

Letters from the Library

"There shall be ... a library ... known as the state library"
An Act to provide for a State Library – General Laws, 1838

December 2021

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Library Patron Gains Citizenship

Earlier this year, Ridgeland resident Elda Obando became a United States citizen. A native of Costa Rica, Obando applied for citizenship and prepared for the examination using materials provided by the State Law Library.

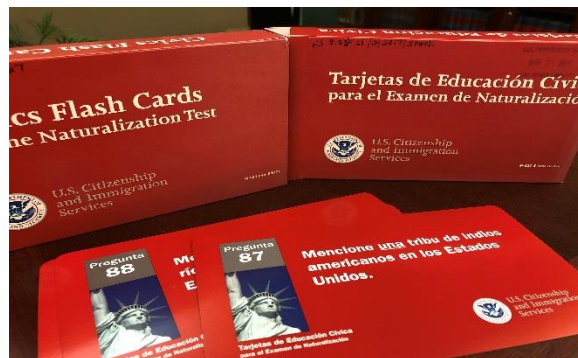
The Civics test that is administered to applicants, at the time of Obando's application, involved the asking of twenty questions from a list of 128 civics test questions. Applicants were required to answer at least twelve of the twenty questions correctly.



Obando, whose native language is Spanish, used the Library's Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test/Tarjetas de Educación Cívica para el Examen de Naturalización.

The Civics test has since been shortened back to a list of 100 questions with applicants only being asked ten questions. The

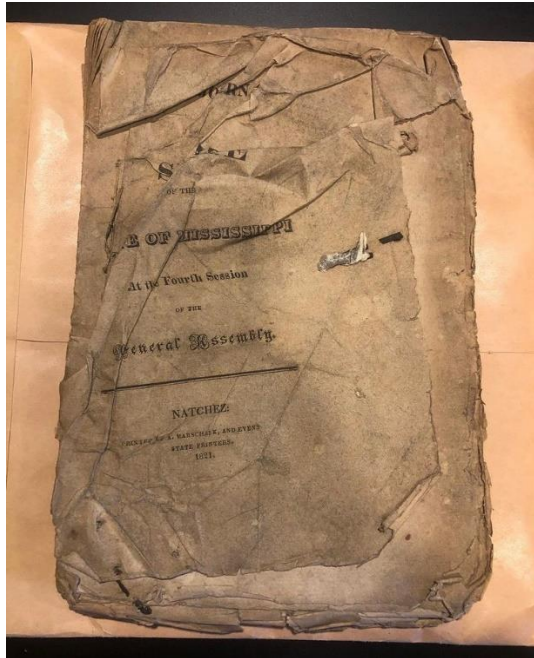
Biden Administration revamped the changes the previous Trump Administration had put in place.



Could you pass?
See a sampling of
questions at the
end of this
Newsletter.

Legislative Collection Donated

The Legislative Reference Bureau, once a research arm under the State Law Library, recently moved out of the Capitol basement into the Woolfolk Building. The Bureau was unable to take portions of its collection due to limited space and offered the Library a collection of legislative journals and legislative bills.



One of the items within this collection was an 1821 Senate Journal (left). The Library had not had a copy of this two-hundred-year-old Journal for quite some time. Thankfully, we now do. As you can see, however, it is in no condition to be used by patrons.

Other portions of this collection include legislative bills from the 1930s to 1990s. These are a great resource to have as legislative bills are available online only beginning in 1997. With these items, we can now more easily access bills that did not pass the Legislature.



Library Holiday Party



Sampling of Citizenship Questions

Could you pass? Applicants must correctly answer sixty percent of questions asked. Of the twenty below, could you answer twelve correctly?

What is the supreme law of the land?

What is an amendment?

What is freedom of religion?

How many US Senators are there?

Who is one of your state's US Senators now?

Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

If both the President and Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

What does the judicial branch do?

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

Who is the Governor of your state now?

There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

What is one reason colonists came to America?

There were thirteen original states. Name three.

When was the Constitution written?

What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Who was President during World War I?

Who did the United States fight in World War II?

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

Name one US Territory.