



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
February 23, 2021

**Contact:** Marcus Silva, [msilva@naleo.org](mailto:msilva@naleo.org)  
(510) 456-5444

Daniel Ramirez, [dramirez@naleo.org](mailto:dramirez@naleo.org)  
(805) 223-0225

### **NALEO Educational Fund Statement on USCIS Return To a More Fair Civics Test**

*Reversal to the 2008-version of the exam halts the  
unfair and unnecessary obstacles of the 2020 revision*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [reversion](#) to the 2008 version of the naturalization civics test beginning March 1, 2021:

“USCIS’s decision to reverse the Trump-era revision of the civics test is a critical step toward returning the agency to its mission of fairness, high-quality customer service, and efficient adjudications. The agency’s acknowledgment of the potential barriers for naturalization applicants resulting from the 2020 revision to the test is a testament to our government’s ability to adapt and correct course. With the 2008-version of the test having been informed by the input of naturalization service providers, English-language learning experts, and other stakeholders, we applaud USCIS for renewing trust with its partners and valuing such expertise.

“NALEO Educational Fund strongly [advocated](#) with USCIS to reject the 2020 test and restore the 2008 test, and we welcomed President Biden’s executive order mandating the review of naturalization practices to make U.S. citizenship as accessible as possible. USCIS’s decision is an important step in fulfilling that mandate.

“We commend USCIS for providing flexibility to naturalization applicants who filed between December 1, 2020, but before March 1, 2021, with the option of taking either version of the test.

“NALEO Educational Fund looks forward to working with USCIS to advance additional changes to make naturalization more accessible and affordable to the more than four million Latino lawful permanent residents who are eligible for U.S. citizenship. These changes include reducing application processing backlogs and stabilizing the naturalization fee.”

*Individuals interested in applying for U.S. citizenship can call NALEO Educational Fund’s toll-free bilingual hotline at 888-839-8682 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. Live operators are available to provide potential new citizens with vital information on every aspect of the naturalization process, including referrals to NALEO Educational Fund staff to assist individuals with their citizenship application remotely.*

###

**About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*