

# Citizenship Process

**General Eligibility Requirements** (see [here](#) for details and exceptions). Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be a permanent resident (“Green Card”) for at least 5 years (3 years if married to U.S. Citizen)
- Show that they have lived continuously in the US for the 5 years leading up to applying, and that they have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Show that they have lived for at least 3 months in the state where they apply.
- Be able to pass the reading, writing, speaking and civics tests

Submit  
N-400  
Application

- ➔ IRC and Sin Barreras provide low cost legal help
- ➔ USCIS Application Fee is currently \$640 plus \$85 biometric fee. Fee [waivers](#) and [reductions](#) may be available.
- ➔ *Note: Fee increase and elimination of fee waivers/reductions will go into effect on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fee will be \$1170 + \$35.*
- ➔ USCIS projects processing time from date of filing at this [link](#)

Biometrics

- ➔ Applicant receives letter with their biometrics appointment
- ➔ Applicant goes to appointment, usually in northern VA

Interview

- ➔ Applicant receives letter with their interview appointment
- ➔ Interviews are held at the USCIS Field Office in Fairfax or Washington DC
- ➔ “Citizenship test” consists of:
  - ➔ Speaking and Listening: Small talk with USCIS officer, ability to respond orally to questions on the [N-400](#), including defining terms within the form, if asked
  - ➔ Reading one sentence correctly (out of three attempts). Reading words drawn from this [list](#).
  - ➔ Writing one sentence correctly (out of three attempts). Writing words drawn from this [list](#).
  - ➔ Answering six civics questions correctly (out of ten attempts). Civics questions are asked and answered orally, and are drawn from this [list](#) of 100 questions.

PASSED

FAILED

- ➔ Applicant should be given a paper at the end of the interview indicating which portion they failed
- ➔ They will receive a letter with a second interview appointment to re-take the portions that they failed
- ➔ If they fail the second attempt, they can appeal or begin again with a new N-400 application.

Oath Ceremony