



# Embassy Tel Aviv's Consular Sun Times

## Spotlight: Social Security Numbers

Your Social Security number is vital for most of your U.S. Federal Government documents.

**U.S. Passport:** You are required to provide your Social Security number to apply for a U.S. Passport. If you have never been issued a Social Security number, 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.

**Filing U.S. Taxes:** As a U.S. citizen, you are required to have Social Security numbers for yourself, your spouse and/or dependents in order to file and pay your U.S. taxes. Remember the tax filing deadline this year is **Tuesday, April 17, 2018.**

**Questions about a Social Security Number:** You should contact the Federal Benefits Unit at the Consulate General in Jerusalem. Visit: <https://jru.usconsulate.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>

## REMINDER: Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) Change

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) made significant changes to the Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) program under the PATH Act of 2015. The new law means that as of January 1, 2017, any ITIN not used on a federal tax return at least once in the last three years is no longer be valid for use on a future tax return unless the taxpayer renews the ITIN. All ITINs issued prior to 2013 began to expire in 2017 and taxpayers need to renew them. For more information and instructions for ITIN renewal, please see the IRS' [FAQ page](#) on this change.



## Spring is Tax Season

Reminder: The tax filing deadline is **Tuesday, April 17, 2018.**

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

The IRS has permanently closed its overseas offices, including its last overseas office at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem do not employ IRS specialists and generally cannot answer specific tax questions. Your taxpayer questions should be directed to the [IRS](#).

The IRS has more information for taxpayers living overseas at the following website: [www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayers-living-abroad](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayers-living-abroad)

## U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

### Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday, April 4** — The Federal Benefits Unit will be in Tel Aviv to provide limited Social Security-related services. For an appointment please use the following [link](#)

### Upcoming Closures:

- ◆ **Monday, February 19**  
(Washington's Birthday)
- ◆ **Friday, February 23**  
(Tel Aviv Marathon)
- ◆ **Friday, April 6**  
(Final Day of Passover)
- ◆ **Thursday, April 19**  
(Israeli Independence Day)

**NEW**

## INCREASED FEES

The execution fee for a U.S. passport will increase on **April 2, 2018** from **\$25 to \$35**. The **\$10** execution fee increase only applies to U.S. passport applicants using the DS-II form.

This will impact the following types of applicants:

- First-time applicants over 16;
- Children under 16;
- Applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen.

For more information click [here](#).

# Elections in 2018. Your Vote Counts!



## VOTE!

#ProudOverseasVoter  
travel.state.gov



In this 2018 election cycle, a total of 468 seats in the U.S. Congress (33 Senate seats and all 435 House of Representatives seats) are up for election on **November 6, 2018**.

**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 (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](http://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](http://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 use the [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) website to find your local election office's mailing address.

**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 the following locations:

**American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv** between 8 am – 11 am from Monday to Friday, or during otherwise scheduled appointments.

**Consular Agency in Haifa** between 9am – 1pm from Sunday-Thursday.

**American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem** between 8 am – 12 pm from Monday to Friday.

Place your materials in a sealed postage paid return envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the [FVAP](http://FVAP) homepage) or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials found at the [FVAP website](http://FVAP website).

February 2018

### Upcoming State Primaries:

- ◇ **March 6:** Texas
- ◇ **March 20:** Illinois
- ◇ **May 8:** Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, West Virginia.
- ◇ **May 15:** Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania.
- ◇ **May 22:** Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky.
- ◇ **June 5:** Alabama, Montana, California, Iowa, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota.
- ◇ **June 12:** Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia.
- ◇ **June 19:** District of Columbia
- ◇ **June 26:** Colorado, Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, Utah.

**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](#).

## American Citizen Services Passport Roadshows

Is Tel Aviv too far to travel? Not a problem! The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv's American Citizen Services team will be travelling to the following cities to take your passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications! As with a normal appointment at the Embassy, please review the lists of required documents for your application on our [website](#) before arriving for your appointment.



**Dimona** (Wednesday, February 21): Please contact [[shomreihashalom@yahoo.com](mailto:shomreihashalom@yahoo.com)] for more information, and to make an appointment.

**Beit Shemesh** (Tuesday, February 27): Please contact [[usembassyinbeitshemesh@gmail.com](mailto:usembassyinbeitshemesh@gmail.com)] for more information, and to make an appointment.

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

American Citizen Services are available at three locations:

- the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv;
- the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem; and
- the Consular Agency in Haifa.

All three 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 anywhere.

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

	Embassy Tel Aviv	Consulate General Jerusalem	Consular Agency Haifa
Physical Location	71 HaYarkon St., Tel Aviv	17 David Flusser, Jerusalem	26 Ben Gurion St., Haifa
Work Week	Monday-Friday	Monday-Friday	Sunday-Thursday
Hours	7:30AM-4:00PM	8:00AM-4:30PM	8:30AM-3:30PM
E-Mail Address	<a href="mailto:AMCTelAviv@state.gov">AMCTelAviv@state.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:JerusalemACS@state.gov">JerusalemACS@state.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:consage@netvision.net.il">consage@netvision.net.il</a>
Telephone During Working Hours	03-519-7575 (emergencies only)	02-630-4000	04-853-1470
After-Hour Emergencies	03-519-7575	02-622-7230	03-519-7575 (Embassy Tel Aviv)
On-Site Parking	NO	YES	NO (Available nearby)
Passport Appointments	<a href="#">Online</a>	<a href="#">Online</a>	<a href="#">By Telephone</a>
Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) Appointments	<a href="#">E-mail</a>	<a href="#">E-mail</a>	<a href="#">By Telephone</a>
Notary Appointments	<a href="#">Online</a>	<a href="#">E-mail</a>	<a href="#">By Telephone</a>
Emergency Passports	YES	YES	NO
Federal Benefits (e.g., Social Security)	Federal Benefits Unit comes to the Embassy monthly to provide limited services.	Full (Federal Benefits Unit located onsite)	None.
Renunciations	YES	YES	NO
Passport Roadshows (accept passport and CRBA applications and provide notary services)	Beit Shemesh, Beersheva, Dimona, Tzfat, Eilat, and Modiin (all annually)	Ramallah and Erez Crossing	NO (conducted by Embassy Tel Aviv)

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

U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
American Citizen Services  
71 Hayarkon Street  
Tel Aviv 6343229  
Israel

Phone: 03-519-7575  
(emergencies only)  
Fax: 03-516-4390

E-mail: [amctelaviv@state.gov](mailto:amctelaviv@state.gov)  
Voting: [votetelaviv@state.gov](mailto:votetelaviv@state.gov)