



# Embassy Tel Aviv's Consular Sun Times



## NOVEMBER 8, 2016 ELECTION DAY!

### What do I do if I haven't yet received my ballot?

If you requested your absentee ballot and haven't received it from your state at least 30 days before the election, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB is an emergency backup ballot, available for download here:

<https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab2013.pdf>.

You may send your completed Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot directly to your local election officials in the United States, or you may drop it off at the Embassy and we will forward it to your local election officials for you.

### Is it too late to register to vote?

It depends. Different states have different registration requirements and deadlines. Visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to find out the rules for your state.



**FVAP.GOV**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

### Upcoming Holidays:

- > Monday, October 10  
(Columbus Day)
- > Wednesday, October 12  
(Yom Kippur)
- > Monday, October 17  
(Succot)
- > Monday, October 24  
(Simhat Torah)
- > Friday, November 11  
(Veteran's Day)
- > Thursday, November 24  
(Thanksgiving)
- > Monday, December 26  
(Christmas)
- > Monday, January 2  
(New Year's)
- > Monday, January 16  
(Martin Luther King Day)

Remember **OCTOBER 20** is the deadline to drop off your ballot to ensure an on time delivery. The Embassy will accept ballots through November 8, but cannot guarantee an on-time arrival after October 18. Ballots may be dropped off in the American Citizens Services section Monday-Friday 8 am -11 am, and at the Consular Agency in Haifa Sunday-Thursday, 9am-1pm.

## Social Security Numbers Now Required For Passport Applications

Effective October 1, 2016, all U.S. citizens are required to include their correct social security number on passport applications. If you do not have a social security number and have never applied for one, you will be required to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury attesting to this fact. Refusal to provide your number may be grounds for passport denial.

The Embassy does not have access to social security numbers and cannot provide it to you. Those who do not know their social security number should contact the Federal Benefits Unit in Consulate General Jerusalem before applying for a passport. Their website is:

<https://jru.usconsulate.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>



U.S. Embassy in Israel

### NEW WEBSITE!

Embassy Tel Aviv is excited to announce that we have a newly-designed website!

Check it out in English:

<https://il.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

Or Hebrew:

<https://il.usembassy.gov/he/citizen-services-he/>

**FYI: Beginning November 1, 2016, eyeglasses will no longer be allowed in passport photos.**

## Two Parent Consent: Understanding the Law

While it may be difficult for both parents to appear in person for a minor child's passport interview, this legal requirement is in place to protect U.S. citizen children. The Two-Parent Consent Law is meant to prevent international child abduction by one parent against the wishes of the second parent. The Department of State requires signatures of both parents or the child's legal guardians before we can issue a U.S. passport to children under the age of 16.

Parents or legal guardians must sign the child's passport application and provide documentary evidence demonstrating that they are the parents or guardians, such as U.S. or Israeli birth certificate, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, or adoption decrees. Exceptions to the law are rare and require approval from the Department of State in Washington.

### WHAT IF ONE PARENT CANNOT APPEAR IN PERSON?

If you have sole legal authority, the consular section accepts legal court orders (from the U.S. or Israel) granting sole custody, a birth certificate with only one parent listed, or the death certificate of the second parent.

If one parent is abroad or unable to travel to the Embassy or Consular Agency, they may submit a signed and notarized DS-3053 Statement of Consent. Please note that you must sign the form in front of a certified notary public (and not before), and you must include a copy of the ID shown to the notary. We cannot accept copies or faxes—the original DS-3053 must be provided.

## 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](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).  
 Consular Agency Haifa -  
[consage@netvision.net.il](mailto:consage@netvision.net.il)

### Facebook:

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

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

## Ask the Consul...



**If I took a Hebrew name when I immigrated to Israel, is my name legally changed in the United States?**

**Can the Embassy authenticate my document with an apostille?**

**Yes.** If someone has changed their legal name in Israel, it is also legally changed in the United States. **The Department of State will recognize only one legal name**, and the result of the most recent name change will be listed in the passport.

Please note English-Hebrew translations of name, such as Samuel and Shmuel or Jacob and Yaacov, are considered the same name for passport purposes.

**No,** the Embassy cannot affix an apostille to official documents. **Only the originating source of a document can authenticate it with an apostille.**

For example, if you have a marriage certificate from New York, only officials in the State of New York can certify that document with an apostille.

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