



American Citizen Services Newsletter - Spring 2012

**Be an Absentee Voter,
Not an Absentee Citizen.**

VOTE! www.fvap.gov

Americans who reside overseas should submit a federal post card application (FPCA) once a year and any time they need to update their contact information.

Exercise your right to vote, because every vote counts. Many elections are decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%.

Table of Contents

2012 Voting Information	1
Upcoming U.S. Elections	2
What ACS Can Do For You	3
Other Sources of Assistance	3
ACS Questions and Answers	4
Land of The Free A Poem by Beatrice Edmonds	5
Profiles of Americans	6
ACS wants YOU as a Volunteer Warden!	6
The New IRS Form for Overseas Taxpayers	6
Follow ACS Somalia and ACS Kenya on Facebook and Twitter!	6
ACS Contact Information and Closures	7
Take the Foreign Service Officer Test	7
Work at U.S. Embassy Nairobi	7

Election	Margin of Victory
2008 Minnesota U.S. Senate	312 votes
2005 Virginia Attorney General	323 votes
2004 Washington Governor	133 votes
2000 Florida Electoral Votes (Presidential election)	537 votes
2000 New Mexico Electoral Votes	366 votes

**During the 2012 elections, hundreds of important
offices will be decided by voters, including:**

- President and Vice President
- 33 seats in the U.S. Senate
- 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Governorships in 11 States and 2 U.S. territories
- State and local offices
- Ballot questions and referenda

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!



2012 Election Dates



OVER HERE, OVER THERE, DON'T DESPAIR - VOTE!

This chart lists the 2012 State primary election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); States with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and Gubernatorial races. The General Election is Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

State	Presidential Primary	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		
				Federal		State
				U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	MARCH 13	MARCH 13	APRIL 24	NO	7	NO
Alaska	***	AUGUST 28	-----	NO	1	NO
American Samoa	***	-----	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	YES
Arizona	FEBRUARY 28	AUGUST 28	-----	YES	9	NO
Arkansas	MAY 22	MAY 22	JUNE 12	NO	4	NO
California	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	53	NO
Colorado	***	JUNE 26	-----	NO	7	NO
Connecticut	APRIL 24	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	5	NO
Delaware	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	1	YES
District of Columbia	APRIL 3	APRIL 3	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Florida	JANUARY 31	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	27	NO
Georgia	MARCH 6	JULY 31	AUGUST 21	NO	13	NO
Guam	N/A	SEPTEMBER 1	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Hawaii	***	AUGUST 11	-----	YES	2	NO
Idaho	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	NO	2	NO
Illinois	MARCH 20	MARCH 20	-----	YES	18	NO
Indiana	MAY 8	MAY 8	-----	YES	9	YES
Iowa	***	JUNE 5	-----	NO	4	NO
Kansas	***	AUGUST 7	-----	NO	4	NO
Kentucky	MAY 22	MAY 22	-----	NO	6	NO
Louisiana	MARCH 24	NOVEMBER 6	DECEMBER 1	NO	6	NO
Maine	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	2	NO
Maryland	APRIL 3	APRIL 3	-----	YES	8	NO
Massachusetts	MARCH 6	SEPTEMBER 6	-----	YES	9	NO
Michigan	FEBRUARY 28	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	14	NO
Minnesota	***	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	8	NO
Mississippi	MARCH 13	MARCH 13	APRIL 3	YES	4	NO
Missouri	FEBRUARY 7	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	8	YES
Montana	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	1	YES
Nebraska	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	YES	3	NO
Nevada	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	4	NO
New Hampshire	JANUARY 10	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	NO	2	YES
New Jersey	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	12	NO
New Mexico	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	3	NO
New York	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	27	NO
North Carolina	MAY 8	MAY 8	JULY 17	NO	13	YES
North Dakota	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	1	YES
Ohio	MARCH 6	MARCH 6	-----	YES	16	NO
Oklahoma	MARCH 6	JUNE 26	AUGUST 28	NO	5	NO
Oregon	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	NO	5	NO
Pennsylvania	APRIL 24	APRIL 24	-----	YES	18	NO
Puerto Rico	***	-----	-----	---	1 RESIDENT COMM.	YES
Rhode Island	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	2	NO
South Carolina	REP: JANUARY 21	JUNE 12	JUNE 26	NO	7	NO
South Dakota	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	JUNE 19	NO	1	NO
Tennessee	MARCH 6	AUGUST 2	-----	YES	9	NO
Texas	MARCH 6	MARCH 6	MAY 22	YES	36	NO
Utah	JUNE 26	JUNE 26	-----	YES	4	YES
Vermont	MARCH 6	AUGUST 28	-----	YES	1	YES
Virgin Islands	***	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Virginia	MARCH 6	JUNE 12	-----	YES	11	NO
Washington	N/A	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	10	YES
West Virginia	MAY 8	MAY 8	-----	YES	3	YES
Wisconsin	APRIL 3	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	8	NO
Wyoming	TBD	AUGUST 21	-----	YES	1	NO

*** State Caucus

Note: Election information is current as of January 2012. Check your State election website or www.fvap.gov for additional details and updates.

YOUR VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICER IS:

NAME _____
 LOCATION _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____



1-800-438-VOTE (8683)
 ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL
 TOLL-FREE NUMBERS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.FVAP.GOV



What Can Our American Citizen Services Unit Do For You? We Assist With the Following:

BIRTHS: We can issue a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, which functions as an American birth certificate.

ARRESTS: We can visit you if you are arrested, provide you with a list of lawyers, contact your family members or friends (with your permission), describe the trial process, and check on your welfare throughout your imprisonment.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: We can help coordinate air evacuation, provide a list of hospitals or doctors, contact your family and friends (with your permission), and visit you in the hospital. In some cases, we can help arrange a loan for emergency medical care.

SENDING MONEY: We can help your family members or friends send emergency funds to you.

EMERGENCY RETURN TO THE U.S.: We can help Americans in distress find ways to return to the U.S.

DEATH: We can notify the next of kin, help the family negotiate the disposition or possible repatriation of remains and personal effects, and assist with death certificates.

FEDERAL BENEFITS: We can act as liaison for your Social Security and Veteran Affairs benefits.

TAXES: We share information about filing U.S. taxes.

SELECTIVE SERVICES: We can help you enroll.

VOTING: We can help you with absentee voting.

NOTARY SERVICES: We can provide notary services including notarization of affidavits.

PASSPORTS: We can process your application for passport renewal, add pages to your passport, or report and replace a stolen or lost passport.

TRAVELING AND LIVING IN KENYA: We maintain information about Kenya at www.travel.state.gov regarding safety, security, Kenyan visa requirements and more.

CRISES: We assist citizens during incidents of terrorism, civil unrest, or natural disasters.

Other Sources of Assistance

KENYAN VISAS: Only Kenya can allow you to enter the country. Contact Kenyan Immigration directly at +254 (0)2 222022 or dis.immigration@go.ke.

AMERICAN VISAS: E-mail our visa units at VisitorVisaNairobi@State.gov or ImmigrationVisaNarobi@State.gov

BUSINESS DISPUTES: We can provide a list of Kenyan lawyers that may be able to help.

LOCAL SERVICES: We can give you a list of Kenyan hospitals, attorneys, and security firms. Please check the internet for your other service needs, such as banking and loan information, shipping, and document translation.

PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT: With your permission we can contact your friends and family to request their assistance.

AUTHENTICATIONS: Please contact us about fraudulently obtained or forged U.S. Passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. For other document authentications, please contact the authority that issued them.

SCHOOLS OR BUSINESSES IN THE U.S.: The best source for information often comes from the institution itself. Please check their website as well as reputable rating institutions like the Better Business Bureau or U.S. News and World Reports.

FINGERPRINTS: For fingerprinting related to petitions that are filed locally, please contact USCIS directly at US-CIS.public@dhs.gov, or at +254 (0)20-363-6111. For other U.S. Government fingerprinting matters, please contact the U.S. Agency requesting them. You can also have your fingerprints taken at any Kenyan police station.

RENEW OR REPLACE A DRIVER'S LICENSE: Please contact the issuing authority directly.



ACS Questions and Answers

Do you have a question about services provided for American citizens at the Embassy? If you would like to have your question published and answered in a subsequent issue of the ACS newsletter, please send it to Kenya_ACS@state.gov. We will try to answer all questions we receive!

Q: I am an American citizen. My passport was stolen last night and my flight back to the U.S. is in four days. Can you help me?

A: Yes. Full-validity replacement passports are mailed from the United States and take 10 business days to receive from the time that you submit your application at the Embassy. Since you are returning to the U.S. in less than 10 business days, you will need an expedited appointment for a limited-use emergency passport that is printed at the Embassy. For an emergency appointment, call our ACS unit at 020-363-6622 between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, or between 8 AM and 12:30 PM on Fridays. On the day of your Embassy visit, please allow extra time for security screening and bring the following items with you:

- A photocopy of your stolen passport and other identification, if you have any;
- A police report regarding the theft of your passport which can be obtained from the nearest police station;
- A completed DS-11 Form which can be downloaded from our website at <http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/service/passports/online-forms.html>;
- 1 2x2 inch photo; and
- \$135 or the equivalent in Kenyan Shillings. We also accept major credit cards for payment from American Citizens.

We can usually print an emergency passport within 24 hours. However, some circumstances may require more time to issue an emergency passport.

Q: I gave someone \$500 who said that they could get me a Kenyan work visa and now they have disappeared. Can you help me collect my visa or get me a refund?

A: The US Embassy in Nairobi has no influence or control over the Kenyan visa issuance process. Applications and payments for visas should be made to the Kenyan Immigration or to Kenyan embassies abroad. We would like to help get your money back, but consular officers are not allowed to intervene in local commercial disputes. Americans in Kenya will need to seek resolution through the Kenyan police and legal system. We maintain a list of attorneys on our website.

Q: I came to Kenya for a month but have decided to stay here indefinitely. Things are going well but I have run out of money. Can the Embassy give me a small loan to live on for awhile? Can the Embassy also loan me a little extra to invest in a local business opportunity?

A: Unfortunately, we do not offer loans for general subsistence or for business investments.



International School of Kenya Poetry Slam Award

Every year, the International School of Kenya hosts a poetry contest for the middle school students. Last year's winner was eighth-grader Beatrice Edmonds, who wrote about America from a young expatriate's point of view.

Land of the Free

By Beatrice Edmonds

People say we're ignorant and eat unhealthy food
But if you were from the land of the free and home of the brave, then you probably would be too

We don't have corruption around every corner or burn innocent people at the stake
Yet all people want to talk about is a bad leader and his mistakes

People flee to us for freedom, and we provide a home
We don't have starving children on streets, with no food, left to roam

We are a melting pot full of diversity so there is something you must realize
You can't classify us because we aren't one shape, color or size

We would talk about the wars or the bombs that we have dropped
But it seems less significant if you think about the terror we have stopped

Our roads are built strong and our buildings stand tall
And we stand together as one if two of them fall

Our men and women fight strong to protect our youth
How can you say this isn't beautiful, and still speak the truth

There is no doubt that I am bias, that is definitely true
But would you stand by and listen if people put down what is important to you?

I am proud to say that our president is black
And if someone does us wrong, we will most likely attack

I am not asking you to worship us or agree with everything we do
But I am asking you to respect us just like you want us to do to you



The ACS Section Wants You As a Volunteer Warden for Kenya or Somalia

Wardens play a vital part in our American citizen emergency notification system. Wardens help save lives by disseminating vital security and emergency information to Americans and by notifying the Embassy of unreported issues in their area. If you would like to volunteer as a Warden, please contact us at 020-363-6622 or by e-mail at Kenya_ACS@State.gov.

New IRS Form For Overseas Taxpayers

If you are a U.S. taxpayer and have certain foreign financial assets or foreign accounts you must file the 8938 Form (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets). It is important for you to determine whether this new requirement applies to you because the IRS imposes significant penalties on those who fail to comply.

Form 8938, and related instructions, are available on the web at:

www.irs.gov/form8938

Follow ACS Kenya and Somalia on Twitter and Facebook!

Somalia Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/acssomalia>

Somalia Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=292713604122005>

Kenya Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/acskenya>

Kenya Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=106703552789700>

Profiles of Americans in Kenya and Somalia

We are interested in sharing profiles of Americans working and living in Kenya or Somalia with the American community. If you or someone you know would like to share your story, please send a brief article (300 words, maximum) along with a photo to Kenya_ACS@state.gov.



ACS Contact Information

Email: Kenya_ACS@state.gov

Phone : +254-(0)20-363-6622

**After-hours emergencies:
+254-(0) 20-363-6170**

Make an appointment through our website at
<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/service.html>

**Please send adoption inquiries to
NairobiAdoptions@State.gov**

Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures:

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 28th (Administrative Wednesday- ACS section is closed)

Friday, April 6th (Kenyan Holiday – Good Friday)

Monday, April 9th (Kenyan Holiday – Easter Monday)

Wednesday, April 25th (Administrative Wednesday–ACS Section is closed)

Tuesday, May 1st (Kenyan Holiday–Labor Day)

Monday, May 28th (American Holiday–Memorial Day)

Wednesday, May 30th (Administrative Wednesday–ACS Section is closed)

Friday, June 1 (Kenyan Holiday–Madaraka Day)

Interested in serving around the world as a Foreign Service Officer?

Register for the **Foreign Service Officer Test** and take the exam at Embassy Nairobi!

Learn more at <http://careers.state.gov/officer/selection-process>

Americans can apply for jobs at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi at

<http://americanembassy.myjobsinkenya.com>