

Warden Message – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador
May 7th Consulta Popular Voting Obligations for U.S. Citizen Residents of Ecuador

May 5, 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens living in Ecuador that this Saturday, May 7, 2011, the Ecuadorian government has called the nation to a Consulta Popular (referendum), where all Ecuadorian citizens aged 18 to 65 are obligated to vote on ten ballot questions. Citizens under age 18 and those over the age of 65 are not obligated to vote.

As of 2009, under the new Ecuadorian Constitution, voting is voluntary for legal residents of Ecuador. “Legal residency” not only refers to natural-born Ecuadorians, but also to all non-Ecuadorian citizens who hold a cedula (Ecuadorian ID card), given to them after they received legal residency through an immigrant visa.



The U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil have requested information from several Ecuadorian institutions regarding the obligatory nature of legal residents’ right to vote. While the Constitution states that voting is voluntary, the Consejo Nacional Electoral has stated that **all legal residents must present themselves at the voting center to which they are assigned regardless of their years of residency.**

In order to know if you are registered, visit the Consejo Nacional Electoral’s (CNE) website <http://app.cne.gob.ec/lugarvotacion/>. Enter your cedula number into the search field and click “consultar” to find your voting center. If nothing shows after you have entered your cedula number, then you are not registered to vote and you do not need to present yourself at any voting center.

If you will be voting on Saturday, you will need to bring your cedula with you to the voting center at which you have been registered. Each voting center has trained personnel that will confirm your registration and give you the voting sheet. Your vote is private. The questions on the ballot, which are in Spanish, can be found at: <http://www.cne.gob.ec/flyer.pdf>.

After you hand in your voting sheet, they will give you a “Certificado de Votacion” (Voting Certificate). This certificate is important as you will need this when doing any type of legal paperwork in the future. If you are unable to vote or chose not to vote, you must go to the CNE office and get the appropriate certification.

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.

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