

ACS Monthly newsletter

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AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

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Message from the American Citizen Services Team

Greetings,

This newsletter is a public service for U.S. citizens in the Republic of Korea. Please feel free to share this newsletter with other U.S. citizens.

Best wishes,

American Citizen Services Team
U.S. Embassy Seoul



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Cast Your Vote in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure that overseas U.S. citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world. Follow a few simple steps below to vote in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Step 1: Request Your Ballot

Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2016 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2016 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices** 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. 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.

Step 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.

Step 3: Return Your Completed Ballot

Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically. However, if your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, the U.S. Embassy Seoul and U.S. Consulate Busan will be accepting ballots! Drop off your completed forms and ballots in the appropriate “postage paid” return envelopes, and we will mail them to the U.S.

If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, www.FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the U.S. Embassy Seoul's Voting Assistance Officer at 02-397-4114 or at VOTESEOUL@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!

Seoul Global Center Offers Range of Resources for U.S. Citizens in Seoul

Moving to a different country can be overwhelming for anyone, particularly if you don't speak the local language. The Seoul Global Center (SGC) offers a plethora of resources to foreign citizens, in nine different languages, to help them better navigate life in Seoul. SGC's flagship Seoul office (near Jonggak Station) provides a range of counseling services, including job search assistance, entrepreneurship workshops, free legal advice, and even sessions on handling labor disputes, drivers' license registration, insurance, and personal finances. The SGC's seven Village Offices offer services in other neighborhoods of Seoul. In addition the SGC maintains two business centers in Gangnam and Yeouido that offer start-up incubation and work spaces for promising foreign-owned businesses.

Click on the link below to view the incredible range of assistance offered at the Seoul Global Center: http://global.seoul.go.kr/index.do?site_code=0101

Note: This article is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the U.S. Embassy. The Department of State assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by Seoul Global Center. You may receive additional information on these services by contacting Seoul Global Center directly.

2016 Passport Awareness Month - #PicturePerfectPassport Campaign



The Department of State will celebrate passport awareness month in September with the launch of the **#PicturePerfectPassport** campaign to improve the quality of passport photos submitted by applicants.

Poor quality photos are the number one reason that passport applications are delayed during the application process. In 2015, more than 200,000 passport applications were delayed for inadequate photos. When a poor quality passport photo is received, the Department of State must notify applicants and request that a new photo be sent by mail. Passport applications submitted with photos that do not meet photo requirements could delay applications and interfere with travel plans.

Here are the **top five** reasons passport photos are rejected:

1. **Glare on glasses** – Glasses should be removed for a photo. Starting on November 1, we will no longer accept photos in which the applicant is wearing glasses or colored contacts.
2. Photo is **too light or too dark** – Photo must be clear to reflect true skin tone.
3. **Old photo** – Photo must have been taken within six months of submitting a passport application.
4. **Improper head size** – Photo taken too close or too far away will be rejected.
5. **Low quality image or paper** – Photo is blurry, grainy, pixelated, or printed on the wrong paper. Photos should be high resolution.

For information on passport forms and fees, visit Travel.State.Gov or call the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778/1-888-874-7793 (TTY/TTD).

Upcoming Outreach at USFK Installations



We offer passport, birth registration (Consular Report of Birth Abroad), and notarial services at USFK installations throughout Korea. Please note that you must have base access to attend these outreaches. Upcoming outreach events are below:

USAG Yongsan: Weekly on Wednesdays (*Please note: We will not offer passport services at Yongsan on Wednesday, October 5.*)

***Note: Report of Birth Appointments**

We now offer Consular Report of Birth Abroad appointments upon request on Thursday mornings at 8:00am at USAG Yongsan. The early time allows parents to complete the appointment before work in a quiet and private environment. Appointments are only available upon request and alternate days can be selected based on availability of the Consular Officer. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please send an email to SeoulInfoACS@state.gov.

Camp Casey: October 11, November 8, and December 6

Osan AFB: October 4 and November 1

Kunsan: October 13-14

Appointments are required for some services. To make an appointment or obtain additional information, please see our website at <https://kr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/off-site-services>.

Embassy Closures

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on Monday, October 3 (Korea National Foundation Day) and Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day).