



# Embassy Tel Aviv's Consular Sun Times

## U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

### Upcoming Events:

- > May 31 and July 26, 2016 (Tuesdays) – The Federal Benefits Unit will be in Tel Aviv for appointments. Please email [amctelaviv@state.gov](mailto:amctelaviv@state.gov) to make an appointment.

### Upcoming Closures:

- > Friday, April 29, 2016 (Passover)
- > Thursday, May 12, 2016 (Independence Day)
- > Monday, May 30, 2016 (Memorial Day)
- > Monday, July 4, 2016 (Independence Day)

## Spotlight: Our Consular Agency in Haifa

The Consular Agency in Haifa offers routine passport and notarial services to residents and citizens in the Haifa area, and assists U.S. citizens in cases of emergency.



### Haifa Contact Information:

Phone: 04-853-1470

Fax: 04-853-1476

E-mail: [consage@netvision.net.il](mailto:consage@netvision.net.il)

Address: 26 Ben Gurion  
Boulevard, Haifa 35023

### Passports:

The Consular Agent can accept all types of passport applications, including:

- Renewal of a still-valid adult (16 or older) passport: DS-82
- Renewal of a passport that expired within the last 5 years: DS-82
- Renewal of an adult passport that expired more than 5 years ago: DS-II
- Replace an emergency passport: DS-5504
- First-time passport for a minor or adult: DS-II
- Passport renewal for a minor: DS-II

### Other Services:

The Consular Agent in Haifa also offers the following services:

- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)
- Consular Report of Death
- Voting information
- First-time Social Security number applications

**Please note: The Consular Agency does not provide visa services.** Visa processing guidance can be found online at: [israel.usembassy.gov/consular/niv/nonimmigrant.html](http://israel.usembassy.gov/consular/niv/nonimmigrant.html) or by calling the visa call center at: **03-9058062.**

## Don't Get Stuck in the Passport Surge!

Plan ahead and apply now!

We are expecting an increase in passport applications through 2018. Submit your passport application well ahead of your planned travel dates in order to avoid possible delays!

You can renew a passport conveniently by mail at any time if you meet certain criteria. If you are applying for the first time or are under 16 years old, you must appear in person at a passport acceptance facility. Passport processing times are currently 2-3 weeks from the date the Embassy receives your application.

In 2007, we experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications, issuing over 18 million passports as a result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Nearly ten years later, those passports are beginning to expire, and we have been experiencing increased demand for passport renewals.

For more information about applying, please visit our website at: [israel.usembassy.gov](http://israel.usembassy.gov)

**DON'T GET  
STUCK IN  
THE SURGE!**  
Apply early for  
your passport





## Voting Corner: Your Questions Answered!

### What is a voting residence?

Your voting residence is the address you were last living in prior to leaving the U.S. Your local election official needs your exact voting residence to determine which offices you are eligible to vote for.

This residence may remain valid even if you no longer own the property or if you have been overseas for a number of years and are not sure if you wish to return to the U.S. in the future.

### Can I vote if I was born outside the U.S.?

Voting eligibility varies by state for U.S. citizens born overseas who have never established a residence in the U.S. In many states, U.S. citizens born overseas are able to claim the last place they or their parents lived in as their voting residence. Make sure to check requirements for your state at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) for more information about your eligibility.

### Are absentee ballots only counted in close elections?

No. Absentee ballots submitted in accordance with state laws are counted for every election. The difference is that in close elections, you will often hear reports that the outcome cannot be announced until after absentee ballots are counted. All ballots are counted in the final totals for every election—and every vote (absentee or in-person) counts the same.



**VOTE!**  
#ProudOverseasVoter  
[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

### How do I register to vote, or apply for a ballot?

We encourage voters to use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process. The form can be found at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). Once the form is completed, you can mail it in, or submit it via fax or email depending on what options are available in your state. The FPCA serves as both a registration and absentee ballot request form.

**Questions? Email Us! [VoteTelAviv@state.gov](mailto:VoteTelAviv@state.gov)**

### Can I vote at a local embassy?

No. U.S. elections are run at the state level and voters must communicate directly with their election official to register, request a ballot, and vote.

However, you can drop off your completed forms and ballots at the embassy during business hours, Monday to Friday between 8-9am.

## Welcome to Tel Aviv!

The American Citizen Services Unit of U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv provides information and assistance to all U.S. citizens residing in Israel.

U.S. citizens visiting or residing in Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza should contact U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem for assistance.

The Haifa Consular Agency is also available to provide services to residents and visitors in the Haifa area.

### Public Hours:

The American Citizens Services Unit is open to the public from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday – Friday, except American and local holidays. The section is also

closed to the public on the first Wednesday of each month.

### Emergencies:

For after-hours emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please call **03-519-7575**.

Please note that the office responding to this emergency number cannot assist with passport renewals, consular reports of birth, or other routine consular matters.

### Emergency Passports:

Emergency passports are intended for U.S. citizens who need to travel immediately to the U.S. due to an unexpected incident or for U.S. citizen tourists whose passports were lost or stolen during their travels. We can issue an emergency passport only when you bring documentary proof of the emergency and proof of immediate travel (plane tickets) to your appointment.

If you need an emergency passport, please send an email to [amctelaviv@state.gov](mailto:amctelaviv@state.gov) with your name, date of birth, proof of emergency, and travel plans so that we can schedule an emergency passport appointment for you the next business day.

### Contact Emails:

U.S. citizen services-[amctelaviv@state.gov](mailto:amctelaviv@state.gov).  
U.S. visa questions-[nivtelaviv@state.gov](mailto:nivtelaviv@state.gov).  
Voting questions-[votetelaviv@state.gov](mailto:votetelaviv@state.gov).

### Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/  
U.S.EmbassyTelAvivIsrael](https://www.facebook.com/U.S.EmbassyTelAvivIsrael)

**Website:** [israel.usembassy.gov](http://israel.usembassy.gov)

## Ask the Consul...



### How do I change my name in my U.S. passport?

If you have changed your name, you may apply to have this change reflected in your U.S. passport. Types of acceptable name changes include:

- Marriage
- Court Order
- Ministry of the Interior Name Change
- Adoption
- Divorce

**You must submit the original copy of the relevant document with your application.**

More information is also available on our website: [israel.usembassy.gov/consular/acs/namechangepassport.html](http://israel.usembassy.gov/consular/acs/namechangepassport.html)

### Can I transmit U.S. citizenship to my spouse?

No, a U.S. citizen cannot transmit citizenship to a spouse. If your spouse wishes to relocate with you to the U.S., they will require an immigrant visa.

More information about the immigrant visa process can be found on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) website at: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

The State Department also has an overview of the immigrant visa process at: [travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate.html).

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