



**U.S. Embassy Kathmandu
Message for U.S. Citizens
Completing and Returning Absentee Ballots
October 2, 2012**

Absentee ballots already delivered to overseas voters. Every U.S. citizen who requested an absentee ballot and selected the fax or email delivery option should have it by now. Please vote and take steps to return your voted ballot promptly so your vote will count. See instructions below.

Returning your ballot by mail. Place your voted ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope containing the address of 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 time is tight, you may want to use a private courier service (e.g., FedEx, UPS, or DHL) to meet your state's ballot receipt deadline.

You can drop off your voter registration requests, absentee ballot requests, and voted absentee ballots at the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu for delivery to your local election official in the United States. The U.S. Government offers this service to U.S. Citizens living overseas to make absentee voting as easy as possible. The box is located inside the consular section security checkpoint building. Any U.S. Citizen can drop off the mail items listed above and the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu will send them via Diplomatic Pouch to the United States Postal Service (USPS) in Virginia. The mail will then enter the USPS system. It will take approximately ***three weeks*** for the mailed item to reach your local election official. You **must include proper postage and complete "to" and "from" addresses** on envelopes. Proper postage is needed for domestic mail, as if the envelope was deposited in a mailbox in the United States. If the envelope says postage paid on it, then no additional postage is necessary.

Returning your ballot by email, fax, or upload. Some states allow these options, but may also require you to still mail in the signed paper ballot. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.FVAP.gov or on your home state's election website.

Haven't received your ballot yet? Use the emergency write-in ballot. U.S. citizens who requested an absentee ballot but haven't received it should go to www.FVAP.gov to complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. Follow the above guidance for returning your ballot. If you later receive your regular absentee ballot, vote and return it immediately. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if received by your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Forgot to register or request an absentee ballot? Act immediately! There are three options.

Option #1: Register and request a ballot today using the federal post card application at www.FVAP.gov. Select the electronic ballot delivery option, include your email address (and fax number) and send it to local election officials in your state. Almost every state lets you submit it by

email or fax. Once your application is processed they will send you your ballot via fax or email depending on your state. Vote as soon as you receive the blank ballot. Registration deadlines vary and some are as early as October 7, so check your state's requirements carefully.

Option#2: Follow the instructions in Option #1, but also complete and send in a Federal Write-in Ballot at the same time to make sure your vote is counted. This option may be the best one for first-time voters if your state requires you to submit your Federal Post Card Application by mail. Vote and submit your regular absentee ballot if/when it arrives. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if it's received by the ballot receipt deadline.

Option #3: Voters from the following states can use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot as a combined voter registration form, absentee ballot request, and absentee ballot: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. (**NOTE:** This form must reach your local election officials by your state's absentee ballot request deadline or voter registration deadline, whichever is first.)

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by mail. Follow the guidance above for returning your ballot by mail.

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by email or fax. The following states allow voters to email or fax their signed, voted Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots back to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. (**NOTE:** see instructions at www.FVAP.gov for faxing or emailing your voted ballot.)

Need help? You can get in-person assistance from our Embassy Voting Assistance Officer at Lincoln School the morning of October 5 as part of the Embassy's Absentee Voting Week activities.

Have Questions? Please contact Embassy Kathmandu's Voting Assistance Officer at (+977-1) 400-7266 or 400-7269, or at VoteKathmandu@state.gov.

Confirm your registration and ballot delivery online. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website at www.FVAP.gov.

The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal is available to provide emergency assistance to American citizens 24 hours a day. The U.S. Embassy is located in the Maharajgunj neighborhood of Kathmandu. The Embassy's main switchboard number is +977-1-400-7200 or -7201 (the "+" sign refers to your international dialing prefix, if calling from outside Nepal, which is "011-" in the United States and "00-" from most other countries). Outside of our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. local time, Monday - Friday, an Embassy Duty Officer may be contacted by calling the main switchboard number at +977-1-400-7200, or if no answer at +977-1-400-7266 or -7269. Inquiries about American citizen services provided by the Embassy's Consular Section may be directed to

ConsKTM@state.gov. The Embassy's home page on the Internet is <http://nepal.usembassy.gov>, which contains more information on services provided by the Embassy's Consular Section.

For additional information, please refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State's website, <http://travel.state.gov/>. U.S. citizens living or traveling in Nepal are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at the following web site:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website, where the current Worldwide Caution and Country Specific Information for Nepal can be found. Travel information is also available at <http://travel.state.gov/>. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or for callers in other areas by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).