

# Paano Maging Isang U.S. Citizen



**M**araming benepisyong nakakamit ang pagiging isang U.S. citizen. Kabilang dito ang:

- Karapatang bomoto
- Karapatang magsilbi sa jury
- Karapatang magkaroon ng U.S. passport
- Karapatang makuha ang mga malalapit na ka-pamilya dito sa America
- Karapatang magtrabaho sa pang-gobyernong upisina
- Hindi na kinakailangang mag-renew ng green card tuwing ika-10 taon

Sa pamimili ng abogado ng nais tumulong sa hangaring maging U.S. citizen, ay maraming community organizations na handa kayong tulungan sa mababang halaga o walang bayad kung minsan.



## Karapat-dapat ba akong maging U.S. Citizen?

Upang maging ganap na U.S. Citizen, kailangan mo ang mga sumusunod na alituntunin:

1. Kailangan ay ganap kang residente ng America at wala sa probation period sa traktang oras ng iyong interview o pananyam.
2. Kailangang ganap kang 18 taong gulang sa araw ng pag-sumite ng aplikasyon.
3. Kailangan ay residente ka ng 3 buwan o higit pa sa state o distrito kung saan ay nag-apply.
4. Kailangan ay maganda ang pinakitang karakter at moralidad sa luob ng 5 taong paninirahan sa America bilang permanent resident hanggang sa oras ng pagsumpa bilang ganap na U.S. citizen.

5. Kailangan ay marunong bumasa o sumulat sa wikang English. (Basahin ang section "Do I need to speak English during my naturalization interview?")
6. Kailangan ay 5 years nang permanent resident o kaya ay 3 years kung kasal sa isang U.S. citizen. Kung kasal sa isang U.S. citizen, kailangan ay manatiling kasal dito hanggang sa araw ng pagsumpa sa embahada.
7. Kailangang walang patid ang 5 years ng pagtira dito sa America o kaya ay 3 taon kung kinasal sa isang U.S. citizen.
8. Kailangan ay physically present siya sa America ng kahit kalahati ng 5 years o 3 years kung kinasal sa U.S. citizen (o 3 months if not married to a U.S. citizen and 18 months if married to a U.S. citizen).
9. Kailangang maipasa ang isang pagsusulit tungkol sa history at government ng America.
10. Kailangang may kapasidad siyang manumpa.

## Kailan ako maaring mag-apply ng citizenship?

Kung ikaw ay kinasal sa isang U.S. citizen, at pinetisyon ka ng iyong asawa, maari kang maging permanenteng residente pagkaraan ng 2 years and 9 months ng pagiging permanent resident. Kung ikaw naman ay hindi kasal sa isang U.S. citizen, maari ka ng mag-apply bilang U.S. citizen pagkaraan ng 4 years and 9 months ng pagiging isang permanent resident.

## Paano akong magiging American citizen?

Upang maging citizen, kailangan magsumite ng N-400 application sa INS. Kasunod nito ay ang pagbibigay ng fingerprints para imbestigasyon ng FBI, at matagumpay na naipasa ang kaukulang interview sa INS bago pa tuluyang manumpa sa US Oath Ceremony. Kapag natanggap na ang certificate of naturalization ay maari ng magrehistro upang maka-boto sa darating na halalan, at maari na ring ipetisyon ang mga kaanak na naiwan sa sariling bansa.



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## Gaano katagal ang naturalization process?

Kalimitang tumatagal ito ng 12-15 buwan upang makumpleto ang processo. Pagkaraan maisumite and N-400 application, ay makakatanggap ng sulat mula sa INS sa loob ng 1-3 buwan. Ang interview ay mula sa 6-8 buwan ang ipaghihintay at ang oath ceremony ay mula sa 2-4 na buwan matapos ang naturalization interview.

## Magkano ang gastos para sa application ng citizenship?

Ang halaga ng N-400 application ay \$260. Maging ang mga aplikantend nasa edad 75 years ay kinakailangang magbayad para sa fingerprinting services, na nagkakahalga ng \$50.

## Kailangan bang marunong akong magsalita ng English sa araw ng aking interview?

Karamihan sa mga aplikante ay kailangang marunong bumasa, sumulat at makaunawa ng English sa araw mismo ng interview. Subalit may mga exceptions din at ito ay:

- Kung ikaw ay 50 years old na at naninirahan ka na sa America ng 20 taon, maaring kahit hindi ka marunong magsalita ng English. Subalit kailangan ay marunong kang sumagot sa 100 na tanong tungkol sa US history at gobyerno sa iyong sariling wika.
- Kung ikaw ay 55 years old at naninirahan ka na sa America sa loob ng 15 years. Gayundin kailangan ay marunong kang sumagot sa mga 100 katanungan tungkol sa US history at government sa sarili mong wika.
- Kung ikaw ay 65 years old at naninirahan ka na sa America sa loob ng 20 taon, ay kailangang masagot mo ang 25 katanungan tungkol sa American history and government.
- Kung ikaw ay may medical disability na magiging hadlang sa iyong pagaaral ng

wikang English, maari kang huwag magsalita ng English sa araw ng iyong interview. Subalit kinakailangang magsumite ang iyong doctor ng N-648 kasama sa N-400 na application mo sa INS. Kailangan ay maaprubahan ng INS ang N-648 upang huwag ka ng magsalita ng English sa araw ng iyong interview at maari ka na ring hindi tanungin ng tungkol sa US history and government.

## Kung hindi ako magpaparehistro sa Selective Services, maari pa rin ba akong mag-apply ng citizenship?

Lahat ng lalake mula edad 18-26 years na nakatira sa America, may legal na dokumento man o wala ay kinakailangang magparehistro sa Selective Service (military service), upang magkaroon ng karapatang maging US citizen. Samantala, ang isang lalakeng nasa edad 26-31 years na hindi nagparehistro kahit may sulat pa ang gobyerno sa kanya na magpatala sa Selective Services ay maaring hindi pagkaluoban ng karapatang maging US citizen. Subalit kund sadyang hindi niya alam ang palatuntunang ito ng gobeyrno ay maari niyang ikatuwiran ito sa INS at baka sakaling mabigyan siya ng pagkakataon na magapply bilang US citizen. Ang isang lalaken mahigit ang edad sa 31 years ay maaring maging US citizen kung maisasakatuparan niya ang lahat ng bagay na kailangan upang maging US citizen.

## Kung ako ay isa ng US citizen, ang akin din bang anak ay tiyak na ring US citizen?

Kung ang edad ng anak ay hindi hihigit sa 18 years, maari mo siyang I-apply ng US citizenship sa pamamagitan ng pagsumite ng N-600 application. Kailangan ay perment resident ang anak upang makinabang sa biyayang ito. Makipagusap sa isang immigration or citizenshipspecialist tungkol sa bagay na ito.



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## Paanong maapektuhan ng dating criminal record o immigration problem ang aking citizenship?

Kung dati ka nang may problema sa immigration, tulad ng deportation order o voluntary departure, nararapat lamang na makipagugnayan sa isang abogado upang matulungan ka sa bagay na ito.

## I drop-off ko ba ang aking aplikasyon sa lokal INS Office?

Ay Huwag! Lahat ngayon na application forms pumupunta sa isang espesyal na lugar, hindi sa local na INS office. Kung ikaw ay nakatira sa California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii or Guam, ipadala ang iyong aplikasyon sa :

**USINS California Service Center**  
**Attention: N.400 Unit**  
**P.O. Box 10400**  
**Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0400**

## Kailangan ba akong kumuha ng U.S. History and Civics Test?

Sa ngayon ay hindi. Dati ang lahat ng aplikante ay kumuha ng "written U.S. History and Civics Test" bago ang interbyu, ngunit ito nahinto na noon August 30, 1998. Sa kasalukuyan, inihahanda ng INS ang panibagong "written test" para sa mga bagong aplikante. Habang hindi pa tapos ang test na iyan, ang lahat na aplikante ay ini-interbyu at tinatanong sa kanyang kaalaman tungkol sa "US History and Civics." Malaki ang maitulong kung ika'y kumuha ng Citizenship Class at isanay ang posibleng "100 Citizenship Questionnaires."

### **Asian Americans for Community Involvement**

2400 Moorpark Ave, Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95128  
Tel: (408) 975-2730

Language(s): Cantonese, Mandarin, Chui-Chow, Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, Tagalog, Lao-Mien, Farsi and Japanese

Services: General support and citizenship services, ESL/Citizenship classes, mental health, women & children shelter.

### **Asian Law Alliance**

184 East Jackson Street, San, Jose, CA 95112  
Tel: (408) 287-9710

Website: [www.asianlawalliance-ala.org](http://www.asianlawalliance-ala.org)

Language(s): Vietnamese, Laotian, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish

Services: Citizenship applications and legal services for complex legal issues

### **Berryessa Community Center**

3050 Berryessa Rd., San Jose, CA 95132  
Tel: (408) 251-6392

Website: [www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/prns](http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/prns)

Language(s): VietnameseSpanish, Chinese and Punjabi translations.

Services: Citizenship & ESL classes, Youth Program, Senior Program, other Adult classes, community activities and events.

### **Bosnia-Herzegovina U.S.A. Society**

1 West Campbell Avenue, Suite B-20, Campbell, CA 95008

Tel: (408) 422-3004

Language(s): Bosnian, Croatian, Russian, Serbian

Services: ESL, citizenship

### **Center for Employment Training (CET)**

701 Vine Street, San Jose, CA 95110

Tel: (408) 534-5451

Language(s): Spanish. Other languages available as needed.

Services: Citizenship application assistance, citizenship orientation, immigration attorney, ESL and citizenship classes, Spanish literacy classes and immigration services



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## **Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County – Gilroy Office**

7950 Church Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: (408) 842-4808

Language: Spanish and English

Services: Immigration legal services including citizenship.

## **Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County – San Jose Office**

2625 Zanker Road Suite 201, San, Jose, CA 95134-2107

Tel: (408) 944-0691

Language(s): English, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Services: Immigration legal services, citizenship.

## **Chinese Cultural Center**

1269 Forgewood Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Tel: (408) 747-0394

Language(s): Mandarin, Taiwanese

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, Chinese library

## **Chinese American Mutual Association**

1669 Flanigan Dr., San Jose, Ca 95121

Tel: (408) 274-9282

Languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Taiwanese

Services: ESL, Immigration, Voter Education, Senior programs, Leadership Development

## **Eastside Neighborhood Center**

2150 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 251-0215

Language(s): Spanish and Tagalog

Services: ESL, citizenship classes.

## **East Side Union High School District Adult Education.**

### a) Andrew Hill High School

3200 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95123

Tel: (day): (408) 254-8101

Tel (after 6 p.m.): (408) 347-4390

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL classes.

### b) K. R. Smith School

2025 Clarice Drive (near Tully), San Jose, CA 95122

Tel: (day): (408) 254-8101

Location Tel : (408) 270-6751

Services: ESL classes.

### c) Overfelt Adult Center

1901 Cunningham Ave., San Jose, CA 95122

Tel : (408) 254-8101

Language(s): Spanish and Vietnamese language assistance in the office but ESL classes are in English.

Services: ESL classes PM (with computers), citizenship classes, adult basic education (literacy).

### d) Independence Adult Center

625 Educational Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95133

Tel (day): (408) 254-8101

Tel (after 6 p.m.): (408) 928-9300

Website: <http://aenet.esuhd.org>

Language(s): Spanish and Vietnamese language assistance in the office but ESL classes are in English.

Services: Classes for people applying for U.S citizenship or have failed their interview. Students placed on their English reading, writing, and speaking ability.

## **Economic and Social Opportunities (ESO)**

### **San Jose**

1445-1447 Oakland Road, San Jose, CA 95112

Tel: (408) 971-0888

Language(s): Bosnian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Cambodian, Korean, Bosnian and French.

Services: ESL/citizenship classes, family health, child-care, education & training, housing & energy, HEAP

## **Economic and Social Opportunities (ESO)**

### **South County**

7365 Monterey Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: (408) 848-1265

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL and citizenship



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## **Escuela Popular**

1180 E. Julian St., San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 275-7190

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, High School Diploma

## **Fremont Adult Education**

591 West Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Tel: (408) 522-2735

Language: English

Services: ESL, Citizenship classes, GED, community classes, vocational, High School Diploma, Health Education, Adult Literacy and Conversation, classes in Sunnyvale and Cupertino.

## **Gavilan College**

5055 Santa Teresa Blvd., Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: (408) 848-4807

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL, Low beginning to high level extended opportunity program and service, Disability Program, Financial aid, citizenship and childcare.

## **Gilroy Family Resource Center**

8833 Monterey Road, Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: (408) 846-5000

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, CCIP program, family's in recovery, parent orientations, basic parenting classes, co-parenting classes, support groups, family strength and struggle.

## **Gilroy Unified School District Adult Education**

8750 Hirasaki Ct., Gilroy, CA 95050

Tel: (408) 842-2082

Language: English

Services: ESL, citizenship classes

## **Gilroy Citizenship & Educational Programs (GCEP)**

8833 Monterey St. Suite. G, Gilroy, CA 95020

Tel: (408) 846-5017

Language(s): Spanish, English

Services: Assistance with N-400 and other educational programs.

## **Immigrant Resettlement and Cultural Center, Inc. (IRCC)**

420 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95110-2612

Tel: (408) 971-7857

Language: Vietnamese

Services: Citizenship assessment, citizenship application, and citizenship interview preparation, ESL for citizenship, vocational ESL, job placement, retention services, senior program, and job keeper - food connection hotline

## **International Rescue Committee**

90 East Gish Road., San Jose, CA 95112

Tel: (408) 453-3536

Language(s): Bosnian, Vietnamese, Laotian, Thai, French, Farsi, Ethiopian and Somalian and Oromo.

Services: Citizenship services and citizenship assistance, immigration services, refugees services

## **Jewish Family Service of Santa Clara (JFS)**

1101 South Winchester Blvd, Ste L 237, San Jose, CA 95128

Tel: (408) 356-7576

Language(s): Russian, Bosnian, Farsi, Assyrian, Hebrew, German, French, Portuguese

Services: ESL/citizenship classes during the day; ESL class for seniors, English teachers, N-400 group assistance, N-400 individual assistance, disability waiver assistance, transportation to ESL classes, interpretation, general information, computer classes and public benefits counseling.

## **John XXIII Multi-Service Center**

195 East San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95112

Tel: (408) 282-8600

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, childcare, senior nutrition program.

## **Korean American Community Services**

1800-B Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 920-9733

Language: Korean

Services: Citizenship application assistance, citizenship classes, medical insurance and ESL.



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## **Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation**

123 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Tel: (408) 354-8700

Language: Spanish

Services: Adult Educational and recreational classes

## **Metropolitan Adult Education Program**

1149 East Julian Street, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 947-2311

Language: Vietnamese and Spanish

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, G.E.D., high school diploma. Call the main office to get the nearest center.

## **Milpitas Adult Education Programs**

1331 East Calaveras Blvd, Bldg. 400, Milpitas, CA 95035

Tel: (408) 945-2392

Language: English

Services: Offers various level of ESL from beginning to advanced. Citizenship, adult basic education GED preparation and HSD completion are also offered.

## **Morgan Hill Community Adult School**

17940 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Tel: (408) 779-5261

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL classes, citizenship classes, and community education classes.

## **Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School**

333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. CA 94043

Tel: (650) 940-6025

Language: English

Services: Offers citizenship and ESL classes year round, from beginning to advanced levels. Times and days vary, morning, afternoon and evening classes as well as some Saturday courses. Also parent education, adult literacy, and adult developmental disability. Call for more information, high school diploma and GED

## **North Side Community Center**

2352 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 271-7321

Language: Tagalog, Hindi, Spanish and Vietnamese

Services: ESL, citizenship classes, assistance for seniors, computer training, dancing classes, nutrition programs, socializing events, veterans affair.

## **Nuestra Casa Family Resource Center**

1998 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 251-7663

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL and childcare

## **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**

2020 East San Antonio Street (King and Jackson)

San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 258-7057

Language: Spanish

Services: Offers basic citizenship services and citizenship classes, food programs, parish nurse, clothing assistance

## **Portuguese Community Center (POSSO)**

1115 East Santa Clara Street, Suite #A, San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: (408) 293-0877

Language: Portuguese, English and some Spanish

Services: ESL, citizenship classes

## **Sacred Heart Center**

310 Edward Avenue, San Jose, CA 95110

Main office Tel: (408) 947-2321

Message: (408) 947-2311

Language: Spanish

Services: ESL, citizenship classes

## **Sacred Heart Community Service**

1381 S. First Street, San Jose, CA 95110

Tel: (408) 283-5800

Language: Spanish

Services: Provides citizenship and ESL classes, application assistance. Call for class schedule.

## **Samoan Civic Association of Santa Clara County**

2448 Story Road, Suite C, San Jose, CA 95122

Tel: (408) 929-7133/ (408) 294-7222

Language: Samoan

Services: Provides translation, help with filling out forms and help with immigration status for Samoan and Pacific Islander seniors.



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## **Santa Clara Adult Education**

590 Washington Street, Santa Clara, CA  
Tel: (408) 423-3050  
Language(s): Spanish and Farsi  
Services: ESL and citizenship classes, day and evening.

## **Santa Maria Urban Mission**

778 S. Almaden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95110  
Tel: (408) 292-3314  
Language: Spanish  
Services: ESL and citizenship classes.

## **St. Joseph Family Center**

7950A Church Street, Gilroy, CA 95020  
Tel: (408) 842-6662  
Language: Spanish  
Services: ESL, adult literacy and English conversation.

## **Self Help for the Elderly**

1818 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95050  
Tel: (408) 246-8790  
Language Capacity: Cantonese, Mandarin and English.  
Services: Citizenship classes, ESL classes, social services and wellness activities.

## **Services Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)**

778 N. First St., #202, San Jose, CA 95112  
Tel: (408) 286-5680  
Immigrant Assistance Information Lines:  
Spanish (408) 286-1698  
Vietnamese (408) 286-1448  
Farsi (408) 286-5680 x 108  
Chiense (408) 286-5680 x 109  
Website: [www.siren-bayarea.org](http://www.siren-bayarea.org)  
Services: Information and referral hotline regarding public benefits, community education on public benefits, advocacy on changes in the law. Training and technical assistance on immigration and related issues.

## **South East Asian Community Center**

1415 Koll Circle #108, San Jose, CA 95112  
Language: Vietnamese, Somali, Russian, Bosnian, Arabic  
Services: Citizenship services, intake refugee and employment services.

## **Saint James Senior Center**

199 North 3rd Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
Tel: (408) 947-2314  
Services: Provides citizenship and ESL.

## **St Joseph's Cathedral-St Joseph's Worker House (Social Ministry Office)**

80 South Market Street (San Fernando), San Jose, CA 95113  
Tel: (408) 283-8118  
Language: Spanish  
Services: Provides citizenship and ESL for anyone. Call for schedule.

## **Vietnamese American Cultural and Social Council**

611 North 13th Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
Tel: (408) 971-8280  
Language: Vietnamese  
Services: ESL, Citizenship classes for seniors.

## **Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO)**

2260 Quimby Road, San Jose, CA 95122  
Tel: (408) 532-7755  
Language: Vietnamese  
Services: ESL and citizenship classes, citizenship application assistance.

## **West Valley College**

14000 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
Tel: (408) 867-2201  
Services: Provides citizenship classes and ESL classes.



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