

**Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Electoral Security Awareness**  
**U.S. Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay**  
**April 18, 2013**

Paraguayan National Elections will be held on April 21, 2013. During the days before and after the elections, it is possible that groups may congregate for campaign rallies, protests, etc. Historically such gatherings have occurred in the downtown area of Asuncion. The Embassy recommends the following:

- Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.
- Gatherings can be mobile and their locations can change quickly. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.
- Always carry your cell phone with you. In the event of an accident or security incident, your cell phone is your lifeline to police support and emergency medical assistance.

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We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Paraguay enroll in the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). 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, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Paraguay](#). For additional information, refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)" on the State Department's website.

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 from within 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 App, available through [iTunes](#) and [Google play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is located at 1776 Mariscal Lopez Avenue.

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

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