

- ◆ Monday, September 24
(Succot)
- ◆ Monday, October 1
(Simhat Torah)
- ◆ Monday, October 8
(Columbus Day)
- ◆ Tuesday, October 30th
(Municipal Elections)
- ◆ Monday, November 12
(Veterans Day)

Tel Aviv Branch Office Only*

Friday, September 28th*



U.S. Embassy in Israel

Consular Sun Times



VOTING IN 2018 U.S. ELECTIONS

Your vote counts! Did you know that many U.S. elections for house and senate seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You must complete a new FPCA **after** January 1, 2018 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)** including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA online at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot: States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online at www.FVAP.gov.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot: Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can use international mail, a courier service such as FedEx or DHL, or you may also drop-off completed voting materials Monday-Friday at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem (14 David Flusser) 8:00 am - 3:00 pm and at the U.S. Embassy Branch Office in Tel Aviv (71 HaYarkon St.) 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Place your materials in a postage paid return envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the FVAP homepage) or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials. **It is highly recommended to return your ballots by October 15, 2018.**

4. New this year – email to fax service by FVAP! - The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will provide an email-to-fax conversion service for voters who have difficulty sending election materials to States that do not accept emailed documents. Get more information [here](#).

2018 Elections. Your Vote Counts!

Frequently Asked Questions by Overseas Voters

Do I have to put my political party?

Most States require you to specify a political party to vote in primary elections. This information may be used to register you with a party.

What if I don't know my voting residence address?

If you can't remember the address where you last resided, we recommend asking family members and checking old records. Your election office may also be able to help you further.

Does voter registration affect my tax status?

You can vote for federal offices without a change to your tax status, but voting for non-federal offices may result in State and local taxation. There may also be tax implications when changing your residence from one State to another. We recommend that you seek legal advice when changing your voting residence.

Do I have to give my current address if I am asking for my absentee ballot by email or fax?

Yes. The election office needs your current address to confirm that you're eligible to vote absentee under U.S. law. This is especially important for citizens residing outside of the United States.

Will it affect my citizenship if I select "my return is uncertain?"

No.

How to get more information:

Check the official federal Voting Assistance Program at: www.fvap.gov.



Ways to Send Your Ballot by October 15

- Look on www.fvap.gov to see if online or faxed ballots are accepted in your home state.
- Mail your ballots through international mail.
- Drop the ballot off at:
 - Embassy Jerusalem (8 am -3 pm),
 - Embassy Branch Office Tel Aviv (12 pm-3pm),

If your ballot does not have postage paid markings, please use the following:

FPCA Postage-Paid Return Envelope
https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca_envelope.pdf

How to Vote from Anywhere in
2 Simple Steps...
WHEN YOU'RE AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS

ACROSS THE POND? NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN VOTE.

If you're an American living abroad, you can have your absentee ballot sent to you.

STEP 1

FILL OUT THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA) AT FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT

WHEN?
Send in your FPCA by your State's specific deadline. Find it at FVAP.gov.

STEP 2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN?
By the recommended mailing date of
October 15, 2018

DIDN'T GET YOUR BALLOT IN TIME?
No worries. Get a *Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot* (FWAB) from FVAP.gov.

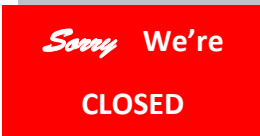
WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?
Check the status at FVAP.gov.

Prepare for Holiday Fall Travel

American Citizen Services will be closed for several upcoming holidays from September to October. Please plan ahead to renew your U.S. passports. Check the expiration dates of all passports in your family. Remember that if transiting through Europe, most countries require that you have six (6) months validity remaining of your passport before boarding the plane. Here are links on how to renew your U.S. passport today:

<https://il.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passport-services/renewal-by-mail/>

<https://il.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passport-services/renew-in-person-instructions/>



Swim Near a Lifeguard!

Pleasant weather and warm sea temperatures make Israel's beaches a popular destination this time of year. However, it is important to remember rip currents and dangerous surf conditions exist at many beaches. Bathers should exercise caution, swim near a lifeguard, and follow lifeguards' verbal and posted instructions. The majority of drownings in Israel's seas occur when a lifeguard is not present. This is especially important to keep in mind as the summer bathing season officially ends in October and lifeguard coverage is significantly reduced on Israel's beaches. More information on safe swimming in Israel can be found at:

www.moia.gov.il/Publications/sea_en.pdf

Rules for Safe Swimming

- Do not enter the water if there is no lifeguard, never bathe in areas not set up as official beaches where there are no lifeguard services.
- Obey the lifeguards' instructions.
- **Note the color of the flag on the lifeguard's tower:**
 - White** – bathing is permitted.
 - Red** – the sea is dangerous and bathing is restricted to those areas indicated by the lifeguard.
 - Black** – bathing is strictly forbidden!
- Bathing is only permitted in the marked locations.
- Don't go into the water when the black flag is flying.
- Don't go into the water if you have been drinking alcoholic beverages.
- Don't swim at night or in the early morning hours before the lifeguard comes on duty.
- Never leave children unattended at the beach.

Where to Apply for Consular Services in Israel, Jerusalem & the West Bank

American Citizen Services are available at two locations:

U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem;

U.S. Embassy Branch Office Tel Aviv

All locations stand ready to provide routine consular services, including notarial services and acceptance of applications for passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. You are welcome to apply at either location.

See summary chart below for pertinent information, including how to schedule an appointment.

	Jerusalem	Tel Aviv
Physical Location	14 David Flusser, Jerusalem	71 HaYarkon St., Tel Aviv
Work Week	Monday-Friday	Monday-Friday
Hours	8:00AM-4:30PM	7:30AM-4:00PM
E-Mail Address	JerusalemACS@state.gov	TelAvivACS@state.gov
Telephone During Working Hours	02-630-4000	03-519-7575 (emergencies only)
After-Hour Emergencies	03-519-7575	03-519-7575
On-Site Parking	YES	NO
Passport Appointments	Online	Online
Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) Appointments	E-mail	E-mail
Notary Appointments	E-mail	Online
Emergency Passports	YES	YES
Federal Benefits (e.g., Social Security)	Full (Federal Benefits Unit located onsite)	Federal Benefits Unit comes to the Embassy monthly to provide limited services.
Renunciations	YES	YES

If you have made an appointment at one location and subsequently find an appointment elsewhere please be sure to cancel any duplicate appointments.

Note: The U.S. Consular Agency in Haifa (26 Ben Gurion Boulevard) will be closed for public services from September 1, 2018, until further notice. Individuals with previously scheduled appointments at the U.S. Consular Agency in Haifa on or after September 1, 2018, should attend their appointments at the U.S. Embassy Branch Office in Tel Aviv.