

CITIZENSHIP BASICS

The **Form N-400** – Application for Naturalization – is the pertinent form to apply for US Citizenship

- Current Version is dated 12.23.2016 – Available from [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov) website
- Current Filing Fee is \$725, unless Applicant is eligible for full or partial fee waiver.

Applicants can receive pro bono assistance for N-400 preparation from Jewish Family Service of Metrowest.

- Applicant must be a lawful permanent resident (valid Green Card) for at least five (5) years
 - Exception: Three (3) years if married to a US Citizen;
- Applicant must understand, read and write in English
 - Exception: Applicant is 50 years old and lawful permanent resident for at least 20 years
 - Exception: Applicant is 55 years old and lawful permanent resident for at least 15 years
 - Exception: Applicant is 65 years old and lawful permanent resident for at least 20 years
 - If meet this exception, simplified version of the civics test;
- Applicant's taxes (Federal, state or local) must be up to date
 - If taxes not up to date, Applicant must show proof of IRS payment program (2 recent checks)
- Applicant must list all places of residence and work during the past five (5) years;
- Applicant must list all trips outside of the US in past five (5) years
 - Trips lasting six (6) months or more must be explained;
- Applicant must provide details of his or her family members
 - If single, details for parents and children, if applicable
 - If married details for spouse, parents, and children, if applicable
 - If divorced, documentation for all prior marriages and divorces must be provided
 - If marriages and/or divorces occurred outside US, originals and notarized translations
 - If widowed, death certificates must be provided (translated into English if death outside US);
- Applicant must list any Criminal records that occurred anytime during Applicant's life
 - Must provide proof of how all cases were disposed by applicable Court;
- Male Applicants who lived in US between age 18-26 must have registered for the Selective Service
 - If Applicant did not register must obtain Status of Information Letter (SIL) from Selective Service.

Citizenship Interview/Examination – Three Segments

1. Examiner will review Form N-400 with Applicant to evaluate Applicant's English proficiency.
2. Applicant will be asked up to ten (10) questions about US History and/or Civics
 - a. Applicant must answer six (6) out of ten (10) correctly
 - b. Once Applicant answers six (6) questions correctly this part of the test is satisfied.
 - c. The 100 possible Q/A's can be downloaded from the [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov) website
3. Applicant will be given three (3) chances to read and write a sentence in English
 - a. Vocabulary for these sentences can be downloaded from [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov) website.