

Path to Citizenship Workshop Tutor Retreat / July 20, 2019

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Who administers the test? The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services agency under the Department of Homeland Security (USCIS).

Some statistics:

- Each year, we welcome about 700,000 to 750,000 new citizens.
- In FY 2016, the top countries of origin for naturalization were in the following order: Mexico, India, the Philippines, China, and Cuba.
- The national pass rate on the naturalization test is 91%.

Eligibility:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a permanent resident for 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen)
- Meet certain continuous residency requirements

Reasons for becoming a U.S. citizen:

- Vote in federal elections; serve on a jury
- Travel with a U.S. passport
- Obtain citizenship for children under 18
- Priority for bringing family members to the U.S.
- Protection from deportation

Steps to Citizenship:

- Study for the test with tutor, LVCA citizenship class, online and print materials
- Fill out the N400 Application and file it along with the \$725 fee
- Go to Alexandria for biometrics (fingerprinting, photos, background check)
- Continue to study and prepare
- Citizenship interview/test in Alexandria
- After passing, attend a swearing in ceremony

Parts of the Interview:

- Speaking and listening / small talk / N400 Application Questions
- 100 Questions about U.S. history, geography, symbols, government, etc.
- Reading and Writing

Resources:

- USCIS Citizenship Resource Center: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>
- Citizenship textbooks / Lynne Weintraub
- USA Learns Online Citizenship Course: <https://www.usalearns.org>
- LVCA Preparing for Citizenship booklet