

Warden Message

March 8, 2010

Greetings from the U.S. Mission to Ecuador. The following Warden Message is part of our program to keep American citizens visiting or residing in Ecuador apprised of information that may affect them. We hope this message finds you well and wish to inform you of the following:

On **Tuesday, April 13, 2010**, Florida will hold a special general election to fill the congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Robert Wexler. The 19th Congressional District includes parts of Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

The candidates in this election are:

- Democratic: Ted Deutch
- Republican: Ed Lynch
- No Party Affiliation: Jim McCormick
- Write-in: Josue Larose

Request Your Ballot

If you do not have one on file, you need to fill out an absentee ballot request as soon as possible. The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) ballot application and instructions are available at www.fvap.gov.

Send your FPCA NOW to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return the ballot! The online version of the FPCA and Florida's instructions on how to fill out and submit the form are available at: www.fvap.gov.

If you are not a registered voter, your FPCA must be postmarked by March 15, 2010. Although the registration deadline is March 15, 2010 and the ballot request deadline is April 7, 2010, these dates do not take into account mail delivery times required to receive and return your ballot by Election Day. You should not wait to complete and submit your FPCA, especially if you are completing the process by mail from an overseas location.

If you are already registered to vote, you may fax your request for an absentee ballot. If you are not already registered, you must return this form by mail. It is recommended that you fax the form directly to your local election official (fax numbers can be found on the Florida Division of Election website at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us>).

Receive and Return Your Ballot

Local election officials send overseas ballots approximately 45 days before the election, February 26, 2010. If you are overseas and want to receive your blank ballot by fax or as an email attachment, you must mark this preference on your FPCA or personally contact your local Supervisor of Elections office by email or phone. Otherwise, the ballot will be mailed to you.

Recommended Mailing Dates for Your Voted Ballot

The deadline for your voted ballot to be received by the local election official is 7 pm, April 13, 2010 for military voters and their dependents located within the United States. The deadline for your voted ballot to be received by the local election official is 7 pm, April 23, 2010 for military voters and their dependents located outside the United States and other U.S. citizens overseas, though your ballot must be placed in delivery by 7 pm, April 13, 2010. Although these are the deadlines for receiving your ballot, you should mail your ballot by the following dates to account for mail delivery times.

- From Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom Locations/Deployed Navy Vessels: **March 17, 2010**
- From Other Overseas Military Installations: **March 24, 2010**
- From Other Overseas Locations: **March 17, 2010** (or earlier, depending on foreign mail service)
- From Within the United States: **April 6, 2010**

To make sure your ballot arrives by the deadline, vote and return your ballot **IMMEDIATELY** upon receiving it! To save transit time if you are overseas, return your voted ballot by fax as provided in the instructions accompanying your absentee ballot.

Use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

If you request your ballot prior to April 7, 2010, you may use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote in this special General Election. Everything you need to complete a FWAB is available at www.fvap.gov ; just follow the instructions for using the FWAB in Florida. The FWAB is also available from your Voting Assistance Officer. Vote the FWAB by using the candidate list above or, you may write in another candidate of your choosing, or simply write-in a political party designation and the candidate running under that party's designation will receive your vote.

For More Information: Go to the Florida Division of Election website at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us> or visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.

We Want Your Feedback! If this document was helpful to you or if you ran into problems or have questions, please contact FVAP at 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or at vote@fvap.ncr.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at:

www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. With your feedback, we can make this even more helpful for the next election.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website <https://travelregistration.state.gov> , and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador.

Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone number for public call-in hours (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Friday 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593-2-398-5172/5537/5588. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.