

## U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Message for U.S. Citizens: Final Opportunities to Return Voted Ballots

22 October 2014

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.*

**Embassies and consulates are not polling places.** The majority of states require voted ballots to reach local election officials by the close of polls on Tuesday, November 4. U.S. citizens who want to participate in the 2014 U.S. elections should already have returned their absentee ballots to their local election officials. U.S. embassies and consulates are not polling places; same-day in-person voting is not available outside the United States.

**Never received your ballot?** If you have registered to vote and requested your absentee ballot prior to your state's registration and absentee ballot request deadlines but have not yet received your ballot, should immediately complete and return a [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot](#) to ensure your vote reaches election officials by your state's deadline. If your regular ballot arrives later, go ahead and complete and return it as well. Your [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot](#) will only be counted if your regular ballot does not reach local election officials by your state's deadline. Your vote will not be counted twice.

**Ballot not yet sent to local election officials?** If you wish to participate in this election and have not yet sent your ballot to your local election official, you should consider returning your ballot to the United States via an express courier service such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL. Some states or counties may allow you to return your voted ballot electronically. Ballots sent to local election officials via express courier service do not receive standard postmarks, so voters using this method should confirm delivery on or before November 4 prior to payment and shipment. Check your state's voting procedures at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) for guidance.

**Returning your [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot](#) by email or fax.** If you have previously registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot but it has not yet arrived the following states allow voters to use email or fax to send signed, voted Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii (fax only), Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska (paper copy must also be mailed), Nevada, New Jersey (paper copy must also be mailed), New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon (paper copy must also be mailed), South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. Check your state's voting procedures at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) for guidance.

**Returning your ballot by mail.** Ballots sent via regular international mail at this late date are unlikely to reach local election officials by state ballot receipt deadlines. If you still wish to send your voted ballot via mail, place your voted ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope addressed to your local election officials. Drop it off at the Embassy and we'll send it back home for you without the need to pay international postage. If you can't visit the Embassy in person, ask a friend or colleague drop it off for you. If it's easier for you to use the Philippines' postal system, be sure to affix sufficient international postage, and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery.

Ballots brought to the Embassy may be deposited in the ballot box in the Embassy Guardhouse between 8:00am and 3:00pm. The ballot box will be available through 12:00pm noon on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OVERSEAS VOTING.** Please help spread the word to your friends, family, and colleagues that now is the time to start thinking about overseas voting. Consider posting to your Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or other social media account that you are an active voter and will be dropping off or mailing your Federal Post Card Application or completed ballot. Use #ProudOverseasVoter to help get the word out about voting.

**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).

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to ["Traveler's Checklist"](#) on the State Department's website.