

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2026

The Honorable Joseph B. Edlow
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20588

Dear Director Edlow:

We write to request information regarding delays in the adjudication of naturalization applications and the repeated cancellation of naturalization ceremonies serving residents of our congressional districts across the country.

Our offices have heard numerous complaints about lawful permanent residents experiencing unexplained and unusual delays at various stages of the naturalization process. For example, in Indianapolis, USCIS reportedly cancelled naturalization ceremonies scheduled for August, October, and November of this year because of a “lack of candidates.” At the same time, naturalization applications assigned to that field office remain pending and awaiting decisions.

This apparent discrepancy is concerning and raises broader questions about whether adjudication delays, staffing shortages, additional review requirements, or agency policies are preventing eligible applicants from completing the naturalization process in a timely manner. We are concerned that lawful permanent residents are experiencing delays in the final stages of their naturalization across the country.

Applicants who have spent years complying with immigration requirements should not face unexplained or unreasonable delays after becoming eligible for citizenship because of the political or ideological whims of a particular administration. These delays prevent lawful permanent residents from fully exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including voting, obtaining a U.S. passport, pursuing certain employment opportunities, and petitioning for family members. Congress has made it clear that the fair and timely processing of eligible citizenship applicants is a priority.

Federal regulations require naturalization ceremonies to be conducted “at regular intervals as frequently as necessary to ensure timely naturalization,” including at least once per month to minimize unreasonable delays. Applicants do not become United States citizens until they take the Oath of Allegiance. USCIS therefore has an obligation both to adjudicate applications promptly and to ensure that approved applicants have timely access to an oath ceremony.

To help Congress evaluate the scope of these concerns, please provide the following information no later than October 7, 2026:

1. As of the date of your response, how many Form N-400 applications are currently pending under the jurisdiction of the Indianapolis Field Office? Also, how many of these applications are pending in each state? Please list by state.
2. Of these pending applications, how many:
 - a) Have been pending for fewer than six months;
 - b) Have been pending for six to twelve months;
 - c) Have been pending for twelve to eighteen months; and
 - d) Have been pending for more than eighteen months?
3. How many applicants have completed their naturalization interviews but are still awaiting a decision? Of that number, how many have been waiting for a decision for more than 120 days following their initial examination?
4. How many applicants have been approved for naturalization but are currently awaiting an oath ceremony, and how long has the applicant waiting the longest been awaiting a ceremony?
5. Please explain the basis for USCIS's determination that there were insufficient candidates for the August 21, October 22, and November 19 ceremonies in Indianapolis, including:
 - a) The number of candidates USCIS expected to provide for each ceremony;
 - b) The number of candidates who were eligible at the time each ceremony was cancelled;
 - c) The date each cancellation decision was made; and
 - d) The office and official are responsible for each decision.
6. Have any national, regional, or local policies, adjudication holds, additional review requirements, staffing changes, or operational directives contributed to the decline in eligible candidates or delays in deciding naturalization applications? If so, please describe each relevant policy or directive and when it took effect in each location.
7. How many naturalization interviews and oath ceremonies were conducted nationally during each month of calendar years 2025 and 2026, and how many applicants were naturalized at those ceremonies? How many specifically for the Indianapolis Field Office?
8. What steps will USCIS take to resolve pending naturalization applications and prevent additional ceremony cancellations? Please specify nationally and Indianapolis.
9. If judicial ceremonies cannot proceed because of scheduling or capacity constraints, will USCIS offer administrative oath ceremonies to ensure approved applicants are not subjected to unnecessary delays? If not, please explain why.

Naturalization is a significant milestone for individuals who have worked diligently to meet the requirements of United States citizenship. Qualified applicants should not face unexplained delays caused by administrative inaction or insufficient agency capacity. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



André Carson
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



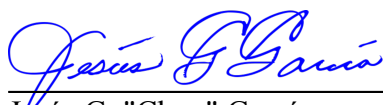
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



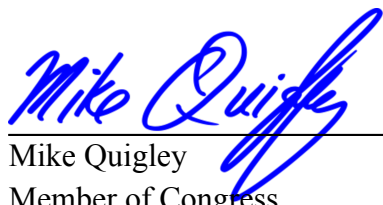
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



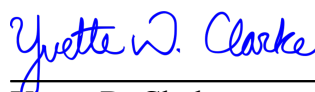
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



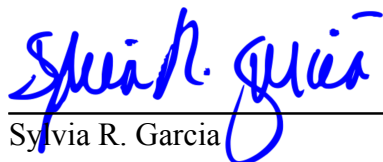
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



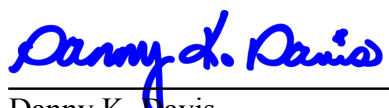
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



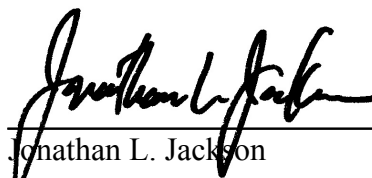
Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



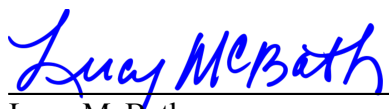
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



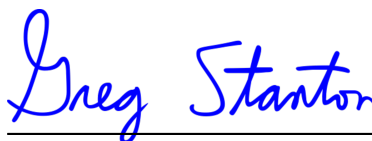
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



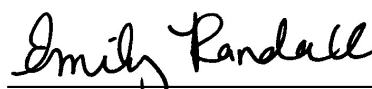
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress