

New processing fee to Homeland Security is \$675 total

PHOENIX, Ariz. - U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., is offering assistance in applying for U.S. citizenship on

March 29, a Saturday, at a workshop where trained volunteers will help legal permanent residents complete their citizenship applications. The assistance is free, and he is encouraging applicants to register early.

To receive assistance on March 29, legal residents need to register for an appointment with

Rep. Pastor's office by March 14 by phoning 602-256-0551. When contacting the office, residents will be screened to determine whether they are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. People also may register in person at the office, which is located at 411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150, Phoenix. Office hours are Monday through

Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Space is limited.

Once registered for Citizenship Day, applicants will be sent a packet with a list of documents and information they will need to gather and bring on March 29 to the citizenship event. The information is needed to complete the individuals' citizenship applications.

Applicants also will need to provide on March 29 the required application fee, which currently is a total of \$675, payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and \$14 for immigration photos, if needed.

A credit union member will be selling money orders on site on March 29 for a \$1 fee.

To become a U.S. citizen, a person must, among other requirements:

- Have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for at least five years, or

- Have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years and been a legal permanent resident for at least three years.

- Speak, read and write English unless one qualifies for an exemption.

- Have good moral character. Any violations of the law may prevent you from becoming a U.S. citizen.

Please contact Congressman Pastor's office with questions, and to register for an appointment. The location of the Citizenship Day event is only provided to individuals once they have registered for an appointment.