

What's different in the 4/1/24 edition of the N-400 Citizenship Application?

General differences:

This edition of the N-400 Citizenship Application expires 2/28/27.

The form has been shortened from 20 pages to 14. Some information that was formerly included has been shifted to the instructions sheet, which is a separate document. One such change is that there is no longer mention of the possibility of an English test exemption (i.e., the 50/20, 55/15, and 65/20 rules). These rules are explained in the instructions, but they aren't spelled out on the form anymore, so students who qualify may not realize it.

While many questions remain as they were in the prior edition, the numbering and sequence of the questions have changed.

The paragraph under "Start Here" (about the fact that an applicant who has a US citizen parent may already be a citizen) has been simplified.

The former Part 4. Information to Contact You has been eliminated. Instead, applicants are asked for their phone numbers or email address in the signature section, now Part 11.

Part 1. Information About Your Eligibility (page 1)

Question 1. Checkbox A is no longer labeled "permanent resident for at least 5 years." Now it simply says "General Provision." The 29-page instruction form clarifies that this means "permanent resident for at least 5 years." Most applicants will still be checking box A.

Part 2. Information About You (pages 1 and 2)

This section remains mostly unchanged except for the items below.

- Item 2. What was Item 2 in the previous edition (where applicants were asked to enter their names a second time, "exactly as it appears in your permanent resident card") has been eliminated.
- Item 5. Gender identity (male/female) checkboxes now allow for "Another Gender Identity."
- Question 10. There is no longer a section on "Information on Your Parents" (Part 6 in the former edition). Question 10 now simply asks, "Was one of your parents a US citizen before your 18th birthday?" and alerts applicants that if they answer "Yes," there is a possibility that they are already citizens.
- Item 12. Applicants can now check a box to request that the Social Security Administration send a new/replacement social security card that will reflect their new status once they become citizens.

Part 3. Biographic Information (page 3)

This section remains largely unchanged.

Part 4. Information About Your Residence (pages 3 and 4)

The simple question/instructions from the former edition have been expanded and are now more complicated and confusing. Applicants fill out their current address in the same format as the prior edition, but then they are asked to fill in a chart with other addresses they've had in the last five years. Then they indicate whether their current physical address is different from their mailing address, and, if it is, they enter the mailing address in the same format as the former edition.

Part 5. Information About Your Marital History (pages 4 and 5)

Questions 1, 2, and 3 remain unchanged.

Only applicants who are applying based on marriage to a citizen need to fill in Parts 4 and 5. Everyone else can skip ahead to Part 6. Those who *do* need to fill in Parts 4 and 5 will find it has been shortened and simplified.

Part 6. Information About Your Children (page 5)

Items 1 and 2. Applicants only need to list children under 18 and report whether or not the child(ren) live(s) with the applicant (they can also list that a child is missing or if their whereabouts are unknown). If a child does NOT live with the applicant, their addresses must be listed in Part 14 at the end of the form. There's a new yes/no checkbox for applicants to indicate whether they are providing support for each child on the list.

Part 7. Information About Your Employment and Schools You Attended (page 5)

The location of this section has been shifted and has been simplified. The street address of the employer/school is no longer needed. Applicants who were in school are now asked to enter their field of study.

Part 8. Time Outside the United States (page 6)

The location of this section has been shifted and has been simplified. Applicants no longer need to calculate the number of days they have been outside the country.

Part 9. Additional Information About You (pages 6–10)

Note: This was formerly Part 12, pertaining to questions about moral character that have been most difficult to explain to students. Ideally these concepts would be conveyed to students in their native language, but, so far, we only have translations based on the prior version of the form.

- The questions about mental illness, Nazi Germany, and being a “habitual drunkard” were removed.
- There is no longer a chart for listing the names/purposes of any groups, organizations, etc. of which the applicant has been a member. Instead, Questions 6.a.–c., 8.a.–b., and 10.a.–c. ask about membership in specific types of groups.
- **Questions 1–4.** Questions about voting and taxes have been simplified.
- **Question 5.a.** This question still asks about membership in communist and totalitarian parties, but the term “terrorist organization” no longer appears.
- **Question 5.b.** Instead of asking, “Have you ever advocated the overthrow of any government by force or violence?”, there is an expanded section with several new questions (three of which refer specifically to activities in the US):

Have you ever advocated . . . or been . . . involved in . . . any group . . . that advocated . . . :

- Opposition to all organized government;
- World communism;
- The establishment *in the United States* of a totalitarian dictatorship;
- The overthrow by force or violence . . . of the Government *of the United States* or all forms of law;
- The unlawful assaulting or killing of . . . officers of the Government *of the United States* or of any other organized government because of their official character;
- The unlawful damage, injury, or destruction of property; or
- Sabotage?

- **Question 6.a–c.** New questions:

Have you ever . . .

- a. Used a weapon or explosive with intent to harm another person or cause damage to property?
- b. Engaged (participated) in kidnapping, assassination, or hijacking or sabotage of an airplane, ship, vehicle, or other mode of transportation?
- c. Threatened . . . or incited (encouraged) others to commit any of the acts listed [above]?

- **Question 7.a.– f.** Questions about torture, genocide, injuring/killing, and forced sexual contact are still on the form but are phrased a little differently.
- **Question 7.g.** The former Question 12 (“Have you ever persecuted . . . any person because of . . . ?”) has been moved later in the sequence and has been rephrased slightly: Have you ever . . . participated in . . . causing harm or suffering to any person because of their race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion?
- **Question 8.** The former Section 17 (about being part of a group that used weapons) has been rephrased and combined with vocabulary from the former Section 15 (about self-defense, vigilante, rebel, and guerrilla groups).
- **Question 9.** The former Section 16 (about working in a prison, labor camp, etc.) has been shortened into a single question.
- **Question 10.a.– c.** This set of questions remains almost unchanged.
- **Question 11.** The former Section 17 has been shortened into a single question and rephrased: Have you ever sold, provided, or transported weapons . . . which you knew . . . would be used against another person?
- **Question 12.** Former Question 19 (about receiving weapons training or military training) has been rephrased slightly.
- **Questions 13 and 14.** The former Questions 20 and 21 (about recruiting or using child soldiers) have been rephrased and expanded to include more explanatory language.
- **Question 15.a.** The new edition adds a long preamble to the questions about criminal offenses detailing the many types of incidents and outcomes that must be divulged on the form. The form does NOT mention that “unless a traffic incident was alcohol or drug related, led to an arrest, or seriously injured another person, you do not need to submit documentation of traffic incidents.” Instead, this information is buried in the instructions. *Note:* Students sometimes ask about the word “cited” because the form states that applicants must include any incidents in which they “were arrested, *cited*, detained or confined by any law enforcement officer.” Although a parking or jaywalking ticket is a *citation*, these are not normally listed on N-400 applications.
- **Question 15.b.** The chart for listing an applicant’s criminal offenses has been expanded to include more explanatory language and additional questions about any listed offenses/outcomes.
- **Question 16.** The former Question 27 (about suspended sentences, parole, probation, etc.) has been expanded.
- **Question 17.a.** The former question 30.b. (about whether the applicant has ever been a prostitute) has been expanded to: Have you ever engaged in prostitution, attempted to procure or import prostitutes or persons for the purpose of prostitution, or received any proceeds or money from prostitution?
- **Question 17.b.** The former Question 30.c. (about selling drugs) has been expanded to: Have you ever manufactured, cultivated, produced, distributed, dispensed, sold, or smuggled (trafficked) any controlled substances, illegal drugs, narcotics, or drug paraphernalia in violation of any law or regulation of a US state, the United States, or a foreign country?
- **Questions 17–21.** Former Questions 30.b.–i, 31, 32, and 35 (about being married to more than one person, marrying to obtain an immigration benefit, helping someone to enter the US illegally, illegal gambling, failure to support dependents, lying in order to gain public/immigration benefits, and being placed in deportation/being deported) remain nearly unchanged. Former Questions 34 and 36—almost identical questions about removal/deportation)—have been removed.
- **Questions 22.a.–c.** Former Questions 44.a.–c. (about selective service) have a new introductory statement to explain the law, and some clarifying language has been added to Question 22.a.: Are you a person *born as* a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays? (Do not select “Yes” if you were a lawful nonimmigrant for all of that time period.) Questions 22.b. and c. have been rephrased.
- **Questions 23–29.** This section includes many detailed questions concerning US military service that are not generally applicable to immigrants in citizenship classes. Applicants are asked former Questions 41, 42, and 37 (about whether they have avoided the draft, applied for an exemption, or served in the armed forces), but once they indicate that they have not served, they can now skip ahead to the next section.

- **Questions 30.a.–b.** Former Questions 4.a. and b. (about titles of nobility) have moved to the end of the form but are unchanged. The new edition offers a space for applicants to list their titles of nobility, which they must indicate that they are willing to give up.
- **Questions 31–37.** Former Questions 45–50 (about attachment to the Constitution/form of government, Oath of Allegiance, etc.) remain unchanged, except that a new question, 33, has been added in regard to applicants who are unable to take the Oath due to a disability (and it explains what to do if this is the case.)

An important note: Students often coach one another to simply answer “yes” to this final string of questions (as soon as they hear the word “Constitution”). Now they will need to listen more carefully, because the answer to the new question (33), unlike the others, is going to be “no.”

Part 10. Request for a Fee Reduction (page 11)

This new section alerts low-income applicants that they may qualify for a reduced fee. They no longer need to complete and submit a separate form to do this. Even better news: the income eligibility guidelines are now more generous. Instead of needing to show that their income is below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, the figure is now 400%.

- The form instructions direct applicants to send in a copy of each household member’s income tax return or other proof of income.
- Currently, applications with fee reduction requests cannot be filed online.

Information not provided on the N-400 or in the instructions but that applicants need to know:

- To determine eligibility, applicants go to this page: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/poverty-guidelines> and click on one of the three drop-down menus (indicating their location in the US). Then they look up their household size and see if their income is below the amounts in the righthand column (400% of poverty guidelines). They should use the “adjusted gross income” figure on their tax form.
- Determining household size can be complicated. Scroll down this page: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/additional-information-on-filing-a-reduced-fee-request#Common> to learn more about which household members should be counted.
- The current reduced application fee is \$380.
- Applicants whose income is below 150% of the poverty guidelines can still request a full fee waiver, but they still need to submit a separate form, I-912, with their N-400 application. *Note:* currently applications with fee waiver requests cannot be filed online.

Parts 11, 12, and 13. Contact Information, Certification, and Signatures (pages 11 and 12)

- The former Part 4. Information to Contact You has been moved into the applicant’s signature section. It still asks for the applicant’s phone numbers and an email address.
- The certifications that applicants, interpreters, and preparers sign have been shortened, and their mailing addresses are no longer required.

Part 14. Additional Information (page 13)

A page has been added for any additional information that didn’t fit into the other sections.

Parts 15 and 16. Signature at Interview and Oath of Allegiance (page 14)

This section remains unchanged.