

**U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg, Russia
MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS**

MASSACHUSETTS TO HOLD SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR U.S. SENATE

February 06, 2013

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold a special primary election for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, to fill the seat vacated by Senator John Kerry.

You can register to vote and request an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or electronically using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) automated tool at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>. Do not forget to indicate on the FPCA your party preference as well as how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (by mail, fax or email).

Uniformed Services personnel, their spouses and dependents, and U.S. government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States must submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request an absentee ballot.

Please note that you will not receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 6, 2012, General Election.

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB automated tool is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>. The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates, and military installations around the world.

Important Dates

FPCA request deadline - Before 12 PM EDT, April 29

Voted ballot received by election authority - Before 8 PM EDT, April 30

To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/track/trackmyballot.aspx>.

Your voted ballot must be received **before 8 PM EDT on April 30, 2013.**

The Special General Election will be held Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

Go to www.FVAP.gov to fill out and print your forms today! Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is also available, as well as Massachusetts voter-specific information. Find a list of county contact information at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/MA>

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For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, visit FVAP.gov for live chat assistance, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS), or email vote@fvap.gov. Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers for assistance during any step of the process. [Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP), Twitter [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP)

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Russia at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip

Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street and is open 9:00 am – 17:30 pm, telephone 7- 812- 331-2600. Appointments are required for all non-emergency services. The American Citizen Services Unit at the Consulate General assists U.S. citizens in northwest Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials, and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for U.S. citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in northwest Russia. You may obtain additional information, and make appointments online, at our website: <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov/>. You may contact our American Citizen Services Unit by e-mail at StPetersburgACS@state.gov, by fax at 7-812-331-2646 or by telephone at 7- 812- 331-2600. If you have an emergency after normal business hours, please call our telephone number and you will be given instruction on how to contact the Consulate Duty Officer.