, Germany, and Italy*
82. **Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?**
- *World War II*
83. **During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?**
- *Communism*
84. **What movement tried to end racial discrimination?**
- *civil rights (movement)*
85. **What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?\***
- *fought for civil rights*
  - *worked for equality for all Americans*
86. **What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?**
- *Terrorists attacked the United States.*
87. **Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.**  
*[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]*
- *Cherokee*
  - *Navajo*
  - *Sioux*
  - *Chippewa*
  - *Choctaw*
  - *Pueblo*
  - *Apache*
  - *Iroquois*
  - *Creek*
  - *Blackfeet*
  - *Seminole*
  - *Cheyenne*
  - *Arawak*
  - *Shawnee*
  - *Mohegan*
  - *Huron*
  - *Oneida*
  - *Lakota*
  - *Crow*
  - *Teton*
  - *Hopi*
  - *Inuit*

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## INTEGRATED CIVICS

### A: Geography

88. Name **one** of the two longest rivers in the United States.
- *Missouri (River)*
  - *Mississippi (River)*
89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
- *Pacific (Ocean)*
90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
- *Atlantic (Ocean)*
91. Name **one** U.S. territory.
- *Puerto Rico*
  - *U.S. Virgin Islands*
  - *American Samoa*
  - *Northern Mariana Islands*
  - *Guam*
92. Name **one** state that borders Canada.
- *Maine*
  - *New Hampshire*
  - *Vermont*
  - *New York*
  - *Pennsylvania*
  - *Ohio*
  - *Michigan*
  - *Minnesota*
  - *North Dakota*
  - *Montana*
  - *Idaho*
  - *Washington*
  - *Alaska*
93. Name **one** state that borders Mexico.
- *California*
  - *Arizona*
  - *New Mexico*
  - *Texas*
94. What is the capital of the United States?\*
- *Washington, D.C.*
95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?\*
- *New York (Harbor)*
  - *Liberty Island*
- [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]*

\* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

## B: Symbols

96. **Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**
- *because there were 13 original colonies*
  - *because the stripes represent the original colonies*
97. **Why does the flag have 50 stars?\***
- *because there is one star for each state*
  - *because each star represents a state*
  - *because there are 50 states*
98. **What is the name of the national anthem?**
- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

## C: Holidays

99. **When do we celebrate Independence Day?\***
- *July 4*
100. **Name two national U.S. holidays.**
- *New Year's Day*
  - *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
  - *Presidents' Day*
  - *Memorial Day*
  - *Juneteenth*
  - *Independence Day*
  - *Labor Day*
  - *Columbus Day*
  - *Veterans Day*
  - *Thanksgiving*
  - *Christmas*

\* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

## Civics Test Updates

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointment. ***As you study for the test, make sure you know the most current answers to the following questions: 20, 23, 29, 39, 40, 43, 46, 47, 100.*** Answer the questions regarding elected or appointed officials with the name of the official serving at the time of your naturalization interview with USCIS.

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**20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?\***

- Visit <https://www.senate.gov/states/IL/intro.htm> to find your senators.

**23. Name your U.S. Representative.**

- Visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives#state-illinois> to find your representative.

**28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?\***

- Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- Joe Biden
- Biden

**29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?**

- Kamala D. Harris
- Kamala Harris
- Harris

**39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

- nine (9)

**40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?**

- John Roberts
- John G. Roberts, Jr.

**43. Who is the Governor of your state now?**

- Jay Robert Pritzker
- JB Pritzker
- Visit [usa.gov/states-and-territories](https://www.usa.gov/states-and-territories) to find the name of the governor of your state.

**46. What is the political party of the President now?**

- Democratic (Party)

**47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**

- Mike Johnson
- Johnson

**100. Name two national U.S. holidays.**

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

## **N-400 Application for Naturalization: Additional Resources from USCIS**

For additional information and resources on becoming a U.S. citizen, please refer to the following resources provided by USCIS.

- Learn About U.S. Citizenship
  - <https://uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship>
- Study Materials for the Naturalization Interview and Test
  - <https://uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources/study-for-the-test>
- Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons
  - [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/flash-cards/M-638\\_red.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/flash-cards/M-638_red.pdf)
- Becoming a U.S. Citizen: An Overview of the Naturalization Process (Video)
  - [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/becoming\\_a\\_citizen.mp4](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/becoming_a_citizen.mp4)
- Learn About the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution
  - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/M-654.pdf>
- The Citizen's Almanac: Learn About the Rights and Responsibilities of a U.S. Citizen
  - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/M-76.pdf>
- The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test (Video)
  - [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/Naturalization\\_Interview.mp4](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/Naturalization_Interview.mp4)
- Vocabulary for the Naturalization Interview: Self-Test 1
  - [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/Naturalization\\_Interview.mp4](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/Naturalization_Interview.mp4)
- Vocabulary for the Naturalization Interview: Self-Test 2
  - [Vocabulary for the Naturalization Interview: Self-Test 2 \(uscis.gov\)](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/videos/Vocabulary_for_the_Naturalization_Interview_Self-Test_2.mp4)
- Commonly Asked Questions
  - <https://uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/commonly-asked-questions-about-the-naturalization-process>



Reading Vocabulary for the Naturalization Test

PEOPLE	CIVICS	PLACES	HOLIDAYS	QUESTION WORDS	VERBS	OTHER (FUNCTION)	OTHER (CONTENT)
Abraham Lincoln	American flag	America	Presidents' Day	How	can	a	colors
George Washington	Bill of Rights	United States	Memorial Day	What	come	for	dollar bill
	capital	U.S.	Flag Day	When	do/does	here	first
	citizen		Independence Day	Where	elects	in	largest
	city		Labor Day	Who	have/has	of	many
	Congress		Columbus Day	Why	is/are/was/be	on	most
	country		Thanksgiving		lives/lived	the	north
	Father of Our Country				meet	to	one
	government				name	we	people
	President				pay		second
	right				vote		south
	Senators				want		
	state/states						
	White House						







# A Guide to Naturalization



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# *What Are the Benefits and Responsibilities of Citizenship?*

## **Benefits**

The Constitution and laws of the United States give many rights to both citizens and non-citizens living in the United States. However, some rights are only for citizens, such as:

- **Voting.** Only U.S. citizens can vote in Federal elections. Most States also restrict the right to vote, in most elections, to U.S. citizens.
- **Bringing family members to the United States.** Citizens generally get priority when petitioning to bring family members permanently to this country.
- **Obtaining citizenship for children born abroad.** In most cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen is automatically a U.S. citizen.
- **Traveling with a U.S. passport.** A U.S. passport allows you to get assistance from the U.S. government when outside the United States.
- **Becoming eligible for Federal jobs.** Most jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.
- **Becoming an elected official.** Many elected offices in this country require U.S. citizenship.
- **Showing your patriotism.** In addition, becoming a U.S. citizen is a way to demonstrate your commitment to your new country.

The above list does not include all the benefits of citizenship, only some of the more important ones.

## **Responsibilities**

To become a U.S. citizen you must take the Oath of Allegiance. The oath includes several promises you make when you become a U.S. citizen, including promises to:

- Give up all prior allegiance to any other nation or sovereignty;
- Swear allegiance to the United States;
- Support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States; and
- Serve the country when required.

U.S. citizens have many responsibilities other than the ones mentioned in the Oath. Citizens have a responsibility to participate in the political process by registering and voting in elections. Serving on a jury is another responsibility of citizenship. Finally, America becomes stronger when all of its citizens respect the different opinions, cultures, ethnic groups, and religions found in this country. Tolerance for differences is also a responsibility of citizenship.

When you decide to become a U.S. citizen, you should be willing to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship. We hope you will honor and respect the freedoms and opportunities citizenship gives you. At the same time, we hope you become an active member of your community. It is by participating in your community that you truly become an American.

# What Should I Expect From the Naturalization Process?



## Preparing to Apply

- Read *A Guide to Naturalization*.
- Complete the Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet.
- Get an “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400).
- Visit our website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).



## Completing Your Application

- Complete your application.
- Collect the necessary documents.
- Send your application, documents, and fee (DO NOT SEND CASH) to the appropriate Lockbox Facility or Service Center.
- Keep a copy of everything you send to USCIS.



## Getting Biometrics Taken

- Receive an appointment letter from USCIS.
- Go to the biometrics location.
- Get your biometrics taken.
- Mail additional documents if USCIS requests them.
- Wait for USCIS to schedule your interview.



## Being Interviewed

- Receive an appointment for your interview.
- Go to your local USCIS office at the specified time.
- Bring state-issued identification, Permanent Resident Card, and any additional documents specific to your case.
- Answer questions about your application and background.
- Take the English and civics tests.
- Receive case status.



## Taking the Oath

- Receive a ceremony date.
- Check in at the ceremony.
- Return your Permanent Resident Card.
- Answer questions about what you have done since your interview.
- Take the Oath of Allegiance.
- Receive your Certificate of Naturalization.



# Preparing to Apply

## 1. Read *A Guide to Naturalization*

Reading *A Guide to Naturalization* is the first step in the naturalization process. We realize that some naturalization requirements may be difficult to understand. If you read this *Guide* before beginning the naturalization process, many of your questions will be answered.

We hope that the information in this *Guide* will help you prepare your application. If you are well prepared, and send us the necessary information and documents, we can process your application more quickly. It is your responsibility to begin the naturalization process fully informed and ready to provide the necessary information and documents.

## 2. Complete the Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

Complete the Eligibility Worksheet in the back of this *Guide* to decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization. If you do not meet all the requirements, you may save both time and money by waiting until you are eligible to apply.

If you complete the Eligibility Worksheet and have questions about your eligibility, you should seek advice by:

- Calling Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283;
- Reviewing the information on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov);
- Going to a USCIS information counter;
- Contacting a community immigrant assistance organization; or
- Talking to an immigration attorney.

## 3. Get an “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400)

Once you have completed the eligibility worksheet and believe that you are eligible for naturalization, you should obtain an application. The application is called the “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400). You may obtain Form N-400 by calling the USCIS Forms Line (1-800-870-3676) or by downloading it from the Internet at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

USCIS has developed educational materials, such as Civics Flash Cards and *Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons*, to help you prepare for the naturalization interview. You can find these resources and other study materials for the naturalization test at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

# Completing Your Application



## 1. Complete your application

Once you have Form N-400, you must fill it out completely. USCIS may ask for additional information if your application is incomplete. This will delay the processing of your naturalization application.

You will be required to answer questions about your application at your interview. When completing your application, you should answer all questions honestly. Be sure to keep a copy of your completed application for your records.

## 2. Collect the necessary documents

Applicants who are lawful permanent residents of the United States must submit photocopies (front and back) of Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card). Depending on the circumstances, some applicants must send certain documents with their application. For more information on the documents you must send with your application, see the Document Checklist located at the back of this *Guide*. If you do not send the necessary documents with your application,

the processing of your application may be delayed. In most cases, you should send a copy of a document, but you should be prepared to bring the originals with you to your interview. We may also ask you to send other documents to us before your interview, or to bring additional documents with you to your interview.

Be sure to send an English translation with any document that is not already in English. The translation must include a statement from the translator that he or she is competent to translate and that the translation is correct.

If you do not have a required document and cannot get a certified copy of the original, submit a certification from the original recording authority explaining why it cannot be provided. In that case we will consider other evidence such as notarized affidavits.

**Photographs:** Only applicants who reside outside the United States must provide two identical color photographs taken recently.

The photos must have a white to off-white background, be printed on thin paper with a

glossy finish, and be unmounted and unretouched. Passport-style photos must be 2" x 2". The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1" to 1 3/8" from top of hair to bottom of chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8" to 1 3/8" from bottom of photo. Your head must be bare, unless contrary to your religious beliefs.

Using a pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and A-Number (if any) on the back of the photo.

**Fingerprints:** If you reside outside the United States, visit [www.uscis.gov/forms/fingerprints](http://www.uscis.gov/forms/fingerprints) for more information.



*The Document Checklist will tell you when you need to send original documents and when you may send copies. Remember to make and keep copies of all documents you send to USCIS.*

### **3. Send your application, documents, and fee to the USCIS Lockbox Facility**

Send your application directly to the USCIS Lockbox that serves your area. If you try to take or mail your application to a local USCIS office, it will be returned to you.

The current fee you must send with your application is on the one-page insert titled "Current Naturalization Fees" in the back of this *Guide*. Military applicants filing for citizenship under Sections 328 and 329 of the INA do not require a fee.

If you reside in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Territory of Guam, or Northern Mariana Islands, send your application to:

#### **USCIS Lockbox Facility**

**USCIS  
P.O. Box 21251  
Phoenix, AZ 85036**

#### **Private Courier (non-USPS)**

**Deliveries:  
USCIS  
Attention: N-400  
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S.  
Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85034**

If you reside in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, or U.S. Virgin Islands, send your application to:

#### **USCIS Lockbox Facility**

**USCIS  
P.O. Box 660060  
Dallas, TX 75266**

#### **Private Courier (non-USPS)**

**Deliveries:  
USCIS  
Attention: N-400  
2501 S. State Hwy 121 Business  
Suite 400  
Lewisville, TX 75067**

**Military Members and Spouses:** If you are a veteran or an active member of the U.S. Armed Forces and are eligible to apply for naturalization under Section 328 or 329 of the INA, **or are the spouse of a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces**, send your application to:

**USCIS Service Center  
Nebraska Service Center  
P.O. Box 87426  
Lincoln, NE 68501-7426**

#### **Private Courier (non-USPS)**

**Deliveries:  
Nebraska Service Center  
850 S Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**What if I live outside the United States?** If you are outside the United States and filing Form N-400, you should send your application to the USCIS Lockbox Facility that serves the USCIS office where you want to be interviewed.

**What if I am currently serving in active duty status in the military?** If you are applying for naturalization based on qualifying military service, and are currently serving in an active duty status, you may go to your service's personnel office for information on how to prepare your application. You should speak to your personnel office even if you are stationed outside the United States. For more information, see "Naturalization Information for Military Personnel" (Form M-599).

# Getting Biometrics Taken



## 1. Receive an appointment letter from USCIS

Once you have filed your application, USCIS will send you a letter telling you where and when to have your biometrics taken.

In most cases, the letter will tell you to go to an Application Support Center (ASC). A van may be available in certain areas of Alaska and Hawaii to fingerprint applicants who are located far from the nearest biometrics location. Your notice from USCIS will tell you if a van serves your area.

## 2. Go to the biometrics location

Take your ASC appointment notice (Form I-797C) from USCIS, your Permanent Resident Card, and another form of identification (driver's license, passport, or State identification card) with you. Your second form of identification should have your photograph on it.

## 3. Get your biometrics taken

USCIS may require that you appear for an interview or provide fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application.

Currently, all sites take biometrics electronically. However, manual workstations are available for applicants whose fingerprints cannot be taken electronically.

In order to do a criminal background check, USCIS will send your fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In some cases, the FBI may reject your fingerprints because of the quality of the prints.

If the FBI rejects your fingerprints, USCIS will notify you and schedule a second visit to the fingerprinting site. You will not be asked to pay again.

If the FBI rejects your fingerprints twice, you will be asked to provide police clearances for each place you

have lived in the past 5 years. You will need to contact the police departments in the places you have lived to get these clearances.

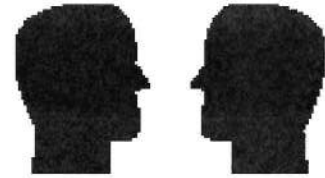
## 4. Mail additional documents if USCIS requests them

While the FBI is checking your background, USCIS will locate your immigration file. Sometimes USCIS may need additional documents from you before we can schedule your interview. If USCIS needs more information from you, we will send you a letter telling you what information we need and where to send it.

## 5. Wait for USCIS to schedule your interview

Once everything is ready, USCIS will schedule you for an interview. USCIS will send you an interview notice in the mail that will tell you the date, time, and place of your interview.

# Being Interviewed



## 1. Receive an appointment for your interview

USCIS will send you a notice in the mail telling you when and where you must appear for your interview. You will not receive a second notice.

**What if I cannot go to my interview?** If you must reschedule your interview, you should write to the office where your interview is scheduled as soon as possible. You should explain your situation and ask to have your interview rescheduled. When a new date has been set, USCIS will send you a new interview notice.



*To make sure you get your interview notice, you must notify USCIS every time your address changes.*

## 2. Go to your local USCIS office at the specified time

You should go to the office where you are to be interviewed at least 30 minutes before the time of your interview. Many USCIS offices are crowded, so unless you need to, you may not want to bring other people with you to your interview.

If you do not go to your interview and do not contact USCIS beforehand, we will “administratively close” your case. If we administratively close your case and you do not contact USCIS within 1 year to reopen your case, we will deny your application.

*Rescheduling an interview may add several months to the naturalization process, so try to attend your original interview date.*

## 3. Bring identification and provide additional documents if USCIS requests them

You should bring the following identification to your interview: (a) your Permanent Resident or Alien Registration Card, (b) your passport (even if it has expired), (c) State Identification Card, and (d) any Re-entry Permits you have.

In some cases, USCIS may ask you to bring additional documents to the interview. These documents will be listed on your appointment letter. If you don't bring the necessary documents, your case may be delayed or denied.

## 4. Answer questions about your application and background.

At your interview, a USCIS officer will explain the purpose of the interview, ask to see your identification, and place you under oath. He or she will ask you about:

- Your background;
- Evidence supporting your case;
- Your place and length of residence;
- Your character;

- Your attachment to the Constitution; and
- Your willingness to take an Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

In addition, the USCIS officer may ask you some other questions to make sure that you meet all the eligibility requirements. Be prepared to explain any differences between your application and the other documents you provided to USCIS.



*Remember that you are under oath. Always tell the truth during your interview. If you lie during your interview, you will be denied citizenship. If you are granted citizenship, but then USCIS finds out that you lied on your application or during your interview, your citizenship may be taken away.*

If you want a representative to accompany you to your interview, you must first send us a “Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative” (Form G-28) with your application. Also, if you are exempt from the English requirements, you may bring an interpreter to the interview or USCIS may select one for you. If you have any disabilities, you may bring a family member or legal guardian to be present with you during the interview at the discretion of the USCIS officer.



## 5. Take the English and civics tests

During your interview, a USCIS officer will also test your ability to read, write, and speak English (unless you are exempt from the English requirements). You will also be given a civics test in English (to test your knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government) unless you are exempt. Even if exempt from the English test, you will need to take the civics test in the language of your choice or qualify for a waiver.

**English.** Study materials have been publicly released by USCIS and are available at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) under Education and Resources. Your English skills will be tested in the following ways:

- (1) **Reading.** To test your ability to read in English, you must read one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner suggesting to the USCIS officer that you understand the meaning of the sentence.
- (2) **Writing.** To test your ability to write in English, you must write one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner that would be understandable as written to the USCIS officer.
- (3) **Speaking.** Your ability to speak English is determined by your answers to questions normally asked by USCIS officers during the naturalization eligibility interview on Form N-400.

**Civics.** During your interview, the USCIS officer will ask you to orally answer a set of civics

questions. You must answer six (6) out of 10 civics questions correctly to achieve a passing score. All 100 civics questions have been publicly released by USCIS and are available at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) under Education and Resources.

## 6. Receive a decision

After your interview, we will give you a Form N-652 that gives you information about the results of your interview. Based on all the information you have given us, we will either grant, continue, or deny your naturalization application after your interview.

**Granted.** Sometimes USCIS can tell you if you will be granted citizenship at the end of your interview. In some cases, you may be able to attend an oath ceremony the same day as your interview (where available). Otherwise, you will receive a notice telling you when and where your oath ceremony will be.

**Continued.** The USCIS officer may also “continue” your case. This means your case is put on hold. If your case is continued, it will add time to your naturalization process. The most common reasons for continuation are (a) failing the English and civics tests, and (b) failing to give USCIS the correct documents.

When your case is continued, you will be asked to do one of two things:

(1) **Come back for a second interview.** If you fail one or both of the tests, we will reschedule you

to come back for another interview, usually within 60-90 days of the first interview. At that time, you will be tested again. If you fail the test(s) a second time, we will deny your application.

(2) **Provide additional documents.** If USCIS needs more information from you, we will give you a Form N-14. This form explains what information or documents you must provide us, and tells you when and how you should return the information to us. If you do not follow the instructions, we may deny your application.

**Denied.** USCIS may also deny your application for naturalization. If USCIS denies your application for naturalization, you will receive a written notice telling you why.

**What can I do if USCIS denies my application?** If you feel that USCIS was wrong to deny you citizenship, you may request a hearing with a USCIS officer. Your denial letter will explain how to request a hearing and will include the form you need. The form for filing an appeal is the “Request for Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings under Section 336 of the INA” (Form N-336). You must file the form with USCIS, including the correct fee, within 30 days after you receive a denial letter.

If, after an appeal hearing with USCIS, you still believe USCIS was wrong to deny you citizenship, you may file a petition for a new review of your application in U.S. District Court.

# Taking the Oath



## 1. Receive a ceremony date

If USCIS approves your application for naturalization, you must attend a ceremony and take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. USCIS will notify you by mail of the time and date of your ceremony.

The notice USCIS sends you is called the “Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony” (Form N-445). In some cases, USCIS may give you the option to take the oath on the same day as your interview.

If you arrange to take a “same-day” oath, USCIS will ask you to come back to the office later that day. At this time, you will take the oath and receive your Certificate of Naturalization.

## 2. Check in at the ceremony

When you arrive at the ceremony, you will be asked to check in with USCIS. You should arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled ceremony. Remember that there are often many other people being naturalized with you who must also be checked in with USCIS.

If you cannot attend the ceremony on the day you are scheduled, you should return the USCIS notice (Form N-445)

to your local USCIS office. You should include a letter explaining why you cannot be at the ceremony and asking USCIS to reschedule you.

The naturalization ceremony is a solemn and meaningful event. Please dress in proper attire to respect the dignity of this event (please no jeans, shorts, or flip flops).

## 3. Return your Permanent Resident Card

You must return your Permanent Resident Card to USCIS when you check in for your oath ceremony. You will no longer need your Permanent Resident Card because you will get your Certificate of Naturalization at the ceremony.

## 4. Answer questions about what you have done since your interview

If more than a day has passed between your interview and the ceremony, we will ask you several questions. These questions will be on the back of the notice (Form N-445) USCIS sends you.

Some questions on the back of the N-445 include: “Have you traveled outside the United States?” and “Have you claimed exemption from military service?” You should read the

questions carefully and mark your answers before you arrive at the ceremony.



*Answer the questions on the back of Form N-445 only for the time since your interview.*

## 5. Take the Oath

Every naturalization candidate is required to recite the Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen. The words of the Oath of Allegiance can be found on Page 28. The Oath of Allegiance must be recited at a formal naturalization ceremony in front of a USCIS official. Once recited, USCIS will issue you a Certificate of Naturalization.

**Waiver or Modification of the Oath of Allegiance.** In certain circumstances there can be a modification or waiver of the Oath of Allegiance. These circumstances are as follows:

- If you are unable or unwilling to promise to bear arms or perform noncombatant service because of religious training and belief, you may request to leave out those parts of the oath. USCIS may require you to provide documentation from your religious

organization explaining its beliefs and stating that you are a member in good standing.

- If you are unable or unwilling to take the oath with the words “on oath” and “so help me God” included, you must notify USCIS that you wish to take a modified Oath of Allegiance. Applicants are not required to provide any evidence or testimony to support a request for this type of modification. See 8 CFR 337.1(b).
- USCIS can waive the Oath of Allegiance when it is shown that the person’s physical or developmental disability, or mental impairments, makes them unable to understand, or to communicate an understanding of, the meaning of the oath. See 8 USC 337.

**Hereditary Titles.** If you have any hereditary titles or positions of nobility, you must renounce at the oath ceremony.

## 6. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization

Once you have taken the oath, you will receive your Certificate of Naturalization. You may use this document as proof that you are a U.S. citizen.

We strongly recommend that you go to your nearest Social Security Administration (SSA) office to update your Social Security record soon after your naturalization ceremony.

This is important because your Social Security record will be used to establish eligibility for benefits and to demonstrate authorization to work. The nearest SSA office can be found by calling 1-800-772-1213 or at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**To Update your Citizenship with SSA.** In order to update your citizenship status in your SSA record, you will need to present your Certificate of Naturalization or your U.S. passport to the SSA.

**To Change your Name in SSA’s Records.** If at the oath ceremony you also changed your name from that shown in your SSA record, and your Certificate of Naturalization does not show your old and new names, you will also need to present:

- A State driver’s license or other acceptable form of identification in your old name as shown in your SSA record. This identity document in your former name can be unexpired or expired. It must contain your photo and/or biographical information about you.
- If you changed your name more than two years ago, you will also need to present a recently issued identity document showing your new legal name as shown on your Certificate of Naturalization or U.S. passport.
- **E-Verify Program.** SSA’s records will be used to verify your employment eligibility

by all employers who use E-Verify. In order to prevent name-related mismatches in E-Verify, the name that you provide on your “Employment Eligibility Verification” (Form I-9) must match the name that is in SSA’s records. Therefore, we encourage you to update your records with SSA as soon as possible.

**Apply for a U.S. Passport.** We strongly recommend that you apply for a U.S. passport soon after your oath. You will not be able to travel abroad until you have your U.S. passport. Please allow sufficient time between your ceremony and any planned travel to receive your passport.

- In addition to your Certificate of Naturalization, a passport serves as evidence of citizenship. If you lose your Certificate of Naturalization, you may request a replacement by filing an “Application for Replacement Naturalization/ Citizenship Document” (Form N-565).
- You can get an application for a passport at your oath ceremony in the U.S. Citizenship Welcome Packet or at most United States Post Offices. On the web, visit <http://travel.state.gov>.

# WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

[worldrelief.org/chicagoland](http://worldrelief.org/chicagoland)



## SERVICES FOR REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS

### IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

- Consultations
- Citizenship
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Family Reunification
- Green Card Applications
- U-Visa/VAWA Petitions

### EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- Job placement & Job Upgrade Assistance
- Career Skill Development
- Driver's Permit Courses
- Access training in a New Career Field

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES

- English (ESL) Tutors
- Homework Assistance & Parent Mentoring
- Citizenship Tutoring
- Ongoing Culture Guides

### SENIOR SERVICES

- Case Management
- Social Engagement Groups

### FOR IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICE

- Aurora (630) 906-9546
- Chicago (630) 462-7660
- DuPage (630) 462-7660

### FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT

- Help understanding healthcare & medical bills
- Coaching and planning to reach goals
- Connections to community support services
- Assistance to apply for food stamps, Medicaid, and other public benefits.

### EDUCATION SERVICES

- English Classes for Beginning Literacy
- English (ESL) Classes
- Job Readiness English Classes
- Healthcare Career ESL Classes

### COUNSELING CENTER

- Individual & Family Counseling
- Life Skills Groups
- Cultural Adjustment Support

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

- Pre-school Readiness
- Academic Tutoring and Parent Education
- Support for children 0-18 years old

### FOR OTHER SERVICES

- Aurora (630) 906-9546
- Chicago (773) 583-9191
- DuPage (630) 462-7566



To fill out an intake form so we can follow up with you, please scan this QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/WRGetStarted>

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