

U.S. Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Message for U.S. Citizens: Voting in 2014

April 10, 2014

Your vote counts! Did you know that many recent U.S. elections have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by military and overseas voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

Follow these few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2014 U.S. elections:

Registering to Vote: Complete a new [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). *Even if you have voted by absentee ballot in the past, you must complete a new [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) to vote in the 2014 elections.* The [FPCA](#) is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories. It allows you to register to vote and to request absentee ballots for all regular, primary, run-off, and special elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives) during the year the application is submitted.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at [FVAP.gov](#). The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. It will tell you if your state allows the [FPCA](#) to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature.

Receiving Your Ballot: Request Electronic Delivery! States are now required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office (President, U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives) and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. No matter which state you vote in, we encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Be sure to include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. You can now also confirm your [registration and ballot delivery online](#) for most states.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their

positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain via numerous websites such as [Project Smart Voter](#). You can also read national and hometown newspapers on-line, or search the Internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Returning Your Completed Ballot: Other Options. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge at the nearest embassy or consulate. They must be in either postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and must also be addressed to the relevant local election officials.

24 Hour U.S. Voting Drop Box (Embassy Main Entrance): For your convenience, you can drop your paper voting forms and ballots into the red, white, and blue U.S. Voting Drop Box located in the U.S. Embassy's main entrance (not the consular entrance), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Again, please note that voting forms or ballots must be in either postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient U.S. postage, and must be addressed to relevant local election officials or they will not be mailed.

Drop Off at Consular Section: U.S. citizens coming for routine consular services can submit their paper voting forms and ballots directly to the consular section during normal ACS business hours and they will be returned to the United States.

If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your paper FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact Lusaka's Voting Assistance Officer at (0211-357-260), or at (VoteLusaka@state.gov address).

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Zambia enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Zambia](#). For additional information, refer to the [“Traveler’s Checklist”](#) on the State Department’s website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in 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](#) and [Facebook](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is located on Ibex Hill and is open Monday through Thursday from 0730 to 1730 and on Fridays from 0730 to 1130. The Consular Section can be contacted at 0211-357-000 or via email at ACSLusaka@state.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +260 (0) 966-877-805**