

MESSAGE TO U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

March 7, 2013

Deadlines for Special General Election

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.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. –The State of Illinois will conduct a Special General Election on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, for the 2nd Congressional District in order to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jesse Jackson, Jr. This district consists of parts of the City of Chicago, south suburban Cook County, Kankakee County, and Will County.

Every overseas voter from the 2nd Congressional District who wishes to participate in this election must submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for 2013 elections if you have not already done so this year. Your FPCA can be submitted electronically or by mail or fax. You may choose to use the automated tool at FVAP.gov to prepare and print your forms. FPCA forms are also available in embassies, consulates, and military installations around the world.

Be sure to indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (electronically or by mail or fax). For this election, if you choose to receive your ballot by mail, your ballot will be sent by express mail delivery and information about express delivery return will be included with your ballot. **The State of Illinois will also allow you to receive and return your ballot electronically for this Special General Election only.**

****NEW Important Dates****

- Ballot sent to you from election authority (if requested by March 8) - **March 8, 2013**
- FPCA request deadline for overseas citizens - **March 11, 2013**
- FPCA request deadline for Uniformed Services personnel, their spouses and dependents, U.S. government employees outside of the U.S., and non-resident civilians. - **April 1, 2013**
- Voted paper ballot postmarked to election authority - **Before midnight, April 8, 2013**
- Voted ballot transmitted to election authority if sending ballot by electronic method - **7 p.m., CST, April 9, 2013**
- Voted paper ballot received by election authority - **April 23, 2013**

If you applied in a timely fashion for an absentee ballot and are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB automated tool is available at **FVAP.gov**. The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates, and military installations around the world, including the U.S. Embassy in Manila and the U.S. Consulate in Cebu.

To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/IL>. You can also track the status of your ballot at <https://move.elections.il.gov/>.

If you choose to return your ballot (including the FWAB) by **mail**, your voted ballot must be **postmarked before midnight, April 8, 2013**, or shipped via commercial carrier prior to Election Day, and the ballot must be received by the election authority by April 23, 2013. If you choose to return your **ballot electronically** for this election, the ballot **must be received by 7 p.m., CST, April 9, 2013**. Your local election official will provide you with instructions for returning your ballot or your FWAB using these electronic methods.

Go to FVAP.gov to fill out and print your forms today! Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is available on this site along with Illinois voter-specific information.

Please see the U.S. Embassy in Manila's overseas voting [website](#) for general information and additional services.

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. American 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 or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens travelling to our residing in the Philippines enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) program. Registering gives you access to updated information on travel and security within the Philippines and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact you in case of emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

You can also stay up to date by bookmarking the [Department of State's website](#), which contains all current [Travel Warnings](#) and [Travel Alerts](#), as well as the current [Worldwide Caution](#). Please consult the [Country Specific Information on the Philippines](#), for general information about the Philippines. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers 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). You can also stay up to date by "following" us on [Twitter](#) and "liking" the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Facebook](#). You can also download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and the [Android market](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.