

# N-400 Document Checklist

Checklist · 114 items · 17 sections

Every document you need to file Form N-400 and become a US citizen, from the filing package to the interview to the Oath of Allegiance. Covers the 5-year and 3-year (marriage) eligibility paths, tax and travel records, criminal history evidence, Selective Service proof, and civics and English test prep.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/n400-document-checklist>

## BEFORE YOU FILE - CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY

- Green card holder (LPR) for 5+ years, or 3+ years if married to and living with a US citizen the entire 3 years  
**HIGH**
- Physically present in the US at least 30 of past 60 months (18 of past 36 if 3-year marriage rule)  
**HIGH**
- Continuous residence: no single trip of 180+ days during the qualifying period  
**HIGH**  
*Trips of 6 mo-1 yr presumptively break continuity; 1 year or more break it absolutely (absent approved N-470).*
- Resided in the USCIS state or district of filing at least 3 months before filing  
**HIGH**
- 18+ years old at the time of filing  
**HIGH**
- Good moral character for the qualifying period (5 or 3 years) plus up to the oath  
**HIGH**
- Able to read, write, speak basic English  
**HIGH**  
*Exemptions: 50/20 and 55/15 rules test in native language; 65/20 gets simplified 20-question civics.*
- Knowledge of US civics (10 questions from 100, need 6 correct)  
**HIGH**
- Willing and able to take the Oath of Allegiance  
**HIGH**
- Paid all federal, state, and local taxes owed (or on a documented installment plan in good standing)  
**HIGH**
- Selective Service registered if male and present in the US as LPR between ages 18-26  
**HIGH**

- Not a member of organizations that bar naturalization (Communist Party, totalitarian parties, terrorist orgs)
- Have not deserted the US military or applied for exemption from military service as an LPR
- Have not given false testimony for an immigration benefit during the statutory period

## N-400 FILING PACKAGE - FORMS AND FEES

- Form N-400, current edition (check [uscis.gov/n-400](https://uscis.gov/n-400) for the accepted edition)
  - HIGH**
  - Complete every page; sign and date in black ink.*
- Filing fee: check current fee on [uscis.gov/n-400](https://uscis.gov/n-400) before mailing
  - HIGH**
  - Paper and online filing fees may differ.*
- Applicants 75+: exempt from biometrics fee; verify current applicant-75+ total on [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov)
  - HIGH**
- Form I-912 fee waiver if you cannot afford the fee
  - HIGH**
  - Need supporting evidence: means-tested benefits, income <150% poverty, or financial hardship.*
- Check or money order payable to 'U.S. Department of Homeland Security' (do not abbreviate)
  - HIGH**
- Photocopy of BOTH sides (front and back) of your Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551)
  - HIGH**
- 2 passport-style color photos only if filing from outside the US (write A-Number lightly on back)
- Keep a complete copy of everything you mail to USCIS
  - HIGH**

## IDENTITY AND STATUS DOCUMENTS

- Permanent Resident Card: front and back photocopy with the application; original at the interview
  - HIGH**
- State driver's license or state-issued photo ID (photocopy if requested; original at interview)
  - HIGH**
- Passport(s) from country of citizenship covering the entire qualifying period
  - HIGH**
  - Photocopy biographical page and every page with entry/exit stamps or visas; originals at interview.*
- Re-entry permit (I-327), refugee travel document (I-571), or advance parole (I-512L) photocopies if used during the qualifying period
  - HIGH**
- Form I-797 approval notices for prior immigration benefits (adjustment, I-751, I-90)

## MARRIAGE-BASED APPLICATION (3-YEAR RULE)

- Marriage certificate to your US citizen spouse (certified copy from vital records)  
**HIGH**
- Proof of spouse's US citizenship: birth certificate, Form N-550/N-570, Form N-560, or US passport bio page  
**HIGH**
- Proof of 3 years living in marital union: joint tax returns, joint bank/credit accounts, joint lease/mortgage/deed, utility bills with both names, joint insurance, kids' birth certificates  
**HIGH**
- Certified divorce decrees, annulments, or death certificates for ALL prior marriages of BOTH you and your spouse  
**HIGH**
- Evidence your spouse has been a US citizen the entire 3 years immediately before filing  
**HIGH**  
*Naturalization date must be 3+ years before filing date.*
- Affidavits from friends, family, clergy, or landlords if joint documentation is thin

## TRAVEL AND RESIDENCE RECORDS

- Complete list of every trip outside US for past 5 years (3 if marriage): dates, destinations, total days, purpose  
**HIGH**  
*Entered in Form N-400 Part 9.*
- For any single trip 180+ days: written explanation plus evidence of continued US ties (home, job, taxes, bank, family)  
**HIGH**
- For trips totaling more than half the qualifying period: be prepared to overcome the broken-continuous-residence presumption  
**HIGH**
- Form N-470 approval if you preserved residence working abroad for US employer, religious org, or US government  
**HIGH**
- Old passports showing entry/exit stamps to verify your travel chart
- Address history for past 5 years (3 if marriage): every address with month/year ranges

## TAX RECORDS

- Federal tax returns or (preferred) IRS tax transcripts for past 5 years (3 if 3-year marriage)  
**HIGH**

*Request free transcripts via Form 4506-T or at [irs.gov/transcripts](https://irs.gov/transcripts).*

- Evidence of an active payment plan and current payments if you owe back taxes  
**HIGH**
- State income tax returns or transcripts where applicable  
**HIGH**
- Documentation explaining any year you did not file (low income, not required, etc.)  
**HIGH**
- W-2s, 1099s, self-employment records (Schedule C, SE) for the qualifying period
- If you ever claimed nonresident alien status after becoming LPR: explanation, possibly amended returns

*Can raise abandonment of LPR status.*

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY AND GOOD MORAL CHARACTER**

- Certified court dispositions for EVERY arrest, charge, citation, or conviction  
**HIGH**  
*Include dismissed, expunged, sealed, vacated, deferred, and juvenile matters.*
- Police or arrest reports if you have them  
**HIGH**
- Probation, parole, or community service completion letters  
**HIGH**
- Letters from prosecutors, judges, or defense counsel for reduced/dismissed/vacated charges  
**HIGH**
- Documentation of any traffic citation with a fine over \$500 or involving alcohol, drugs, or personal injury  
**HIGH**
- Court-ordered alimony or child support: proof you are current on all payments  
**HIGH**
- DUI/DWI history: consult an immigration attorney before filing  
*Multiple DUIs in the statutory period can bar good moral character.*
- Domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, or protection-order violations: mandatory attorney consultation
- Controlled-substance offenses (anything beyond a single 30g-or-less marijuana possession): mandatory attorney consultation  
*May be a permanent bar.*
- Any deportation, removal, or rescission proceedings in your history: bring complete EOIR file and final order

## **SELECTIVE SERVICE (MALES 18-26 AT ANY TIME AS LPR)**

- Selective Service registration number from [sss.gov](https://sss.gov) verification lookup  
**HIGH**
- If you registered, print the registration confirmation page from [sss.gov](https://sss.gov)  
**HIGH**

- If you were required to register but did not, and you're now 26-31: explanation plus Status Information Letter from SSS

HIGH

- If now 31+ and never registered: Status Information Letter is still useful

*Good-moral-character window has typically passed.*

## NAME CHANGES AND OTHER CIVIL DOCUMENTS

- Certified copies of court orders, marriage certificates, or divorce decrees for every legal name change

HIGH

- If requesting a new name on the Certificate of Naturalization: indicate on N-400 Part 2

HIGH

*Be prepared for a judicial oath ceremony (administrative ceremonies generally cannot change your name).*

- Birth certificates of all your children (under 18 and over 18) to complete N-400 Part 11

## MILITARY SERVICE APPLICANTS (INA 328 AND 329)

- Form N-426 (Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service) certified by your service branch

HIGH

- Form DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) or NGB Form 22 for National Guard

HIGH

- Proof of honorable service for INA 328 (1+ year peacetime) or designated-period service for INA 329 (no LPR requirement)

HIGH

- Spouses/children of service members stationed abroad: documentation for expedited overseas naturalization under INA 319(b) or 322

## DISABILITY OR MEDICAL WAIVER (FORM N-648)

- Form N-648 (Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions), completed and signed by MD, DO, or clinical psychologist within 6 months of filing

HIGH

- Submit Form N-648 with the N-400 if possible (do not submit lab reports or full medical records)

HIGH

- Bring the original signed N-648 and doctor's contact information to the interview

## CIVICS AND ENGLISH TEST PREPARATION

- Study the USCIS civics questions; verify the current version on [uscis.gov/citizenship](https://uscis.gov/citizenship) before testing

HIGH

*10 questions asked; 6 correct to pass.*

- Practice reading: 1 of 3 sentences aloud correctly

HIGH

- Practice writing: 1 of 3 dictated sentences correctly

HIGH

- Speaking is evaluated through your normal answers to the officer during the interview

HIGH

- Free USCIS materials: [uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources)

HIGH

- Free citizenship classes at public libraries, adult ed centers, and USCIS-funded organizations

- 65/20 applicants: study only the 20 questions marked with an asterisk

## BIOMETRICS APPOINTMENT

- Bring Form I-797C biometrics appointment notice (original or printed copy)

HIGH

- Photo ID: green card plus state driver's license, state ID, or passport

HIGH

- Fingerprints, photograph, and signature will be captured (allow 30-45 minutes)

HIGH

- Arrive 15 minutes early; do not bring weapons, large bags, or food

- If you cannot attend: reschedule promptly via USCIS online account

*Failure to appear without rescheduling can lead to denial as abandoned.*

## INTERVIEW DAY

- Form I-797C interview appointment notice

HIGH

- Original Permanent Resident Card

HIGH

- State driver's license/ID and unexpired passport(s) from country of citizenship

HIGH

- ALL ORIGINALS of every document you submitted as a copy with the N-400

HIGH

- Updated travel list if you traveled outside the US after filing

HIGH

- Updated tax returns/transcripts for any tax year closed after filing  
**HIGH**
- Documentation of any new arrests, citations, charges, or court matters since filing  
**HIGH**
- Proof of any address change (and confirmation you filed Form AR-11 within 10 days of moving)  
**HIGH**
- Marriage/divorce updates if your marital status changed after filing  
**HIGH**
- Any new children born or adopted since filing (birth certificates, adoption decrees)  
**HIGH**
- Interpreter if you qualify for English exemption (must be fluent in both, 18+, not your attorney or witness)  
*Bring Form G-1256 declaration if required.*
- Form G-28 if represented by an attorney or accredited representative
- Arrive 30 minutes early; dress business or business-casual

### AFTER THE INTERVIEW - DECISION OUTCOMES

- Form N-652 given at end of interview shows: Granted, Continued, or Denied  
**HIGH**
- If Continued: respond to Form N-14 request by deadline (typically 30 days) or appear for second exam  
**HIGH**
- If Denied: request a hearing on Form N-336 within 30 days of denial notice  
**HIGH**
- If Granted: wait for Form N-445 oath ceremony notice (typically 2-6 weeks)  
**HIGH**
- Maintain good moral character between approval and oath  
**HIGH**  
*Any arrest, extended travel, or material change can lead USCIS to reopen the case.*

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE CEREMONY

- Form N-445 (Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony): complete questionnaire on the back and bring signed  
**HIGH**
- Permanent Resident Card (will be collected; replaced by Certificate of Naturalization Form N-550)  
**HIGH**
- Re-entry permit (I-327) or refugee travel document (I-571) if held (will be collected)  
**HIGH**

HIGH

- Any USCIS-issued employment authorization documents tied to LPR status  
**HIGH**
- Dress code: business attire; many venues prohibit shorts, flip-flops, jeans, or logo/political T-shirts  
**HIGH**
- Family and friends welcome; check N-445 for venue-specific guest limits
- Do not bring signs, buttons, banners, political items, weapons, or large bags
- Review the Certificate before leaving: confirm name spelling, DOB, country of former nationality, A-Number

**HIGH**

*Request corrections in writing to USCIS before leaving the building.*

## AFTER YOU BECOME A US CITIZEN

- Apply for a US passport at any USPS or passport-acceptance facility (Form DS-11)  
**HIGH**  
*Bring Certificate of Naturalization; it will be returned by mail.*
- Register to vote in your state  
**HIGH**  
*Many ceremonies have League of Women Voters or county registrars on site.*
- Update Social Security Administration record to reflect US citizen status  
**HIGH**  
*Bring Certificate of Naturalization.*
- Update Form I-9 with employer using new citizenship documentation at next reverification  
**HIGH**
- File Form N-600 for minor children who derived US citizenship through your naturalization (Certificate of Citizenship)
- Inform Selective Service if you have a son turning 18 (still required for males 18-25 regardless of citizenship)
- Keep your Certificate of Naturalization in a safe place; replacements (Form N-565) are expensive and slow