



EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

American Citizen Newsletter

October 2015

Voting Overseas: It's Easier Than You Think

Living abroad means you get to miss out on campaign ads, but it doesn't mean you have to miss out on voting. With the general election on November 3, it's not too late to cast your vote if you're already registered to vote in your state of residence. U.S. citizens can drop off their ballot at the Embassy Ouagadougou Consular Section. Many states also let you return your ballot electronically, making it easy to vote while living outside the United States. You can check out the [FVAP Voting Assistance Guide](#) for electronic voting options in your home state. Finally, if you're unable to vote online or come to the embassy, you can use a professional courier service such as FedEx or DHL.



Not registered to vote or need to request an absentee ballot? Want to vote in the presidential primary in early 2016? Living overseas doesn't take away your right to vote. You can submit the [Federal Post Card Application](#) (PDF file) to register to vote in your state of legal residence and to request an absentee ballot. The [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#) includes easy-to-follow instructions for registering to vote overseas. You just start with selecting your state of residence for voting. Questions? Email us at voteouaga@state.gov.

We Want You... To Be a Warden

During the political events of September, many U.S. citizens in Burkina Faso were relieved to receive a phone call or an email from their warden passing along security messages. The consular warden system is how the embassy quickly distributes security messages to U.S. citizens residing in Burkina Faso. During a crisis, especially when Internet connectivity is down, a phone call from a warden might be the only way citizens receive guidance from the embassy.

Warden zones are grouped by region or organization, with each zone typically containing a few dozen U.S. citizens. Wardens are responsible for maintaining a list of citizens in their zone to contact if asked to do so by the embassy. If you're interested in volunteering as a warden, contact us at consularouaga@state.gov.

Provided Services

The Consular Section provides the following routine services for U.S. citizens in Burkina Faso:

- Passport application and renewal
- Notarial services
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad
- Consular Reports of Death Abroad
- Addition of extra passport pages (through December 31 only)

To schedule a non-emergency service, contact the Consular Section to schedule an appointment.

Hours

Consular Section

Monday to Thursday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm

Non-Emergency Citizen Services

Monday and Thursday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm,
by appointment

Embassy Ouagadougou is closed during U.S. and Burkina Faso holidays.

Upcoming Dates

October 12: Columbus Day (U.S.)
November 2: All Saints' Day (Burkina Faso)
November 3: U.S. general election
November 11: Veterans Day (U.S.)
November 26: Thanksgiving (U.S.)
December 11: Proclamation of Independence (Burkina Faso)
December 25: Christmas Day (U.S./Burkina Faso)