

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

January 4, 2013

Illinois to Hold Special Primary Election for Congressional District Two

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.

Illinois to Hold Special Primary Election for Congressional District Two

January 3, 2013 — Alexandria, Va. — The State of Illinois will hold a special primary election in the 2nd Congressional district on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, to fill the seat vacated by Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. The 2nd Congressional District consists of parts of the City of Chicago, south suburban Cook County, Kankakee County, and Will County.

You can register to vote and request an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or electronically using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) automated tool at FVAP.gov. Do not forget to indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (by mail, email, or fax).

Uniformed Services personnel, their spouses and dependents, and U.S. government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States must submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request an absentee ballot even though voter registration is not required.

Please note that you will not receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 6, 2012, General Election.

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB automated tool is available at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates, and military installations around the world.

Important Dates:

- Ballot sent to you from election authority (if requested by Jan 11): Jan. 12, 2013
- FPCA request deadline for unregistered overseas citizens: Jan. 28, 2013
- FPCA request deadline for Uniformed Services personnel, their spouses and dependents, and U.S. government employees outside of the U.S.: Feb. 19, 2013
- Voted ballot postmarked to election authority: Before midnight, March 11, 2013
- Voted ballot received by election authority: March 12, 2013

If you are unsure of your voter registration status, Illinois provides a voter registration look-up system at <http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/RegistrationLookup.aspx>.

To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <http://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx?Selected=Election+Authorities>.

Although we recommend you return your voted ballot as soon as possible, the candidate choices on your ballot may change after the hard-copy ballot is mailed to you on January 12. Check the website of your

election jurisdiction prior to voting your ballot. Your voted ballot must be **postmarked before midnight, March 11, 2013**, or certified prior to election day, and the ballot **must be received by Tuesday, March 12, 2013**.

Go to [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to fill out and print your forms today! Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is also available, as well as Illinois voter-specific information. Find a list of county contact information at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/IL>

For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process please visit [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for live chat assistance, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS), or email vote@fvap.gov. Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers. And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter.

Sign up for State-specific election information here <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/subscription.html>

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](#). You can also stay up to date by "following" the us on [Twitter](#) and "liking" the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Facebook](#). 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).