



Embassy Tel Aviv's Consular Sun Times

Are You Prepared for 2016?

The start of a new year is an excellent time to check the expiration date on your passport and apply for a new passport if it expires soon!



All U.S. citizens, whether residing in or visiting Israel, should enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

Once enrolled, STEP will send out routine information and emergency messages from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Department of State.

A few more tips to keep in mind as you make plans to travel this year:

- ◆ You should budget **3 weeks** to apply for and receive a new passport.
- ◆ Many countries require at least six months validity on your passport for entry. For the most up-to-date entry requirements for each country, please visit travel.state.gov.
- ◆ All passport applications for minors under age 16 require the presence or notarized consent of both parents/legal guardians.
- ◆ All passport applications require an appointment, unless you are applying by

mail for an adult passport renewal.

- ◆ Please visit our website (israel.usembassy.gov) for more information about passport applications and how to make an appointment.
- ◆ Appointments are also available at our Consular Agency in Haifa. More information can be found at: israel.usembassy.gov/haifa.



Interested in a Career with the State Department?

The Department of State's Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) will be offered at U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem on Thursday, February 4, 2016.

Registration is now open and will close on Wednesday, January 27. If you would like to register, please visit careers.state.gov.

The End of Extra Visa Pages

As of January 1, 2016, the U.S. Government **no longer adds extra visa pages to U.S. passports**. Instead, all new passports issued to overseas citizens will be issued with 52 pages at no additional cost.

With the end of the extra visa pages program worldwide, passport holders who travel

frequently should renew their passports early to ensure they have enough blank pages for visas and entry/exit stamps from other countries.



U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

Upcoming Events:

- > January 26, 2016 – The Federal Benefits Unit will be in Tel Aviv for appointments. Please email amctela-viv@state.gov to make an appointment.

Upcoming Closures:

- > Monday, January 18, (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- > Monday, February 15, (President's Day)
- > Friday, February 26, (Tel Aviv Marathon)

Elections in 2016. Your Vote Counts!



Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot!

Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) every year, even if you have voted overseas before.

Many States require annual renewal of your absentee vot-

ing registration and ballot request, so we suggest that everyone send in a new FPCA every year and anytime you move.

It's fast: For fastest delivery, choose electronic delivery of your absentee ballot from your home state, and include an email address on your FPCA.

It's Free: Return your FPCA or completed ballot electronically or to a U.S embassy or consulate for mail delivery to the United States. [Postage-paid return envelopes](#) are available from [FVAP.gov](#).

It's accessible: U.S. citizens can drop off an FPCA or completed ballot in person at any embassy or consulate during designated public hours or electronically depending on each state's voting laws.

Embassy Tel Aviv currently offers ballot drop off Monday to Friday between 8am and 9am.

Visit [FVAP.gov](#) for more information about voting.



Avoid These Common Voting Registration Mistakes

Did You Fill Out Your Ballots and Forms Correctly?

Each year, user error is the main reason for form and ballot rejections.

Make sure to pay attention when filling out your forms so that you don't make any of these mistakes!

According to election officials, these are the most common mistakes when filling out the FPCA:

1. Not checking the "classification" box. Voters must make a selection.
2. Not providing a residential address. Voters must provide a physical address in the State they are registered to vote in.
3. Illegible writing.
4. Not choosing how to receive your ballot.
5. Missing signatures.

Common Mistakes for Ballot Submission:

1. Late – know your deadlines!
2. Missing signatures.
3. Wrong address – leading to a delay in getting the ballot to you.



Upcoming State Primaries/Caucuses:

(all dates subject to change)

- ◇ **February 1** Iowa
- ◇ **February 9** New Hampshire
- ◇ **February 20, 23, 27** South Carolina, Nevada
- ◇ **March 1** Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
- ◇ **March 5** Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska
- ◇ **March 8** Hawaii, Michigan, Idaho, Mississippi
- ◇ **March 15** Illinois, North Carolina, Missouri, Florida, Ohio
- ◇ **March 22** Arizona, Utah
- ◇ **April 5** Wisconsin
- ◇ **April 19** New York
- ◇ **April 26** Rhode Island, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut
- ◇ **May 3** Indiana

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](#).

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 closed

to the public on the first Wednesday of each month. Please note that all services require an appointment.

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 United States 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 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.
U.S. visa questions-nivtelaviv@state.gov.
Voting questions-votetelaviv@state.gov.

Facebook:

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

Website: israel.usembassy.gov

Tax Questions? New Contact Info for the IRS!



April 18, 2016 — due date to file your income tax returns

The Embassy does not provide tax advice, so taxpayers should consult the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a private tax advisor for assistance.

Assistance Overseas:

If you are a taxpayer with specific individual or business account questions you should contact the International Taxpayer Service Call Center by phone or fax.

Telephone:
267-941-1000 (not toll-free).

Fax:
267-941-1055.

The International Call Center is available Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. EST.

If you are a tax professional or software provider calling about an e-file issue and it is not account-related, please contact the e-help office in Austin, Texas, at 512-416-7750 (not toll-free).

Assistance is available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST.

Individual taxpayers located

outside the United States may contact the IRS by mail at:

Internal Revenue Service
International Accounts
Philadelphia, PA 19255-0725

Business taxpayers located outside the United States may contact the IRS by mail:

Internal Revenue Service
International Accounts
Ogden, UT 84201-0038

For more information, please consult the IRS website at:
www.irs.gov

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