



# The Sarajevo Sentinel

A newsletter for American citizens living, working, and visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina

Produced by the Consular Section of U.S. Embassy Sarajevo

SUMMER 2012

## U.S. Embassy Sarajevo

**1 Robert C. Frasure**

71000 Sarajevo

(387) 33 704 000

(387) 33 221 837 FAX

*For after-hour emergencies, please call the Embassy switchboard.*

For all telephone inquiries, please call us Monday through Friday between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

### American Citizen Services

#### Business Hours:

Monday through Friday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.;

Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

*\*We can provide better service if you make an appointment at*

<http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov/service.html>

ACS e-mail: [rws@state.gov](mailto:rws@state.gov)

#### Non-Immigrant Visa Hours:

By appointment only.

Call Visa Information Service:

(387) 33 295 375

#### Immigrant Visa Hours:

By appointment only.

[IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov](http://IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov)

The Embassy will be closed:

**4 July – Independence Day**

**20 August – Ramadan Bajram**

**3 September – Labor Day**

## VOTING OVERSEAS



To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living outside the United States must be registered to vote and must request an absentee ballot. In order to register to vote and/or to request an absentee ballot, an eligible U.S. citizen must accurately complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and submit it to the voting officials in your “legal state of residence” in the United States.

The “legal state of residence” is the state in which you could vote if you were present in that state. The rules for determining that state depend on your status overseas.

If you have any questions or would like to request a hard copy of the FPCA, you may contact the Voting Officer at U.S. Embassy Sarajevo at, [VoteSarajevo@state.gov](mailto:VoteSarajevo@state.gov)

Please note that the deadline for submitting the FPCA may vary from state to state. In order to ensure timely delivery of the election ballot to you, every non-registered citizen is urged to submit the FPCA at least 60 days prior to the election; registered citizens are urged to submit the FPCA at least 45 days before the election.

## ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS

First, you send in a completed FPCA to your local election officials. Then they confirm your eligibility to vote, and put your name on a list to receive absentee ballots. They send you a blank absentee ballot by mail and make it available electronically. You complete the ballot and send it back before the ballot receipt deadline. If your ballot fails to arrive, use the emergency federal write-in ballot to vote. If the ballot receipt deadline is drawing near, but you still haven't received your ballot 30 days before the election, you should complete and submit a [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#).

## REGISTER TO VOTE OPEN HOUSE



In addition to voting assistance services the Consular Section regularly provides, we will host a special Open House devoted to those needing voting registration assistance on **Wednesday, June 27, 2012, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., in our Consular public waiting room. The Voting Officer will be present to answer any of your questions.**

Visit us on the web at: <http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov> and find us on FACEBOOK: United States Embassy Sarajevo

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE STATE BY STATE

### Alabama

**In Person:** Friday, Oct. 26, 2012

**By Mail:** Friday, Oct. 26, 2012

<http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/Default.aspx>

### Alaska

**In Person:** Sunday, July 29, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 29, 2012

<http://www.elections.alaska.gov>

### Arizona

**In Person:** Monday, May 14, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by May 14, 2012

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/>

### Arkansas

**In Person:** Saturday, August 18, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by August 18, 2012

<http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

### California

**In Person:** Monday, May 21, 2012

**By Mail:** Monday, May 21, 2012

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>

### Colorado

**In Person:** May 29, 2012 (Primary)

**By Mail:** Received by May 29, 2012 (Primary)

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/>

### Connecticut

**In Person:** Tuesday, October 30, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Tuesday, October 23, 2012

<http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp>

### Delaware

**In Person:** Saturday, August 18, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked on/by August 18, 2012

<http://elections.delaware.gov/>

### District of Columbia

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Received by Tuesday, October 9, 2012

<http://www.dcboee.org/home.asp>

### Florida

**In Person:** Monday, July 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 16, 2012

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/>

### Georgia

**In Person:** Monday, July 2, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 2, 2012

<http://sos.georgia.gov/>

### Hawaii

**In Person:** Tuesday, July 12, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by Tuesday, July 12, 2012

<http://hawaii.gov/elections>

### Idaho

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Oct. 12, 2012

<http://www.idahovotes.gov>

### Illinois

**In Person:** October 10, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by October 10, 2012

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/>

### Indiana

**In Person:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by Oct. 9, 2012

<http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/index.htm>

### Iowa

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked by May 26, 2012

<http://sos.iowa.gov/>

### Kansas

**In Person:** Monday, July 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by, July 16, 2012

<http://www.kssos.org/>

### Kentucky

**In Person:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by, Oct. 9, 2012

<http://sos.ky.gov/elections/>

### Louisiana

**In Person:** March 21, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by March 21, 2012

<http://www.sos.la.gov/>

### Maine

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked 21 days before election

<http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/election/index.html>

### Maryland

**In Person:** October 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Oct. 16, 2012

<http://www.elections.state.md.us/>

### Massachusetts

**In Person:** Friday, August 17, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Aug. 17, 2012

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>

### Michigan

**In Person:** Monday, July 9, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 9, 2012

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html>

## Minnesota

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 25, 2012

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1>

## Mississippi

**In Person:** Saturday, October 6, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by October 6, 2012

<http://www.sos.ms.gov/elections.aspx>

## Missouri

**In Person:** Wednesday, July 11, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 11, 2012

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/>

## Montana

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked by May 7, 2012

<http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.aspx>

## Nebraska

**In Person:** Friday, October 19, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Oct. 19, 2012

<http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.htm>  
[/#boxingName](#)

## Nevada

**In Person:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by May 22, 2012

<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=3>

## New Hampshire

**In Person:** Election Day (until polls close)

**By Mail:** Received by September 1, 2012

<http://sos.nh.gov/Elections.aspx>

## New Jersey

**In Person:** Tuesday, October 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by Oct 16, 2012

<http://www.state.nj.us/state/election/>

## New Mexico

**In Person:** Tuesday, May 8, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by May 8, 2012

<http://www.sos.state.nm.us/>

## New York

**In Person:** Friday, June 1, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by June 1, 2012

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/>

## North Carolina

**In Person:** Friday, October 12, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Oct 12, 2012

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

## North Dakota

**In Person:** No registration necessary

**By Mail:** No registration necessary

<http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/>

## Ohio

**In Person:** Monday, July 9, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by July 9, 2012

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/>

## Oklahoma

**In Person:** Friday, June 1, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by June 1, 2012

<http://www.ok.gov/elections/index.html>

## Oregon

**In Person:**, Tuesday, October 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by Oct. 16, 2012

<http://oregonvotes.org/>

## Pennsylvania

**In Person:** Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by Oct. 9, 2012

<http://www.votespa.com/>

## Rhode Island

**In Person:** Sunday, August 12, 2012

**By Mail:** Sunday, August 12, 2012

<http://www.sos.ri.gov/>

## South Carolina

**In Person:** Saturday, May 12, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Saturday, May 12, 2012

<http://www.scvotes.org/>

## South Dakota

**In Person:** Monday, May 21, 2012

**By Mail:** Received by May 21, 2012

<http://sdsos.gov/default.aspx>

## Tennessee

**In Person:** Tuesday, July 3, 2012

**By Mail:** Tuesday, July 3, 2012

<http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/index.htm>

## Texas

**In Person:** 30-Apr-12

**By Mail:** Postmarked by April 30, 2012

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml>

## Utah

**In Person:** 05-Mar-12

**By Mail:** Postmarked by March 5, 2012

<http://elections.utah.gov/>

## Vermont

**In Person:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012

**By Mail:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012

<http://vermont-elections.org/sos/home.htm>

## Virginia

**In Person:** October 15, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by Oct. 15, 2012

<http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/>

## Washington

**In Person:** Late reg. July 30, 2012

**By Mail:** Received July 9, 2012

<http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/>

## West Virginia

**In Person:** October 16, 2012

**By Mail:** Postmarked by October 16, 2012

<http://www.sos.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

## Wisconsin

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Postmarked by May 16, 2012

<http://gab.wi.gov/>

## Wyoming

**In Person:** Election Day

**By Mail:** Friday July 20, 2012

<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Elections.aspx>

### ASK THE CONSUL

Please email us your questions to [rsw@state.gov](mailto:rsw@state.gov) and you may see your answer in the next issue of the Sentinel.

### Q: Do I have to be registered to vote absentee??

**A:** Registration requirements vary from State to State. Most States and territories require registration to vote absentee. Voter registration and absentee ballot request can be done at the same time by submitting the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) and can be easily and automatically completed by using the FPCA wizard at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). If you are already registered to vote and only wish to request a ballot, you

should submit your FPCA as soon as possible.

### Q: When is the best time to apply for an absentee ballot?

**A:** We recommend that you register to vote/request an absentee ballot in January of each year, or at least 90 days before Election Day.

### Q: When mailing election materials to my State or territory, do I have to pay postage?

**A:** When mailed from any U.S. post office, U.S. embassy or consulate, or APO/FPO mail facility, the hardcopy voter registration/absentee ballot form is postage-paid. In order to receive free postage, the online version of the form must be mailed in an envelope printed with our [postage-paid envelope template](#).

You may mail the completed form in an envelope with proper postage affixed. Ensure that your form is postmarked (see postmarking instructions below) and sent to arrive before your State's specific deadline. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility.

It is recommended that voted ballots be mailed from your location outside the U.S. rather than be given to another individual to be placed in the U.S. postal system. If the ballot is postmarked from any location inside the U.S. your local election official may not count your ballot.

### Q: When should I receive my ballot?

**A:** States and territories are required to mail ballots at least 45 days before an election. If you have not received your ballot 30 days before the election, contact your

local election official (contact information available on most [State election sites](#)). If you encounter problems contacting your local election official, contact us. Always complete and return your absentee ballot regardless of when you receive it, even if you have already submitted a [back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#) (explanation below). Your local election official will ensure that only one of the ballots is counted.

### DON'T LET YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRE!



If you are planning on traveling during the holiday season, please check the validity of your passport. Passports take around TWO WEEKS to arrive at post.

Please make an appointment online.

<http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov/service.html>



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## Contacting the Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy Sarajevo

If you reside in Bosnia and Herzegovina and require forms or information, you may contact the Voting Assistance Officer by email at [VoteSarajevo@state.gov](mailto:VoteSarajevo@state.gov)

For more information check the following websites:

<http://www.fvap.gov/> Federal Voting Assistance Program

<http://www.eac.gov/> The U. S Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm> Overseas Vote Foundation

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas\\_voting/overseas\\_voting\\_4754.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas_voting/overseas_voting_4754.html) U. S. Department of State

<http://www.vote411.org/>

**We look forward to seeing you  
at our Voting Registration Open House  
Wednesday, June 27, 2012, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
in the U.S. Embassy's Consular Public Waiting Room**