ANDREA SALINAS 6TH DISTRICT, OR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

**Washington**, **DC** 20515–3706

530 CENTER STREET NE SUITE 415 SALEM, OR 97301 (503) 385-0906

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July 25, 2023

Ur M. Jaddou Director U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Director Jaddou,

We have been contacted by several constituents including the Mayor of Salem, The Keizer Chamber of Commerce, several state legislators, and church leaders, asking that a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) satellite office be placed in Salem, Oregon. Currently, the only USCIS office in Oregon is in Portland. We have heard multifold concerns that Oregon, the ninth largest state in the nation by area, has only one such office. These complaints include the burden of long travel times, whether from Eugene, Medford, Coos Bay, or Bend, especially for early morning appointments. These can be exacerbated by compounding factors, such as not having a driver's license or being unable to drive, having difficulty taking the necessary time off work, and lack of access to childcare.

While we understand that allowances are made for some of these circumstances, and USCIS occasionally sends staff to Salem, we would like to discuss the potential benefits of adding a satellite office – or regularly scheduled office hours – in Salem.

We have several questions to help us better understand this issue:

- How many individuals does USCIS serve in Oregon? What is the breakdown by county?
- How many offices does USCIS have in Washington and Idaho, where are they located, and how many individuals do they serve?
- Is there a lease on the Portland Building? How long does it last, and what is the cost?
- How many USCIS staff work in the Portland office? What is their capacity to take on additional applicants?
- Does USCIS study the economic impact to individuals in accessing their offices?
- Has USCIS explored adding an office in Salem? Are there specific budgetary or logistical constraints that might pose a barrier?

The answers you provide will give us a better idea of the situation as a whole and inform our next steps.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your response.

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## **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives

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Sincerely,

Andrea Selines

Andrea Salinas Member of Congress 530 CENTER STREET NE SUITE 415 SALEM, OR 97301 (503) 385–0906

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**U.S. Department of Homeland Security** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services *Office of the Director (MS 2000)* Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



September 15, 2023

The Honorable Andrea Salinas U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Salinas:

Thank you for your July 25, 2023 letter regarding USCIS offices in the Portland, Oregon vicinity. Please see the enclosure and spreadsheet for detailed responses to your questions.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigner of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

la M. Judon

Ur M. Jaddou Director

### 1. How many individuals does USCIS serve in Oregon? What is the breakdown by county?

Please see the enclosed spreadsheet tab labeled "Oregon Receipts".

# 2. How many offices does USCIS have in Washington and Idaho, where are they located, and how many individuals do they serve?

There are four USCIS offices in Washington and Idaho:

- 1. Seattle District Office and Application Support Center (ASC) (12500 Tukwila International Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98168)
- 2. Spokane Field Office and ASC (920 West Riverside Avenue (Room 691), Spokane, WA 99201)
- 3. Boise Field Office and ASC (1185 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709)
- 4. Yakima Field Office and ASC (415 North Third Street, Yakima, WA 98901

Please see the enclosed spreadsheet tab "WA-ID Field Offices" for data addressing the "how many individuals do they serve" portion of your question.

### 3. Is there a lease on the Portland Building? How long does it last, and what is the cost?

Yes, there is a lease for the Portland Field Office. The lease expires November 3, 2026. The approximate annual total rent is \$3 million per year.

# 4. How many USCIS staff work in the Portland office? What is their capacity to take on additional applicants?

Staffing of USCIS is not necessarily based on population. USCIS uses staffing allocation models to determine appropriate staffing size based on projected receipts and workloads in the area covered. At current receipt levels, the Portland Field Office is authorized for 65 personnel.

### 5. Does USCIS study the economic impact to individuals in accessing their offices?

USCIS remains committed to providing all our customers access to the best possible service. We regularly examine accessibility issues and address them in a manner that best serves the public while maintaining responsible stewardship of the agency's financial resources. Many of our field offices have commenced performing mobile services trips to areas where accessibility may be an issue. The Portland Field Office just completed one such trip to Medford, OR, during the first week of August. The Portland Field Office is currently planning to return to Medford at least semi-annually, as receipts warrant, with the next trip scheduled for 11/6/2023 - 11/8/2023. The field office has and will be conducting naturalization interviews and administering the oath to applicants. We will also provide outreach services, answering general questions and case specific questions.

Measures have also been taken to limit the number of times an applicant may need to visit a field office. For example, many naturalization applicants are invited to attend an oath ceremony on the same day they are interviewed for citizenship eligibility, eliminating the need for a second

### The Department of Homeland Security's Response to Representative Andrea Salinas' July 25, 2023 Letter

trip to our office. Additional procedures have been taken to automatically provide services to customers where possible. For example, USCIS has begun mailing temporary replacement (ADIT stamps) for lost permanent resident cards directly to applicants rather than requiring them to come into the field office for an INFOPASS appointment to obtain such.

# 6. Has USCIS explored adding an office in Salem? Are there specific budgetary or logistical constraints that might pose a barrier?

No, not at this time. Salem is 47 miles south of Portland along a major U.S. highway (U.S. Interstate-5) and is not currently under consideration for a new field office.

However, we are continually measuring accessibility for our customers and taking reasonable and appropriate measures to better address accessibility issues. For example, USCIS previously studied accessibility for customers living in southwest Washington and realigned jurisdiction of four counties to the Portland Field Office. Very recently, we have made a similar realignment for customers living in Eastern Oregon and realigned 43 ZIP codes in four counties to our Boise Field Office.

#### Count of Receipts

By County Where Applicant, Beneficiary, or Petitioner Resides in Oregon Fiscal Years 2021-2023 (as of August 10, 2023)



Countv FY 2021 FY 2022 FY 2023 (as of August 10, 2023) TOTAL 97,890 93,690 94,660 Baker County 60 50 50 Benton County 1.630 1.660 1.550 Clackamas County 10,430 10,460 10,950 Clatsop County 350 290 330 Columbia County 200 190 250 250 220 Coos County 260 Crook County 890 800 810 70 90 60 Curry County **Deschutes County** 1,460 1,320 1,380 470 Douglas County 530 490 30 20 20 Gilliam County 10 10 10 Grant County Harney County 30 40 20 600 550 340 Hood River County Jackson County 2,350 2,330 2,030 Jefferson County 350 320 330 330 360 350 Josephine County 460 380 410 Klamath County 60 60 60 Lake County 3,000 3,000 2,880 Lane County 340 Lincoln County 340 300 Linn County 1,410 1,350 1,330 400 360 Malheur County 430 6,730 7,250 Marion County 7,070 1,250 1,060 Morrow County 1,110 30,780 Multnomah County 29,720 29.390 800 900 Polk County 850 Sherman County 20 10 30 Tillamook County 260 230 310 1,250 1,190 1,100 Umatilla County 150 100 Union County 110 Wallowa County 20 20 20 400 340 340 Wasco County 27,840 25,130 24,460 Washington County Wheeler County 10 10

3,790

3,870

3,800

Table Key(s):

Yamhill County

- represents zero

#### Note(s):

1) The report reflects the most up-to-date estimate available at the time the database is queried.

2) Counts may differ from those reported in previous periods due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.

- 3) For a complete list of USCIS forms and descriptions, visit: https://www.uscis.gov/forms
- 4) Individuals may have more than one receipt.
- 5) Totals may not sum due to rounding.

#### Source:

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality NPD, queried 08/2023, TRK 12690.

## ship ration

TOTAL	
2	86,230
	160
	4,840
	31,840
	970
	640
	720
	2,490
	220
	4,160
	1,500
	70
	30
	80
	1,490
	6,710
	1,000
	1,030
	1,240
	180
	8,890
	980
	4,080
	1,190
	21,060
	3,420
	89,900
	2,550
	60
	800
	3,540
	350
	50
	1,080
	77,420
	20
	11,470