



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 51

April, 2012

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

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shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html

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Register and Request Your Ballot for Upcoming Primaries

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

April Primaries (30-Day Notice):
NOTE for April 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).

- District of Columbia (P,S): April 3
- Maryland (P,S): April 3
- 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: (60-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 (P,S): May 29 (This is a change; the election was originally scheduled for March 6, then April 3)

June Primaries: (90-Day Notice)

- California (P, S): June 5
- Iowa (S): June 5
- Montana (P, S): June 5
- New Jersey (P, S): June 5
- New Mexico (P, S): June 5
- South Dakota (P, S): June 5
- Arkansas (Primary Runoff): June 12
- Maine (S): June 12
- Nevada (S): June 12

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

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Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our holiday closings is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

- May 01, Tuesday:** International Labor Day (国际劳动节 Guójì Láodòng Jié)
- May 28, Monday:** Memorial Day (阵亡将士纪念日 Zhènwáng Jiāngshì Jìniàn Rì)
- June 25, Monday:** Dragon Boat Festival (端午节 Duānwǔ Jié)

New IRS Form for Overseas Taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) wishes to bring to the attention of U.S. citizens abroad a new information reporting form that taxpayers will use starting this tax filing season to report specified foreign financial assets for tax year 2011.

The Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets) should be filed by taxpayers with specific types and amounts of foreign financial assets or foreign accounts. It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply.

Form 8938, the instructions, regula-

tions implementing this new foreign asset report, and other information to help taxpayers determine if they are required to file Form 8938 is available on the web at:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/article/0,,id=23666>.

The Consulate website maintains a Help for Overseas Tax Payers webpage with extensive guidance and resources for those preparing their U.S. taxes from abroad. Please visit our webpage at:

<http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/tax.html>.

For specific questions on taxes you may email the IRS field office at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing at

irs.beijing@irs.gov; please allow several days for a reply.

Taxpayers located outside the U.S. may also contact the IRS by mail at: Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 920 Bensalem, PA 19020

Or you may telephone or FAX the Philadelphia Service Center office at: Tel: 267-941-1000 (not toll-free) Fax: 215-516-2555 Phone service available from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm (EST) M-F

You may also visit the U.S. Internal Revenue Service webpage for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad at: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries:

<u>Cote d'Ivoire</u>	04/23/2012
<u>Burundi</u>	04/18/2012
<u>Eritrea</u>	04/18/2012
<u>Mali</u>	04/09/2012

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

<u>Tunisia</u>	04/17/2012
<u>Guinea-Bissau</u>	04/13/2012

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at :

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html .

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.

Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them:

<http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

Register and Request Your Ballot for Upcoming Primaries

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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/wheresendfpca.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.

Additional information:

Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

If you'd like more information on the

Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to the FVAP.gov web portal or call FVAP at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584). Email vote@fvap.gov and don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter for election updates throughout 2012.



Voting Assistance Workshop



The American Citizen Services section of the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai is pleased to announce that an attaché from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will visit Shanghai to conduct a voting assistance workshop on Monday, May 7, 2012, from 9:00am to 11:00am.

The workshop is open to all interested American citizens and will cover the specific procedures for registering and voting abroad.

To reserve a seat for the workshop and receive additional instructions, please send an email to ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

Overseas Taxpayers Get Automatic 2-Month FILING Extension

U.S. income tax returns were due on April 15th. If you reside overseas, however, you are given an automatic two month extension to file.

However, any tax money you owe must be paid by April 15th to avoid

paying interest and possibly penalties.

Note: Payments are not considered received until the date of actual receipt by the IRS, not the postmark date.



IRS Tax Time Scams and Phishing

It is that time of year again, tax time. Here are a few reminders and some information from the Internal revenue Service that may help alleviate a little of the tax time stress.

IMPORTANT NOTES: The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request detailed personal or financial information. The IRS does not send any communication requesting your PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

What is phishing? Phishing is a scam typically carried out by unsolicited email and/or websites that pose as legitimate sites and lure unsuspecting victims to provide personal and financial information.

All unsolicited email claiming to be from either the IRS or any other IRS-related components such as the **Office of Professional Responsibility** or **EFTPS**, should be reported to phishing@irs.gov.

What to do if you receive a suspicious IRS-related communication

If	Then
You receive an email claiming to be from the IRS that contains a request for personal information ...	<p>Do not reply. Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer. Do not click on any links. If you clicked on links in a suspicious email or phishing website and entered confidential information, visit our identity protection page. Forward the email as-is, to us at phishing@irs.gov. After you forward the email and/or header information to us, delete the original email message you received.</p>
You discover a website on the Internet that claims to be the IRS but you suspect it is bogus send the URL of the suspicious site to phishing@irs.gov . Please add in the subject line of the email, 'Suspicious website'.
You receive a phone call or paper letter via mail from an individual claiming to be the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee ...	<p>Phone call: Ask for a call back number and employee badge number. Contact the IRS to determine if the caller is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you. If you determine the person calling you is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you, call them back. Letter or notice via paper mail: Contact the IRS to determine if the mail is a legitimate IRS letter. If it is a legitimate IRS letter, reply if needed. If caller or party that sent the paper letter is not legitimate, contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.</p>
You receive an unsolicited e-mail or fax, involving a stock or share purchase ...	<p>... and you are a U.S. citizen located in the United States or its territories or a U.S. citizen living abroad. Complete the appropriate complaint form with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward email to phishing@irs.gov. Please add in the subject line of the email, 'Stock'. If you are a victim of monetary or identity theft, you may submit a complaint through the FTC Complaint Assistant.</p> <p>... and you are not a U.S. citizen and reside outside the United States. Complete the appropriate complaint form with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Contact your securities regulator and file a complaint. Forward email to phishing@irs.gov. Please add in the subject line of the e-mail, 'Stock'. If you are a victim of monetary or identity theft, you may report your complaint to consumer.gov.</p>
You receive an unsolicited fax (such as Form W8-BEN) claiming to be from the IRS, requesting personal information ...	<p>Contact the IRS to determine if the fax is from the IRS. If you learn the fax is not from the IRS, please send us the information via email at phishing@irs.gov. In the subject line of the email, please type the word 'FAX'.</p>
You have a tax-related question ... Note: Do not submit tax-related questions to phishing@irs.gov.	If you have a tax-related question, unrelated to phishing or identity theft, please contact the IRS .

Shanghai's Consular Section Launches Sina Weibo

The Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai has launched its own Sina Weibo - <http://www.weibo.com/shanghaiusavisa>. (Sina Weibo is a Chinese microblogging website. Akin to a hybrid of Twitter and Facebook, it is one of the most popular sites in China, with a similar market penetration that Twitter has established in the USA.)

On this page, people can find information about applying for U.S. non-immigrant visas, as well as services the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit Shanghai offers to Americans traveling or residing in China. If you have a Sina Weibo account and would like to receive regular up-

dates, we invite you to visit this page.

The Sina Weibo page is intended as a supplement to, NOT a replacement for, the Shanghai Consulate's webpage <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn> and ACS unit's warden message system. At this moment the posts at our Sina Weibo are all in Chinese. You may ask questions in both English and Chinese.

How to Join: From your Sina Weibo page, search for "shanghaiusavisa" and click the "follow" button on the right of the search result. This will allow you to access the page and receive updates.

Local News: City Gets Serious about Food Safety

Apr. 19, 2012 (by Dong Zhen, Shanghai Daily) -- "SHANGHAI'S food safety watchdog is tightening up its crackdown against harmful food-production practices, increasing inspections and offering rewards for people who report problems.

Since the beginning of last year, authorities have cracked 80 food-safety cases and arrested 180 businessmen, Yan Zuqiang, director of the Shanghai Food Safety Office, said yesterday.

On a far greater scale, more than 7,000 local food manufacturers had their licenses revoked by the food safety watchdog for violations such as selling unsafe food, using substandard cooking oils or illegal additives, and more than 8,000 unlicensed food businesses have been shut down, Yan said.

More than 200 tons of kitchen waste oil sold to underground recyclers was seized over the same period and 160 underground mills processing such leftover kitchen oil were busted.

The city's **food safety hotline 12331** has received more than 6,000 reports from locals since opening three months

ago. The office yesterday said much of the information was valuable but did not specify a percentage.

Those offering tips to help crack down major food safety crimes can get awards of up to 200,000 yuan. The watchdog is also planning to improve street food safety by better regulation later this year. Local residents will find more convenient breakfast and snack carts on the street with safer sanitation conditions and higher food quality as the government is to expand temporary snack zones in designated areas under strict supervision.

Some trial schemes, such as putting street food stalls inside the Gumei neighborhood in Minhang District and the Zhenxin neighborhood in Jiading District, have proved effective and welcomed by residents, officials said.

The breakfast and other snack vendors are allowed just several hours on the sides of the streets and workers must clean the streets at the end of each day. Only licensed vendors are allowed to operate inside the zones.

The initiative is meant to boost the supply of quality breakfasts and snacks to meet the huge demand among commuters.

Many commuters now buy breakfast from unlicensed mobile stalls on street corners because it's convenient.

"It will be a helpful change but I hope the government could bear in mind the convenient accessibility to office workers when they choose where to locate more such breakfast zones," said Zhao Yan, a company worker and daily Metro commuter."



List of Hotlines in Shanghai

* Police电话报警: 110	contact the Foreign Affairs Office directly)	Funeral Services殡葬服务: 962840
Text Message to Police短信报警: 12110	* Airports Flight Inquiries航班问询: 96990	Bus Hotline公交热线: 969000
* Fire火警: 119	* China Telecom中国电信: 10000	Subway Hotline地铁热线: 64370000
* Ambulance救护: 120	* China Mobile中国移动: 10086	Railway Hotline铁路热线: 95105105
* Lifeline英语帮助热线: 62798990	* China Unicom中国联通: 10010	Medical Appointments Hotline上海助医网 声讯咨询热线: 95001120
(A public-benefit, non-profit organization offering free, confidential, and anonymous information and emotional support; open 10am – 10pm, 365 days a year)	* Qiang Sheng Taxi强生出租: 62580000	Shanghai Notary Publics公证: 96987200
* Directory Assistance查询电话号: 114	Da Zhong Taxi大众出租: 96822	China Post中国邮政: 11185
* Shanghai Call Center信息服务: 962288	Telephone/IPTV Repairs电话/有线电视故障报修 112	Junk SMS Report垃圾短信: 12300
(A 24H hotline dedicated to assist foreigners in addressing daily life inconveniences)	(Emergency repairs for telephone and broadband TV (IPTV) breakdowns)	Consumer Rights消费者协会: 12315
* Exit-Entry Bureau 出入境管理: 28951900	Cable TV Service有线电视: 96877	Urban Construction城建投诉: 12319
* Tourist Complaints旅游: 962020	Housing Management物业: 962121	(For complaints on a wide range of transport and construction services)
Time Service报时服务: 12117	Community Services社区: 962200	Food and Drug Safety食品药品安全: 12331
* Weather Report天气预报: 12121	(Helps people to find services such as locksmiths and shops to repair household appliances)	* Labor Department劳动保障: 12333
* Foreign Affairs Office外事办: 22161600	Recycling Pickup再生资源回收交投962300	* Price Complaints价格举报: 12358
(Can authenticate Chinese documents to be used in the U.S.; for detailed procedures and requirements, please	Home Appliance Repairs家电维修: 962512	* Quality Complaints质量热线: 12365
	* Water Supply供水热线: 962740	Finance and Tax Consultation财税: 12366
	Gas Supply燃气热线: 962777	Environment Protection环保: 12369
		* Provide English Services

Local News: China to Crack Down on Illegal Foreigners

Apr. 26, 2012 (Xinhua) -- CHINA is to crack down on foreigners illegally entering, living or working in China, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Vice Minister of Public Security Yang Huanning was delivering a report on the administration of entry-exit, residence and employment of foreigners to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

Yang said the crackdown will include improving visa policies, strengthening border controls, repatriating illegal aliens, and setting up repatriation locations in regions that have large numbers of such foreigners.

Yang said it was difficult to manage foreigners illegally entering, living or working in China, as there were no detention locations for them and a lack of police staff who spoke a foreign language.

"Some foreigners refuse to provide their real identities, and some foreign embassies and consulates in China are inefficient in verifying identities," Yang said.

Most illegal foreigners are from neighboring countries, said Yang, adding that language training, housekeeping and labor-intensive industries were the main sectors employing them.

Police last year investigated more than 20,000 incidents in which foreigners illegally entered, lived or worked on China's mainland, double the number in 1995, Yang said.

Almost 600,000 foreigners lived in China for more than six months in 2011, compared to only 20,000 in 1980, while 220,000 foreigners were employed on the mainland last year, compared to 74,000 in 2000.

A draft law on exit and entry administration was submitted to lawmakers for its second reading on Tuesday.

The draft stipulates harsher punishments for people who enter or exit China illegally.

Yang said China will issue more green cards and ease restrictions for visa-free entry to encourage more talented individuals from overseas to work in the country.

"We will increase the eligibility quota for green cards and consider extending the applicable scope for duty-free entry and multiple-entry visas in order to make China more competitive in soliciting foreign investment and talent," Yang said.

By the end of 2011, 4,752 foreigners were given a Permanent Residence Card, or the Chinese equivalent of a green card.

Ordinary visas will be granted to foreigners who enter the country to work, study, visit relatives, travel or conduct business, as well as to those who fall under the "talent introduction" category, according to the draft law.

Yin Weimin, minister of human resources and social security, said last month that China will make greater efforts this year to resolve visa and residency permit issues for foreigners.

China will introduce favorable policies for foreigners in relation to social insurance, taxation, medical services, education for their children and academic funding, Yin said.