



U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem

Message for U.S. Citizens  
Completing and Returning Absentee Ballots  
October 4 2012

Absentee ballots already delivered to overseas voters. Every U.S. citizen who requested an absentee ballot and selected the fax or e-mail delivery option should have it by now. Please vote and take steps to return your voted ballot promptly so your vote will count. See instructions below.

Returning your ballot by mail. Place your voted ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope containing the address of your local election officials. Drop it off at the Consulate, and we'll send it back home for you without the need to pay international postage. If you can't visit the Consulate in person, ask a friend or colleague drop it off for you. If it's easier for you to use the local postal system, be sure to affix sufficient international postage and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery. If time is tight, you may want to use a private courier service (e.g., FedEx, UPS, or DHL) to meet your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Although there are no voting facilities at the Consulate General, we can forward your voting-related materials -- such as voter registrations, absentee ballot requests, and completed absentee ballots -- to the U.S., free of charge. The materials must be sealed and properly addressed to the local board of elections, town clerk, city clerk, or other local administrative official in order to send them through the Consulate's mail facility. All envelopes must be postage-paid or bear correct U.S. postage. In order to deposit your electoral materials with us for forwarding to the U.S., please drop them during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at either the Consulate General's main office located at 18 Agron Road or to the Consular Section, which is located at 14 David Flusser Street in the Arnona neighborhood of Jerusalem. Please consult the Federal Voting Assistance Program's guide for determining your local electoral official in order to determine what address to write on your envelope.

Returning your ballot by e-mail, fax, or upload. Some states allow these options, but they may also require you to still mail in the signed paper ballot. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).

Haven't received your ballot yet? Use the emergency write-in ballot. U.S. citizens who requested an absentee ballot but haven't received it should go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to complete a Federal

Write-in Absentee Ballot. Follow the above guidance for returning your ballot. If you later receive your regular absentee ballot, vote and return it immediately. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if received by your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Forgot to register or request an absentee ballot? Act immediately! There are three options.

**Option #1:** Register and request a ballot today using the federal post card application at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov). Select the electronic ballot delivery option, include your e-mail address (and fax number) and send it to local election officials in your state. Almost every state lets you submit it by e-mail or fax. Once your application is processed they will send you your ballot via fax or e-mail, depending on your state. Vote as soon as you receive the blank ballot. Registration deadlines vary and some are as early as October 7, so check your state's requirements carefully.

**Option #2:** Follow the instructions in option #1, but also complete and send in a Federal Write-in Ballot at the same time to make sure your vote is counted. This option may be the best one for first-time voters if your state requires you to submit your Federal Post Card Application by mail. Vote and submit your regular absentee ballot if/when it arrives. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter and will use the regular ballot if it's received by the ballot receipt deadline.

**Option #3:** Voters from the following states can use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot as a combined voter registration form, absentee ballot request, and absentee ballot: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. (NOTE: This form must reach your local election officials by your state's absentee ballot request deadline or voter registration deadline, whichever is first.)

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by mail. Follow the guidance above for returning your ballot by mail.

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by e-mail or fax. The following states allow voters to e-mail or fax their signed, voted Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots back to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. (NOTE: See instructions at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) for faxing or e-mailing your voted ballot.)

Need help? You can get in-person assistance from our Consulate Voting Assistance Officers or private U.S. citizen volunteers. You may also drop off your completed voting materials for return to the United States at the Consulate General. Please drop them off during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at either the Consulate General's main office located at 18 Agron Road or the Consular Section, which is located at 14 David Flusser Street in the Arnona neighborhood of Jerusalem. Please consult the FVAP's guide for determining your local electoral official in order to determine what address to write on your envelope.

Have questions? Please contact Consulate General Jerusalem's Voting Assistance Officer at 02-630-4000 or e-mail us at [VoteJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:VoteJerusalem@state.gov).

Confirm your registration and ballot delivery online. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).

END U.S. CITIZEN MESSAGE

Regards,

American Citizen Services Unit

E-mail: [JerusalemACS@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemACS@state.gov)

Phone: +972-2-630-4000

Fax: +972-2-630-4070