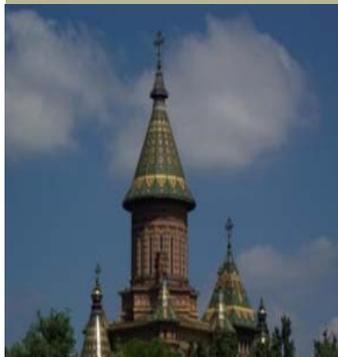




American Citizen Services eNewsletter

January 2012

REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT FOR UPCOMING PRIMARIES



The U.S. Embassy urges American citizens to vote in upcoming *Presidential Preference Primaries and State Primaries*. The Presidential Preference Primaries and State Primaries are fast approaching and in several States have already taken place. The U.S. Embassy



urges those Americans living in Romania who have still not registered in their U.S. state of residence to do so now, before it's too late. For more specific information on issues and candidates, non-partisan voter guides can be downloaded from national news websites like CNN or organizations like the League of Women Voters. Voters should also check their favorite local news source for election issues specific to their state and municipality. U.S. citizens in Romania can make their voice heard in this year's election by making sure they are registered to vote in their state of last residency. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov/) or a non-partisan overseas voter organization like Youth Vote Overseas (yvo.overseasvotefoundation.org) can be used to confirm registration, or to check an individual state's voter registration deadlines and register online. Once voter registration is secured, U.S. citizens can choose to have a ballot sent to them by mail or email. Overseas ballots can be filled out as soon as they are received. Deadlines for individual states can be found online here (<http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/election-dates-deadlines.htm>)

facebook



Read more about voting on page 3.



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program

All non-emergency ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notariats, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with our staff.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: 4-6 Dr. Liviu Librescu Blvd.

E-mail: acsbucharest@state.gov

Tel: +40-21-270 6000

Fax: +40-21-200-3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.





Our Consular Section now has its *very own* Facebook page!! The page was created to share news from the Consular Section, as well as answer questions about visas, consular issues and American citizen services. So, once again, we are turning to you for your help to spread the word around! Here's a message from our Consul General Stephen Vann:



Hello and welcome to the U.S. Embassy Bucharest Consular Section's Facebook page. One of the highlights of working in the Consular section is getting to talk to Americans and Romanians every day. We look forward to communicating with you via Facebook as well. In the coming weeks and months we will post announcements, tips and videos about traveling in Romania and to the United States, but the most important content for us will come from you, so we look forward to seeing it.

Thanks and Vă mulțumim!

Stephen Vann, Consul General, U.S. Embassy Bucharest



and



WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



Last year, nearly 100 million taxpayers opted for the safest, fastest and easiest way to submit their individual tax returns - *IRS e-file*. Since 1990, taxpayers have e-filed nearly 1 billion Form 1040 series tax returns safely and securely. E-file is the norm. And now, with Free File, everyone can file Form 1040 series tax returns for free!

Remember—everyone can e-file, and everyone can e-file individual tax returns for free!

Visit <http://www.irs.gov/efile/index.html> and learn about the safest, fastest and easiest way to submit individual tax returns.

It may sound as a worn out cliché but if there is one certainty in life, it's the fact that you will have to file taxes.

It's never too early to think about it.

The IRS Website offers a lot of useful information, including When, Where and How to File for Americans and Alien Residents living overseas. Look for some handy tips at

<http://www.irs.gov>.



Voters from these States should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballot for the March, April, and May 2012 Presidential Preference Primary (P) and State Primary (S) elections listed below.

March Primaries: (30-Day Notice)

NOTE for March Primaries: *If you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot at FVAP.gov* (see FWAB information below):

- Georgia (P): March 6
- Massachusetts (P): March 6
- Ohio (P,S): March 6
- Oklahoma (P): March 6
- Tennessee (P): March 6
- Vermont (P): March 6
- Virginia (P): March 6
- Alabama (P,S): March 13
- Mississippi (P,S): March 13
- Illinois (P,S): March 20
- Louisiana (P): March 24

April Primaries: (60-Day Notice)

- District of Columbia (P,S): April 3
- Maryland (P,S): April 3
- Texas (P,S): April 3 (*this is a change! the election was originally scheduled March 6*)
- Wisconsin (P): April 3
- Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24
- Connecticut (P): April 24
- Delaware (P): April 24
- New York (P): April 24
- Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24
- Rhode Island (P): April 24

May Primaries: (90-Day Notice)

- Indiana (P,S): May 8
- North Carolina (P,S): May 8
- West Virginia (P,S): May 8
- Idaho (P,S): May 15
- Nebraska (P,S): May 15
- Oregon (P,S): May 15
- Arkansas (P,S): May 22
- Kentucky (P,S): May 22
- Texas (Primary Runoff): May 22

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to the FVAP.gov web portal or by following the instructions in the [Voting Assistance Guide](#), also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include *an email address, phone number, and/or fax number* on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. Remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your [State's election website](#) to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpc.html>, or visit your [State website](#).

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in **March** Primary States), vote the FWAB at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA



WE REMIND YOU...

... *that effective October 1, 2010*, if your travel plans include airline flights to/from the United States, you will be required to provide the following information at the time you make your reservations and at least 72 hours before beginning travel:

- **Full Name (as it appears on your passport)**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Gender**
- **Passport number and date of expiration**

The information you provide will be submitted to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials, who will then check it against the information on those persons included on its no-fly lists. If the TSA has not received this information in a timely manner, then your reservations may be cancelled and you could be denied boarding at the time you are scheduled to fly.

Please visit the **TSA website** for Secure Flight FAQs and more information.



Transportation
Security
Administration

... *that U.S. driver's licenses are only valid in Romania for up to 90 days*. Before the 90-day period has expired, U.S. citizens must either obtain an international driving permit (IDP) in addition to their U.S. driver's license or a Romanian driver's license. The Department has designated the American Automobile Association (AAA) and the American Automobile Touring Alliance as the only authorized distributors of IDPs.

Read more about IDP at http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/about_romania.html



... *that if you plan to live and work in Romania*, you will need to acquire a work permit. This process requires effort from both your Romanian employer and you. Contact the Romanian Embassy in Washington for more information on specific requirements at 1607 - 23rd St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone number (202) 232-4747, or at one of the Romanian consulates in Los Angeles, Chicago, or New York City. The Romanian Embassy maintains a web site at <http://www.roembus.org>.



ENGAGE

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STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. STAY SAFE.



In 2012, the Embassy will be closed on February 20, April 16, May 1, May 28, June 4, July 4, August 15, September 3, October 8, November 12, November 22, December 25 and December 26 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays and for administrative reasons.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I invited my Romanian friend for a visit to the United States and he has an interview scheduled at the Embassy. Can I be present at the interview?

No. We are happy to see you at the Embassy and assist you with a variety of American citizen services that you may require. However, **you will not be able to be present at the nonimmigrant visa interview.** Please, understand that the interview between a Romanian visa applicant and a U.S. consular officer is confidential. Therefore, Americans sponsoring or supporting visa applicants cannot be present at the time of the interview. Furthermore, please note that the invitation or affidavit of support cannot guarantee visa issuance to a foreign national friend, relative, or student. Visa applicants **must qualify** under Section 214(b) according to their own circumstances, not on the basis of an American sponsor's assurances.

If you have any other questions about U.S. nonimmigrant visas, please, contact our staff at VisasBucharest@state.gov.

