

U.S. Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Message for U.S. Citizens
Final Opportunities to Return Voted Ballots

October 25, 2012

U.S. Embassies and consulates are not polling places. The majority of states require voted ballots to reach local election officials by the close of polls on Tuesday, November 6. U.S. citizens who want to participate in the 2012 U.S. elections should already have returned their absentee ballots to their local election officials. U.S. embassies and consulates are not polling places; voting in person is not available outside the United States.

Ballot not yet sent to local election officials? All voters who wish to participate in this election who have not yet sent their ballots to their local election officials should consider returning their ballot to the United States via an express courier service such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL. Some states or counties may allow you to return your voted ballot electronically. Check your state's voting procedures at www.FVAP.gov for guidance.

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by email or fax. The following states allow voters to use email or fax to send signed, voted Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. Check your state's voting procedures at www.FVAP.gov for guidance.

Returning ballots via express courier service. Voters can hire express courier companies such as UPS, DHL, and FedEx to return voted ballots. Through October 31, FedEx is offering discounted shipping for last-minute voters in 94 countries through the Express Your Vote program <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/ExpressYourVote.htm>. Ballots sent to local election officials via express courier service do not receive standard postmarks, so voters using this method should confirm delivery on or before November 6 prior to payment and shipment.

Returning your ballot by mail. Ballots now sent via mail are unlikely to reach local election officials by state ballot receipt deadlines. If you still wish to send

your voted ballot via mail, place your voted ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope addressed to your local election officials. Drop it off at the Embassy and we will send it back home for you without the need to pay international postage. If you cannot visit the Embassy in person, ask a friend or colleague drop it off for you. If it is easier for you to use Zambia's postal system, be sure to affix sufficient international postage and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery.

Voted ballots (in a U.S. postage-paid envelope addressed to your local election officials) can be dropped off at the Consular Section during regular business hours. Generally it takes about 3-8 days for pouch mail to reach the United States. Please note that there is a ballot box at the consular entrance where you can drop off your voted ballots.

Have Questions? Please contact Lusaka's Voting Assistance Officer at 0211-357-260, or at VoteLusaka@state.gov.

Confirm your registration and ballot delivery online. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website at www.FVAP.gov.

You can stay in touch and get updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy in Zambia website](#). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information for Zambia](#). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at the Bureau of Consular Affairs page or download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App for travel information at your fingertips. If you do not have Internet access, you can obtain current information about safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line 1-202-501-4444. Respondents are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy cannot prevent you from traveling to locations despite a Travel Warning. For your personal safety and security and the peace of mind of your family and friends, it is useful for you to notify us in advance of your travel plans via the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is located on Ibex Hill Road, Lusaka. The Consular Section can be contacted at 0211-357-000 or via email at ACSLusaka@state.gov. For assistance after hours or in an emergency, you can contact us at 0211-357-000 or 0966-877-805.