

July 4th Voting Message

Celebrate democracy this 4th of July by taking the necessary steps to vote in the 2014 U.S. elections!

In order to vote in the November 2014 elections, all overseas U.S. citizens need to have completed a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\) in 2014](#). Whether you are a first-time voter or have already received ballots and voted absentee in past elections, you must complete an FPCA **each year** to participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

You can always get voting assistance from the Embassy, American Citizen Services Section or drop off your completed voting forms and ballots, addressed to your local election officials, during the following hours: Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. We will mail them to the United States for you free of charge via our Diplomatic Post Office. Mail sent through our diplomatic pouch generally takes 3 weeks to get to Washington, D.C., and another week to reach most U.S. counties.

If you have never voted while overseas before, the process is easy -- just follow these steps:

1. Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Whether you are a first-time voter or have voted absentee in past elections, complete an [FPCA](#) to receive your ballot this fall. It allows you to register to vote and request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (presidential and state primaries, run-off, special, and the November general elections) during the course of the year in which you submit the FPCA. Local election officials in all U.S. states and territories accept the [FPCA](#).

The [online voting assistant](#) available at [FVAP.gov](#) is an easy way to complete the [FPCA](#). It will ask you questions specific to your state and tell you if electronic ballot delivery is possible. No matter which state you vote in, **we encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically** (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Be sure to include your email address to take advantage of electronic delivery. The [online voting assistant](#) will generate a printable [FPCA](#), which you can then print and sign.

2. Submit the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

See the information at the beginning of this message for options to drop off your FPCA in person to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw.

If it's more convenient for you, you can have a friend or family member drop off your FPCA to the [embassy/consulate] on your behalf or you can send your [FPCA](#) or ballot directly to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

3. Receive Your Ballot

After submitting your FPCA, most states allow you to confirm online your registration and ballot delivery selection. States are now required to send out ballots 45 days before an election for federal office (President, U.S. Senate, or U.S. House of Representatives) to any overseas U.S. citizen who has completed an FPCA.

4. Return Your Ballot

As with the FPCA, you can return your voted ballot to your local election officials free of charge via the nearest embassy or consulate or mail it directly at your own expense.

Your Vote Counts

Many U.S. elections within the past ten years have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%. All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline (differs by state).

Be an educated voter. Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via numerous websites such as [Project Smart Voter](#). You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, and search the Internet to locate articles and information.

To receive information by email about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact Embassy Warsaw's Voting Assistance Officer at +22 504 2784, or at acs warsaw@state.gov.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens and nationals traveling to or residing in Poland 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 [Poland](#). 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 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](#) or the [Google Play store](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

The [U.S Embassy in Warsaw](#) is located at Aleje Ujazdowskie 29/31 (tel. +48-22-504-2000) and is open to the American public Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., excluding Polish and American holidays and the last working Wednesday of each month. Appointments may also be scheduled for Mondays and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **In the event of emergency only**, you may contact the Embassy duty officer after hours at tel. +48-22-504-2000.