
ACS NEWSLETTER

It's time to **VOTE!**



Overseas citizen voters face a specific set of challenges while voting absentee. For more information, check www.fvap.org. This website will provide you with information you need to successfully cast an absentee ballot.

Voting by absentee ballot is easy



Register to vote if required.



Request an absentee ballot at FVAP.gov.



Sign and send the request to your local election office.



Receive your absentee ballot.



Vote, sign and return the ballot to your State.

Or nearest U.S. Embassy

Paying U.S. Taxes From Abroad

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside. For an online tutorial, check the following [video](#).

You must express the amounts you report on your U.S. tax return in U.S. dollars. If you receive all or part of your income or pay some or all of your expenses in foreign currency, you must translate the foreign currency into U.S. dollars. For more information, visit www.irs.gov

At a Glance: Zika Virus

The Zika virus is an emerging infection widespread throughout much of Latin America and the Caribbean. There is a strong potential that this infection will continue to spread. A Zika infection spreads through mosquito bites and is typically manifested as a mild flu-like illness, fever, a rash, conjunctivitis, and joint pains but most cases are “silent”, meaning that the infected person feels no symptoms at all. Health authorities such as the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization harbor serious concerns that an infection during pregnancy can cause birth defects in newborn babies whose mothers may have been infected with the Zika virus.

Pregnant women especially should protect themselves from getting bitten by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. CDC precautions should be followed and can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.htm>

We urge you to follow any updates regarding the Zika virus at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/zika-virus-caribbean>

To obtain CDC travel notices, call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

Countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission



Regularly monitor the State [Department's Web site](#), where you will find the most current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Trinidad and Tobago.

Passport Expiring Soon? Renew it Now!



The Department of State anticipates a surge in passport demand throughout this year, and officials hope to avoid a crush that could leave some Americans fuming in frustration with no passport in hand on the day they planned to travel.

There is no reason to wait!

Schedule an appointment at trinidad.usembassy.gov



Federal Benefits and Obligations Abroad

If you are residing overseas and are interested, you can [apply for SSA retirement benefits and disability benefits](#). The IRS website also has the [form to apply for a Social Security Card](#) for yourself or your children.

Social Security services for residents of Trinidad and Tobago are provided by the Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (email address: FBU.SantoDomingo@ssa.gov). For detailed information on Social Security benefits, you should access the Santo Domingo [FBU website](#).

For general inquiries, please call 1-800-772-1213.

Applicants and beneficiaries residing in Trinidad and Tobago can be assisted by the American Citizens Services Unit in Port of Spain as it relates to obtaining information about Social Security and other agencies.

Please contact us via e-mail: acspos@state.gov or

call (868) 622-6371 (the American Citizen Services Unit) between Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-3:00pm) for assistance with non-receipt of benefit payments (please specify paying agency, for example: Social Security, OPM, VA, CSA etc.) and to update new applications or forms for benefits submitted previously.

The IRS website also has a complete information page devoted to this topic. Among the subjects treated at [Social Security Tax Consequences of Working Abroad](#).

To be eligible to receive Social Security retirement benefits you generally must have contributed to the Social Security system for a cumulative total of at least 40 quarters (10 years) – or be the spouse or child of someone who paid into the system for minimally this length of time.

Our Services

Between 9:00am and 11:00am
Monday through Friday

U.S. Notary Public Services: [by appointment only](#) at 11:00am,
Monday through Friday

Applications for a Consular
Report of Birth Abroad : [by appointment only](#) at 10:00am,
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Social Security / Federal Benefits
Information: [by appointment only](#) between 1:00pm and
3:00pm, Monday through
Thursday

For Information On Reporting
The **Death Of A U.S. Citizen**
Abroad please contact the
American Citizen Services Unit.
Phone: (868) 622-6371, Email:
acspos@state.gov.

STEP

The American Citizens
Services Unit recommends
that you to register for the
**Smart Traveler Enrollment
Program** at

<https://step.state.gov/step/>. Once registered, as a
U.S. citizen residing
outside of the United
States, you can:

-Receive important
information from the
Embassy about safety
conditions in your
destination country,
helping you make
informed decisions about
your travel plans.

-Help the U.S. Embassy
contact you in an emergency,
whether natural disaster, civil
unrest, or family emergency.

-Help family and friends get
in touch with you in an
emergency.



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

In an emergency
involving an American
citizen in Trinidad and
Tobago, you can reach
us during normal
business hours and
after hours, seven days
a week, via the main
Embassy telephone
number: 622-6371 (if
dialing from the U.S.: 1
868 622 6371). Please
note that this number is
NOT for visa or general
inquiries.

United States Embassy

15 Queen's Park West
Port of Spain
Trinidad & Tobago

Email: acspos@state.gov

Overseas Citizen
Services Hotline (inside
the U.S.): 1-888-407-
4747

Overseas Citizen
Services Hotline (outside
the U.S.):
1-202-501-4444