As of August 31, 2026, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is rescinding PA-2025-21, Voter Registration at Administrative Naturalization Ceremonies, and the related provisions. The USCIS Policy Manual version effective June 28, 2017, found in Volume 12, Part J, Chapter 5, Sections F and H, is reinstated.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

August 29, 2025

PA-2025-21

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Voter Registration at Administrative Naturalization Ceremonies

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is revising policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual emphasizing the non-partisan nature of voter registration services offered to new citizens at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

Background

The naturalization ceremony is the culmination of the naturalization process. USCIS aims to make administrative naturalization ceremonies positive and memorable moments in the lives of the participants. The ability to vote in federal elections is a fundamental right that comes with U.S. citizenship.[1] Once an alien becomes a naturalized citizen, he or she may register to vote and participate in U.S. elections.

With this guidance, USCIS is clarifying that only state and local election officials will be permitted to offer voter registration services at the end of administrative naturalization ceremonies. USCIS is publishing this guidance consistent with Executive Order 14148, Initial Recissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions executed on January 20, 2025, and Section 9 of Executive Order 14248, Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.[2]

This guidance, contained in Volume 12 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately and applies to ceremonies held on or after the publication date. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Provides that only state and local election officials are permitted to provide voter registration services at the conclusion of an administrative naturalization ceremony. Nongovernmental entities are not permitted to provide voter registration services at USCIS facilities during naturalization ceremonies.

[1] See National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Pub. L. 103-31 (May 20, 1993). See 52 U.S.C. 20501(a).
[2] See 90 FR 8237 (Jan. 20, 2025) (revoking Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting) and 90 FR 14005 (Mar. 28, 2025).

- Provides the responsibility and limited scope of voter registration election officials, to include not engaging in any political activities during naturalization ceremonies.

- Provides an updated list of materials distributed at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 12 > Part J > Chapter 1, Purpose and Background

- Revises Section A (Purpose) and B (Background) in their entirety.

Affected Section: Volume 12 > Part J > Chapter 5, Administrative Naturalization Ceremonies

- Revises language in the first paragraph.

- Redesignates former Section A (Materials Distributed), as new Section B (Material Distributed) and redesignates former Section B (Ceremony Check-In Process), as new Section A (Ceremony Check-In Process).

- In new Section B (Ceremony Check-In Process), adds new first bullet, revises the language in the second bullet, adds new fifth bullet in the first paragraph, and makes corresponding edits throughout, including redesignating various subsections.

- Makes corresponding changes throughout sections C-J.

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

Volume 12: Citizenship and Naturalization, Part J, Oath of Allegiance, Chapter 5, Administrative Naturalization Ceremonies [12 USCIS-PM J.5].

Additional Considerations

Administrative Procedure Act (APA)

Although under previous USCIS policy and practice nongovernmental organizations were permitted to provide voter registration applications and general information at administrative naturalization ceremonies, the use of nongovernmental organizations was sporadic and varied based upon the location. In addition, USCIS staff previously provided voter registration applications and information at naturalization ceremonies in the event state and local election offices were not available to do so. Given USCIS does not primarily rely on nongovernment organizations for voter registration services, and the administrative burden on USCIS to ensure that those nongovernmental organizations who provide voter registration services are nonpartisan, USCIS is discontinuing the practice of permitting their attendance at naturalization ceremonies.

This change in no way impacts new citizens' access to information and applications to register to vote, as this information will continue to be provided by state or local election officials, or USCIS staff at the end of naturalization ceremonies. In addition, with the availability of online voter registration in most states, there is a reduced need for nongovernmental organizations to assist new citizens with collecting and submitting their voter registration applications. See, for example, vote.gov/guide-to-voting/new-united-states-citizen. USCIS does not believe that aliens or nongovernmental organizations have any reliance interests related to representatives of nongovernmental organizations being present at naturalization ceremonies, but even if they do, USCIS interests in judiciously deploying limited agency resources while ensuring fair and impartial voter registration services at ceremonies outweigh any such reliance interests.