

10 Steps to Prepare for the US Naturalization Interview



We get citizenship for you and your loved ones



CAMBRIDGE
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Hello!

I am excited to provide this guide to help you on your citizenship journey. I am eager to share the knowledge and experience that I have gained in 18 years of immigration practice. In my career as an immigration attorney, I have worked with individuals and families from countless countries, races, educational and socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, and family statuses. I strive to help them achieve their life goals and to provide an excellent client experience in our work together.

-Ellen

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How we help our clients

At Cambridge Immigration Law, we have represented many types of individuals at their citizenship interviews. We prepare our clients for all sorts of questions and we update evidence before an interview. We identify and prepare for the possible issues that may come up during your interview.

By the time our clients get to the interview, they feel confident knowing they have our attorneys by their side. Use this guide to understand the steps necessary to be successful and get your citizenship!

QUESTIONS?

@CAMBRIDGEIMMIGRATIONLAW

HELLO@CAMBRIDGEIMMIGRATIONLAW.COM



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1 Plan your trip to your local USCIS Field Office

As soon as you get your Naturalization Interview Notice, put the date, time, and location into your calendar. If your application is based on marriage to a US citizen, plan for your spouse to attend with you (although this is not required). If you have not yet received your interview notice, you can find the (likely) location of your interview by finding your USCIS Field Office using this [link](#) and scrolling to the bottom of the page to enter your zip code. Before the day of your interview, plan your trip to the local Field Office and plan time for traffic, parking, walking to the Field Office, and checking in through security at the USCIS building.

2 Update USCIS if you move

If you move after you file your N-400 Application, you must notify USCIS using the online change of address tool at this link. At our firm, we will notify the USCIS Field Office of the address change so do not forget to let your attorney know of your move. If you move out of the geographic area for your local Field Office, USCIS will NOT be able to conduct your Naturalization Interview at that location.

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3 *Study for the English test*

At the interview, you will read one sentence out loud and write one sentence on a touch-screen device. You can find study materials for the English test on pages 27 to 35 of the brochure “[Preparing for the Naturalization Test: A Pocket Study Guide](#).” You are exempt from the English language requirement if you are 50 years old and have had a “green card” for 20 years or are 55 years old and have had a “green card” for 15 years. If you are exempt from the English test, you will take the Civics Test in your native language. If you have certain medical disabilities, you may not have to take the English or Civics test.

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Reading Vocabulary List

PEOPLE • Abraham Lincoln • George Washington

CIVICS • American flag • Bill of Rights • capital • citizen • city 29 • Congress • country • Father of Our Country • government • President • right • Senators • state/states • White House

PLACES • America • United States • U.S.

HOLIDAYS • Presidents’ Day • Memorial Day • Juneteenth • Flag Day • Independence Day • Labor Day • Columbus Day • Thanksgiving

QUESTION WORDS • How • What • When • Where • Who • Why

VERBS • can • come • do/does • elects • have/has • is/are/was/be • lives/lived • meet • name • pay • vote • want

OTHER (FUNCTION) • a • for • here • in 31 • of • on • the • to • we
Have you traveled together? If so, where and when?

OTHER (CONTENT) • colors • dollar bill • first • largest • many • most • north • one • people • second • south

4 *Study for the Civics Tests*

At the interview, you will need to answer 6 out of 10 Civics questions correctly. Study the Civics Questions in English and in other languages here. If you have certain medical disabilities, you may not have to take the English or Civics test.

Sample Test

[Download the Civics Questions and Answers](#)

- 1 What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

- 2 What is the economic system in the United States?

- 3 Who makes federal laws?

- 4 What is the highest court in the United States?

- 5 What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- 6 How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

- 7 What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- 8 When was the Constitution written?

- 9 Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

- 10 What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

Answers

- 1 What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
 - the Bill of Rights
- 2 What is the economic system in the United States?
 - capitalist economy
 - market economy
- 3 Who makes federal laws?
 - Congress
 - Senate and House (of Representatives)
 - (U.S. or national) legislature
- 4 What is the highest court in the United States?
 - the Supreme Court
- 5 What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
 - the United States
 - the flag
- 6 How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
 - eighteen (18) and older
- 7 What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
 - Africans
 - people from Africa
- 8 When was the Constitution written?
 - 1787
- 9 Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
 - the Civil War
 - the War between the States
- 10 What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
 - Terrorists attacked the United States

5 *Review your N-400 Application*

As soon as you receive your Naturalization Interview Notice, review your N-400 Application and all past USCIS and Embassy applications. If there are any mistakes or updates on your N-400 application, you should make a list of corrections/updates and be prepared to explain the corrections/updates at the start of your Naturalization Interview. Also, review your applications so that you are familiar with the content of the application. For example, know how you were eligible to get a green card and the date of the green card. Know your past addresses and employers. Know your immediate family's birth dates, anniversary dates, and addresses. Review the somewhat confusing language of the eligibility questions on pages 11 to 16 of the N-400 Application. If you found mistakes on your prior applications, you should talk with an experienced immigration attorney about how to go about updating the application. If you answered "yes" to any questions on pages 11 to 16 of the N-400 Application, do not go to the interview without first consulting with an attorney.

Here are some eligibility questions:

Have you ever claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)?

Have you ever been charge with committing, attempting to commit, or assisting in committing a crime or offense?

Have you ever failed to support your dependents or pay alimony?

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6 *Gather original documents*

When you go to the Naturalization Interview, you will bring the original Interview Notice, your original "green card" (Form I-551), your original birth certificate (although not required) with translation, your original marriage and divorce certificates for all past marriages and divorces, birth certificates for your children, and original criminal dockets. Gather and neatly organize these documents so that you can easily access them and show them to the USCIS officer when you are at the interview.

7 *Bring a copy of everything*

Bring a copy of your application and all original documents to the interview. Sometimes the USCIS officer cannot find something in the file (even though it's there), and it is helpful to give the officer a copy of what seems to be missing from the file. Make sure to keep a copy of everything for yourself.

8 *Dress "appropriately"*

Plan to wear a "business casual" outfit to the interview. This means that you should wear clothing that is somewhat formal or special and that shows your respect for the importance of the event.

9 *Be flexible with travel plans*

If you plan to travel outside the US around the time that your interview could be scheduled, in the time between the Interview and the Oath Ceremony, or in the weeks following the Oath Ceremony, plan to be flexible with your plans. I always advise clients to prioritize attending the Interview and Oath Ceremony over everything else, and I advise clients to change travel plans if at all possible so that they can be at those events. Also, if you plan to travel soon after your Oath Ceremony, you need to plan to have a US Passport. In some cases, that will mean applying for the US Passport to be expedited.

10 *Consult with an experienced immigration attorney*

Before you attend your N-400 Interview, talk to an experienced immigration attorney so that you can confirm that you are in fact eligible for US citizenship. If you noticed any errors in past USCIS applications, ask the attorney how you should update the application and explain past errors. If anything has changed in your situation since filing your N-400 application, ask the attorney if those changes affect your eligibility or if those changes need to be raised at the interview. If you answered "yes" to any of the questions on pages 11 to 16 on Form N-400, do not attend the interview without consulting with an experienced immigration attorney.

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Congratulations

YOU ARE ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING
YOUR IMMIGRATION GOALS!

Preparing for the naturalization interview can be a very stressful process. You don't want to make a mistake or forget any required documents.

Let us handle the work. You get your citizenship.

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