

Two Warden Messages – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

Tax Time – Filing from Abroad And Certain Foreign Citizens Eligible to Vote in Ecuador

March 3, 2011

1) Tax Time – Filing from Abroad

Tax time is once again upon us. The good news: Those who are resident overseas receive an automatic extension of the normal April 15 deadline to June 15. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing tax returns, other than the deadlines, are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your individual circumstances generally determine whether you must file an income tax return. The following Internal Revenue Service (IRS) web page may assist you in determining your filing requirements: [Am I required to file a U.S. tax return?](#)

Ecuador will not be recipient of an IRS representative visit this year. However, the most useful information for taxpayers abroad has been compiled into a single document: <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/quito/153436/ACS/pub4732.pdf>. In it, you can find important information for U.S. taxpayers living abroad, including filing requirements, deadlines, and contact numbers and websites for additional assistance.

The Embassy has posted much state-by-state information on its website, as well as a link to the IRS website, which is a comprehensive resource for tax questions.

http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/public_services/taxes.html

2) Certain Foreign Citizens Eligible to Vote in Ecuador

At the request of the Government of Ecuador, the U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens living in Ecuador that the Government of Ecuador has announced that foreign citizens who have resided legally in Ecuador for at least five years have the right to vote in Ecuadorian elections. Voting is not mandatory for foreign citizens. In order to vote, you must enroll in the Electoral Registry at the local office of the National Electoral Council, whose offices are located in each provincial capital. There, you will need to present the original and legible copies of both your “cedula” and passport with resident visa, and then complete the registration form with your personal information.

In Quito, the National Electoral Council offices are located at Iñaquito N35-227 and Ignacio San Maria.

The following link provides location information for Electoral Council offices in other provinces:

http://cne.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_weblinks&view=category&id=25%3Adelegaciones-provinciales&Itemid=65

Important: Enrollment is open only until March 7th, 2011.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to enroll with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

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 website](#). 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 American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (011 593-2) 398-5200. Appointments for ACS are available through our [website](#).

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. For assistance in the Galapagos Islands, please contact the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil.

Anyone can follow the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador through the [Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).