

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

Electronic Diversity Visa Entry
OMB Number 1405-0153,
DS-5501

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Why is this collection necessary and what are the legal statutes that allow this?

The DS-5501 information collection is necessary because the Department requires certain information to verify eligibility of aliens who enter the Diversity Visa program. Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) Section 203(c) [8 U.S.C. § 1153(c)], provides for a class of immigrants known as “diversity immigrants” from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. Pursuant to INA section 204(a)(1)(I) [8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(I)], all aliens seeking diversity immigrant status must submit a petition (the DS-5501) but may apply for a diversity visa only if randomly selected in the diversity visa lottery and only during the specific fiscal year for which they were selected. The Secretary of State is authorized to establish, through regulations, the information that must be included in the petition and any documentary evidence required to support the petition. Accordingly, 22 CFR § 42.33(b) outlines the specific information that must be included in the petition as well as documentation required to support the petition.

2. What business purpose is the information gathered going to be used for?

The Department of State uses the DS-5501, in conjunction with the immigrant visa application, to elicit information necessary to establish an alien’s identity and the eligibility for the diversity immigrant visa. The information requested on the form is limited to what is necessary to conduct the Diversity Visa selection in a secure manner. The Department uses the information provided on the DS-5501 to confirm the entrant’s identity and ensure they meet the basic criteria to participate in the selection process. The information provided also helps to identify and deter fraudulent activity.

3. Is this collection able to be completed electronically (e.g., through a website or application)?

Yes. The DS-5501 will be available online at <https://dvprogram.state.gov> during the annual designated entry period. This collection can only be submitted electronically.

4. Does this collection duplicate any other collection of information?

The DS-5501 requires similar biographical information as the DS-260, Immigrant Visa Electronic Application. The DS-5501, however, is shorter and used to identify whether aliens meet the necessary criteria to participate in the DV selection process. The

Department must collect this biographical information to identify entrants and prevent fraudulent entries.

5. *Does this collection impact small business?*

The information collection does not involve small business or other small entities.

6. *What are consequences if this collection is not done?*

The DS-5501 is required to administer the Diversity Visa Program, which is statutorily mandated. If the collection is not done, the Department will be unable to obtain the information necessary to fulfill the Department's statutory obligations associated with the program.

7. *Are there any special collection circumstances?*

No. There are no special collection circumstances associated with this collection.

8. *Did the Department solicit public comments on the collection?*

On August 5, 2025, the Department published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register soliciting public comments for a period of 45 days (90 FR 37437). The notice included a request for comment on the PRA burdens associated with the DS-5501. Although 399 comments were submitted in response to the Notice, only a subset of comments were related to this information collection. Below is a summary of relevant comments as well as the Department's response:

Time Burden:

Several comments raise concerns about the accuracy of estimated time burdens associated with scanning and uploading passport information. They emphasize challenges faced by applicants in low-income regions, where access to scanning equipment and technical support is limited, often requiring travel to obtain access to the necessary resources. Commenters argue that the Department underestimated the time burden, suggesting it could range from one to three hours per applicant.

Department Response: The Department originally recommended adding 20 minutes to the original (30-minute) time burden to account for the time it would take to gather and add passport information to the DS-5501. This number neglected to include the amount of time it would take an individual to gather, scan, and upload the passport document to the DS-5501 and did not consider that some entrants may need to travel to access scanning equipment. The Department thanks the public for raising these concerns and is adjusting the time burden to address them.

The Department is modifying the previously approved 30-minute time burden on the DS-5501 to a new time burden of 90 minutes. This new estimate accounts for the time it takes to access and operate equipment to scan and upload passport documentation; it also accounts for the amount of time it takes to gather and input payment information, consistent with the announcement of the \$1 Diversity Visa Registration Fee in the “Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates-Visa Services Fee Changes” Public Notice (90 FR 44524). . All estimates related to the per-applicant time burden are adjusted accordingly.

Cost Burden:

Some commenters raise concerns about the cost burden associated with obtaining a passport. Some commenters suggest the Department’s estimate of \$74.43 for passport costs is unrealistic, as costs in some countries exceed \$200. Others supported the estimate the Department provided. When commenters provide specific dollar amounts for passport costs, figures range from \$50 to \$250, depending on the country.

Department Response: In 2023, the Department conducted a comprehensive analysis of DV Program-eligible country passport fees. Using this data, the Department determined that the average cost of a passport in DV-eligible countries was \$74.43. While the Department understands that passport fees may exceed \$200 in some countries, it is also true that other countries have minimal passport costs that bring down the global average. It also helpful to note that some subset of entrants will presumably already have a passport, and there will be no additional cost burden to that subset.

The Department further notes that passport validity ranges, typically between 5 and 10 years per issuance. If the cost of a passport is distributed annually for the duration of its validity, the annual cost burden is less than the estimate provided. For example, a passport costing \$250 with a validity of five years would have an annual cost estimate of only \$50 annually.

Changes to the DS-5501:*Document Upload*

Commenters raise concerns about potential issues with passport scans during the submission process, including technical errors with cropped images, blurred pages, and an insufficient 5 MB file size limitation. Commenters suggest allowing flexibility in file size and formats, such as permitting PDF uploads or multiple images. Some note the Department failed to outline resolution requirements and generally did not provide adequate instructions for how to upload documents. One commenter requests the Department provide an in-form image combiner and file compression guidance as well as a test-image tool.

Department Response: The Department publishes yearly instructions for the upcoming Diversity Visa entry period. These instructions are published as a Federal Register Notice, and on Travel.state.gov. Within the published instructions, the Department

provides detailed information, and this includes information about the requirements for the passport scan. The Department will not provide an in-form image combiner, file compression guidance, or test image tool, as these are items not generally provided during this or other U.S. visa applications.

For the 2027 DV Program, the scan of the petitioner's biographic and signature page from his or her valid, unexpired passport must be submitted as a single image. The image must be in the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) File Interchange Format (JFIF) format. The pixels (resolution) must be between 600 x 600 and 1200 x 1200. Portable Document Format (PDF) will not be accepted. In addition, the file size must not exceed 5 megabytes (MB).

Gender vs Sex

2 commenters raised concerns about replacing the word "gender" with "sex" on the Diversity Visa application form, citing concerns around inclusivity and potential mismatches between regulatory text, operational systems, and prior adjudication records. One commenter noted that in some countries, 'gender' and 'sex' have different legal definitions. They requested the Department clarify whether 'sex' refers to biological sex or legal sex as listed on official documents.

Department Response: The Department is replacing gender with sex in accordance with E.O. 14168, Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, which provides that the term "sex" shall refer to an individual's sex at birth.

Fee Payment

Commenters raise concerns about the fee payment pages on the Diversity Visa application form, emphasizing the need for a reliable, secure, and user-friendly payment system. Commenters also question whether the payment system accommodates applicants from countries with restricted access to international banking services. They suggest codifying acceptable payment methods and refund policies in the CFR.

Department Response: The Department collects fee payments through the Treasury's Pay.gov, which is reliable, secure and user-friendly. It accepts payments for U.S. based bank accounts and internationally accepts credit/debit cards, PayPal, and Venmo. The following credit cards are supported: American Express, Discover and Discover-branded, JCB and UnionPay, MasterCard and Visa. Only MasterCard or Visa-branded debit cards are supported.

Pay.gov resides within the Treasury Web Applications Infrastructure (TWA) - a highly secure environment provided by the Federal Reserve Information Technology (FRIT) to support several enterprise-wide Treasury applications. The TWA is compliant with the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2. All communications between Pay.gov and agencies are conducted via dedicated lines, virtual private networks, or 128-bit, hardware-based, Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2 encryption.

9. *Are payments or gifts given to the respondents?*

No. No payments or gift is provided to respondents.

10. *Are any assurance of privacy/confidentiality provided to respondents?*

The form includes a confidentiality statement as assurance of privacy and confidentiality. The applicant is informed that, in accordance with INA section 222(f), 8 U.S.C. § 1202(f), information obtained from respondents in the application process is considered confidential and is to be used only for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States. The statement further notes that, at the discretion of the Secretary of State, copies of visa records may be made available to a court which certifies that the information contained in such records is needed in a case pending before the court.

11. *Are any questions of a sensitive nature asked?*

The form requests biographical information, including full name, sex, birth date, birth location, education background, and marital status. The respondent is also required to submit basic biographical information for his or her spouse and eligible children.

The form further requests the unique serial or issuance number associated with the respondent's valid, unexpired passport (as defined in both INA 101(a)(30) and 22 CFR 42.64(a)), country or authority of passport issuance, and passport expiration date, unless the petitioner would be exempt from the passport requirement pursuant to 22 CFR 42.2(d), (e), or (g)(2). This information is necessary to identify whether the alien is eligible for a diversity immigrant visa and to prevent fraudulent entries.

12. *What is the hour time burden and the hour cost burden on the respondent needed to complete this collection?*

The Department estimates the amount of time respondents will take to complete the DS-5501 is 90 minutes per response. If we multiply this by 10 million (the annual estimate for submissions), we calculate a total hour time burden of 15,000,000 hours.

To calculate the hour cost burden, the Department analyzed [wage data](#) from the International Labor Organization for [countries](#) eligible to participate in the DV Program for DV-2025. The analysis used average hourly wage when available and minimum hourly wage otherwise. All wages were then converted to U.S. dollars and averaged for a total estimated hourly wage of \$4.56 per hour across all the DV-eligible countries.

Using this wage, the total hour cost burden is \$68,400,000 (10 million responses x 90 minutes per response x \$4.56 hourly wage).

13. What is the monetary burden to respondents (out of pocket costs) needed to complete this collection?

Respondents completing the DS-5501 must submit a digital image of themselves and their derivatives, which may result in a minimal cost. Many respondents will already have access to the necessary equipment to submit a digital image without incurring any additional out-of-pocket costs. We estimate the average cost for respondents to obtain the required photo(s) will be \$5.00 per response, for a total \$50 million (10 million responses x \$5).

Additionally, respondents will be subject to the passport requirement. The average price of a passport in countries that are eligible to participate in the DV Program is \$74.43. The Department does not have data to determine how many entrants would need to obtain passports before submitting the DS-5501. However, if 50% of respondents needed to obtain a passport exclusively for the purpose of entering the Diversity Visa selection process, there would be an additional out-of-pocket cost of \$372,150,000 (5 million x \$74.43).

Using the two prior estimates, the estimated total monetary burden to respondents is approximately \$422,150,000.

14. What are the costs incurred by the Federal Government to complete this collection?

All costs associated with this information collection are fully covered by fees collected, including the new \$1 entry fee, and the net cost to the federal government is \$0.

15. Are there any changes/adjustments to this collection since the previous submission?

The Department is adjusting burden estimates to account for updated entrant data, an updated hourly wage estimate, the addition of the passport requirement, and the addition of Pay.gov.

The DS-5501 will require the entrant to provide valid passport information as well as a photo/scanned copy of his or her passport biographic and signature page. With the addition of a DV entry fee, the Department is also adding a payment page to the application. Finally, in line with EO 14168, the word "gender" is replaced with "sex". The Department estimates these changes will add an additional 60 minutes per response, so the time burden will change from 30 minutes per entry to 90 minutes per entry.

16. Will any data gathered by this collection be published?

A quantitative summary of all Department of State visa activities is published in the annual Report of the Visa Office. The Report of the Visa Office is an annual report providing statistical information on immigrant and non-immigrant visa issuances, as well as information on the use of visa numbers in numerically limited categories. The Visa Office

currently has annual reports available from 2000 to 2024. The link to the site is:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics.html>.

17. *Will the OMB expiration date be displayed?*

Yes. The Department will display the OMB expiration date on the collection.

18. *Are any exceptions to the OMB certification statement being sought?*

No. The Department is not seeking exceptions to the OMB certification statement.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.