

Ongoing Initiatives

» Naturalization Test Redesign

The Office of Citizenship is revising the naturalization test to increase both uniformity and meaningfulness of the testing process. The Office of Citizenship has commissioned studies to determine the current test's pass/fail rate and to evaluate the internal and external impacts of a change in the test. Learning from these studies and from ongoing communication with expert communities and internal and external stakeholders, the Office of Citizenship is committed to creating a test that is fair and meaningful, and which serves as an instrument of civic learning. The content and testing procedures of the new test are scheduled to be finalized in 2007. Once the new test is finalized, applicants will have one year to prepare for the new test, which will be implemented in 2008. The Office of Citizenship will develop a series of educational products to assist in the test preparation process.

Community Outreach Efforts

The Office of Citizenship plays an important role in communicating with stakeholders and immigrant communities across the country. Outreach efforts are led at the grassroots level by Community Liaison Officers, who are currently located in 19 cities from Los Angeles, CA to New York, NY.

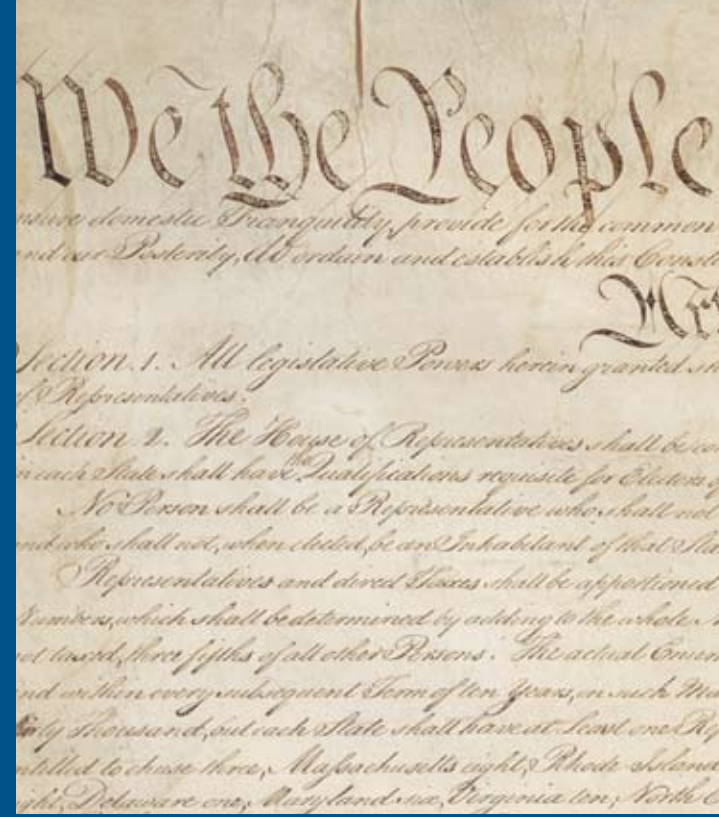


Community Liaison Officers serve as the public face of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Office of Citizenship. These outreach specialists maintain continuous contact with stakeholders in an effort to keep the immigrant community informed and assist in efforts to promote civic literacy and immigrant integration. Community Liaison Officers also work closely with state and local officials in supporting the needs of the immigrant community.

Additionally, these officers coordinate citizenship forums, special naturalization ceremonies, town hall meetings, and related events designed to elicit community support for the effective implementation of integration and civic literacy activities. Events are closely coordinated with a robust network of local and regional stakeholders.

For more information on
the Office of Citizenship,
visit us on the web at:

<http://www.uscis.gov>



Office of Citizenship

Products and Publications



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

About the Office of Citizenship

The Office of Citizenship, within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, is mandated by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to promote instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities and to provide immigrants with information and tools necessary to successfully integrate into American civic culture.

The focus of the Office of Citizenship is to provide information and resources to immigrants at two key points on their journey towards civic integration: when they first become permanent residents and when they are ready to begin the formal naturalization process.

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance information and educational opportunities provided to permanent residents to support their integration and participation in American civic culture.
- Promote education and training on citizenship rights, privileges, and responsibilities for immigrants interested in becoming citizens.
- Infuse the entire naturalization process, from preparation to the examination to the oath ceremony, with greater meaning and stature.

Current Products

» Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants

This comprehensive guide is a landmark publication representing the first time in recent history that the federal government has provided orientation materials for new permanent residents.

The guide contains practical information to help immigrants settle into everyday life in the United States, as well as basic civics information that introduces new immigrants to the U.S. system of government. The guide also gives immigrants tips on how to get involved in their new community, and how to meet their responsibilities and exercise their rights as permanent residents.



Welcome to the United States is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, French, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Tagalog, and Arabic at <http://www.uscis.gov>. The guides are available online in both Adobe® PDF format and/or a text-only version. Print copies of the English and Spanish versions may be purchased through the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) by calling 1-866-512-1800 or by ordering through their website at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.

» Civics Flash Cards

The Civics Flash Cards are based on the sample U.S. history and government questions on the naturalization test.

Perfect for individual study or for use in the classroom, the Civics Flash Cards serve as a valuable instruction tool for naturalization test preparation.

The Civics Flash Cards are available at <http://www.uscis.gov> in Adobe® PDF format and an online interactive version. Hard copies of the Civics Flash Cards are available for purchase through GPO by calling 1-866-512-1800 or by ordering through their website at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.



» Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons

The Quick Civics Lessons are short lessons based on each of the civics and history questions on the naturalization test. The Quick Civics Lessons provide brief paragraphs that help immigrants learn more about concepts in American history and government, moving beyond memorization, as they prepare for the naturalization test. An audio CD designed to help immigrants prepare for the naturalization interview accompanies the booklet. This publication is available in English and Spanish at <http://www.uscis.gov>.



Upcoming Products

» Citizen's Almanac

The *Citizen's Almanac* is a publication developed for new citizens. It includes information on U.S. civic history, rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, biographical details on prominent foreign-born Americans, landmark decisions of the Supreme Court, presidential speeches on citizenship, and several of our founding documents including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

» "Civics Online" Curriculum Resource Center

This web-based tool will provide stakeholders with a single source for locating appropriate educational resources to incorporate civics into English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and to prepare adult students for naturalization. This online resource will provide links to educational curricula, lesson plans, teacher assessments, and other instructional material on civics and citizenship.

» Basic Literacy Version of Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants

In order to reach a wider audience, and for use in classrooms as a teaching tool, the Office of Citizenship will develop a basic literacy version of *Welcome to the United States*. This version will be rewritten at a more basic language level and will be formatted according to the advice of ESL and adult education experts. Though abbreviated in content, it will cover the same practical concepts outlined in the original version of *Welcome to the United States*.

"We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite."

—Woodrow Wilson
28th President of the United States



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