



Embassy Tel Aviv's Consular Sun Times



VOTE EARLY!

Time is Running Out to Register



Election Day (Tuesday, November 8, 2016) is fast approaching!

To make sure your voice is heard, go to FVAP.gov.

Most States require you to complete an absentee ballot application to start the absentee voting process.

We encourage the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form.

It is recommended that you submit your FPCA **at least 90 days before the election.**

Election officials are required to send your absentee ballot 45 days before an election for those who are registered and have requested a ballot. If you requested a ballot but do not receive it, you may download a blank ballot from www.fvap.gov.

FVAP.GOV

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Drop off your ballot or completed FPCA at the Embassy,
Monday to Friday between 8am-12 pm!

If you need additional voting assistance, email votetelaviv@state.gov or drop by the Embassy or the Consular Agent in Haifa between 8am-12pm.

Residency Rules—Which State Do I Go To?

Your voting residence is the address you were last living in prior to leaving the U.S.

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.

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 for more information about your eligibility.

U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

Upcoming Events:

- > Tuesday, July 26,— The Federal Benefits Unit will be in Tel Aviv for appointments. Please email amctelviv@state.gov to make an appointment.

Upcoming Closures:

- > Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)
- > Monday-Tuesday, October 3-4 (Rosh Hashana)
- > Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day)
- > Wednesday, October 12 (Yom Kippur)
- > Monday, October 17 (Succot)
- > Monday, October 24 (Simhat Torah)

ABSENTEE VOTE TIMELINE

August 10: 90 days before Election Day. Submit your FPCA before this date

September 24: 45 Days before Election Day. Election officials required to send ballots before this date

October 18: Last day to bring ballot to the Embassy to ensure on-time arrival on or before Election Day

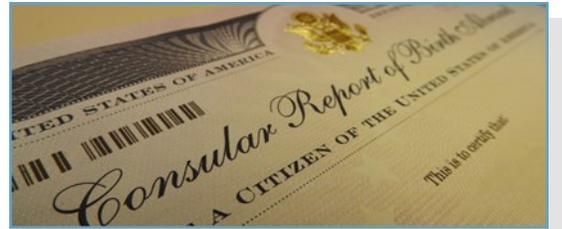
(We will continue to mail ballots after October 18, but cannot guarantee they will arrive by November 8)

Consular Reports of Birth Abroad: What, Why, How

WHAT IS A CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD?

If a consular officer determines that a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents acquired U.S. citizenship at birth, they will approve the application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (CRBA).

According to U.S. law, the CRBA is proof of U.S. citizenship and may be used to obtain a U.S. passport and register for school, among other purposes.



WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED A CRBA?

If a child born is abroad to U.S. citizen parent(s) who meet the requirements for transmitting citizenship, then the child is a U.S. citizen, whether you choose to document the child or not. Documenting a child born abroad to U.S. citizen parents just means the U.S. government is giving you an official document declaring the child is a U.S. citizen. However, the child was a U.S. citizen from the moment he or she was born, and by law, U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, must use a U.S. passport to enter and leave the United States. U.S. citizens are not eligible to receive visas in foreign passports and cannot use foreign passports to enter the United States.

Failure to promptly document a child's citizenship at birth may cause problems later when attempting to establish the child's U.S. citizenship **and eligibility for the rights and benefits of U.S. citizenship**, including entry into the United States. While there is no requirement to register a child as a U.S. citizen shortly after the birth, parents should apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and a U.S. passport for the child as soon as possible to avoid problems in the future.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A CRBA FOR MY CHILD?

- Review eligibility requirements
- Download, print, and complete the CRBA Checklist
- Complete Form DS-2029 for Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Gather supporting evidence (marriage certificate, birth certificate, physical presence documents, etc.) which can be found in the CRBA checklist
- Follow instructions on <https://il.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/birth/> on how to email the Embassy and schedule an appointment.

(CRBA adjudications are a longer process than passports. Thus, the Embassy only processes CRBA applications on Thursdays.)

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 Consular Agency in Haifa 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

normally 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 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.
 Consular Agency Haifa - consage@netvision.net.il

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/U.S.EmbassyTelAvivIsrael>

Website: <https://il.usembassy.gov/>

Ask the Consul...



Can I travel with a U.S. passport that is about to expire?

The Department of State recommends that your passport has **at least six months of validity** beyond your travel dates.

U.S. citizens traveling on passports that expire in fewer than six months have been denied airline boarding or been detained upon arrival in certain countries. European Schengen Zone countries, for example, require at least six months validity.

Passport validity requirements can be found on our [Country Specific Information](#) pages at www.travel.state.gov.

Can I bring medical marijuana into the United States?

No, federal law provides no basis to treat medical marijuana any differently than non-medical marijuana, which is illegal.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will not allow you to enter the U.S. with illegal contraband such as marijuana under any circumstances.

If you attempt to bring marijuana into the U.S., it will be seized and you will be subject to fines, penalties, and possible arrest.

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