

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI NEWSLETTER

Fall – Oct. thru Dec. 2016

American Citizen Services (ACS)

Shantipath
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110 021
Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tel: 2419-8000
Emergencies after hours and
on weekends: 2419-8000
Fax: 2419-8407
Email: acsnd@state.gov

Useful Links

[U.S. Embassy Website](#)

[Registration and Travel
Information](#)

[Applying for a Passport](#)

[Consular Reports of Birth Abroad](#)

[Obtaining an Immigrant Visa for a
Relative or Spouse](#)

[Non-Immigrant Visas](#)

[Green Cards, Employment
Authorization, and Immigration
Services and Benefits:](#)

[Medical and Legal Assistance](#)

[Emergency Services for U.S.
Citizens](#)

[Selective Service System](#)

[Social Security Administration](#)

[Internal Revenue Service](#)

Meet the New Consul General



*George Hogeman
Consul General, New Delhi*

George Hogeman assumed duties as New Delhi Embassy Consular Chief on June 29, 2016. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, he comes to New Delhi following a one-year assignment as the Hostage Program Coordinator in the Bureau of Consular Affairs implementing the recommendations of the Hostage Policy Review announced by the President on June 24, 2015. He earlier served as Consular Chief in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Other consular tours include Taiwan, Tanzania, Canada, and Nigeria. From 2010-11, he served as the Civilian Team Lead for the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team at Forwarding Operating Base Mehtarlam, Afghanistan. He and his wife Geryllyn met while serving in the Peace Corps in Kenya and have two adult children.

Zika Virus Information for Travelers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued travel notices for numerous countries regarding the Zika virus. The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to infected mothers. Zika may also be linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can affect individuals of any age or sex.

Zika virus is typically a mosquito-borne illness, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission. CDC recommends that women who are pregnant should not travel to areas that are at elevations less than 2,000 m above sea level in countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission.

For additional information about Zika, including travel advisories, visit the CDC website and view the White House's Zika page. To obtain CDC travel notices, call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website.

U.S. Citizen Services New Delhi

The American Citizens Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi is open for routine consular services from **8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday** excluding holidays. **Wednesday mornings from 8:45 to 12:00 p.m.** are now **open** for Citizen Report of Birth Abroad cases (**CRBA**). Make your appointment online on [here](#). To visit the American Citizen Services Unit, please come to Gate 6 of the Embassy (generally known as the "Visa Gate") located on Andre Malraux Marg between Nyaya Marg and Shantipath in the Chanakyapuri neighborhood of New Delhi. Appointments are required to apply for new or renewal of passports, registration of birth abroad, notary public. For general walk in questions you can stop by without an appointment on Thursdays from 3-3:30pm. Emergencies after hours and on weekends call: 2419-8000

Upcoming U.S. Embassy Holidays

October 10	Columbus Day
October 11	Dusehra
November 11	Veterans Day
November 14	Guru Nanak's Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
December 26	Christmas Day

From the desk of ACS Chief ...

Greetings and a warm welcome to our fall issue of the ACS quarterly newsletter!

We couldn't be more excited to have made it through the summer and heading into festival season – the kids are back to school, and we are looking forward to the colors, sounds and joy of the coming holidays.

It has been a busy summer for our U.S. Citizens Services Unit as the U.S.-India relationship continues to deepen. The Embassy recently hosted high level visitors from Washington, D.C. including Secretary of State Kerry and Commerce Secretary Pritzker who engaged the government of India on various strategic and commercial issues of mutual interest to the U.S. and Indian governments. We were also involved in the annual U.S.-India Consular Dialogue, including Consular Affairs Assistant Secretary Michelle Bond and Indian Ministry Officials talking about visas, prisoners, child abduction, adoptions and other issues important to U.S. citizens. This week, we're hosting Ambassador Susan Jacobs, the United States' Special Advisor for Children's Issues, as she focuses on getting India to accede to the Hague Convention on Child Abduction, joining nearly 100 other countries in following protocols for resolving cases of children abducted by a parent and taken across international borders. Once India joins, the Convention would provide a mechanism for abducted children to be returned to their habitual residence, using an established legal framework for parents to resolve custody disputes.

While we've been working closely with our Indian counterparts and high-level visitors this summer, our focus is always on our U.S. citizen community in India. One of the ways we hope to develop and serve our community is through the assistance of local volunteers. In the next few pages, please take the time to read about the newly invigorated "Warden" program, now aptly called the "American Liaison Network." Through this network, badged, trained volunteers – often long-time residents with amazing local knowledge – serve as a resource for other U.S. citizens and offer a link to the Embassy in times of need. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you've benefitted from the work of our volunteers, drop us a note. We'd love to hear from you!

Have a healthy, happy festival season!

Greg Floyd



Your U.S. Passport

Passports and Citizenship

[Univision's New Prep Tool for the US citizenship Exam Tests Your Civics Skills](#)

Univision's August 2016

In the midst of fierce public debate over US immigration policy, Spanish-language news network Univision has put together a list of practice questions to help immigrants test their knowledge of American civics and prepare for their US citizenship exam.

[Federal judge urges US to grant gender neutral passport](#)

Hawaiian Tribune July 2016

A federal judge on urged the State Department to give a gender neutral passport to a Colorado Navy veteran who does not identify being male or female in a case that's the first of its kind in the United States. U.S. District Judge R. Brooke Jackson also suggested he might issue an order forcing the government to do so if it does not successfully negotiate a settlement to the legal challenge by Dana Zzyym, who was denied a passport for refusing to check "male" or "female" on the application. Zzyym was born with ambiguous sexual characteristics and raised as a boy but later came to identify as intersex and neither man nor woman. Government lawyers argued that moving beyond two gender choices for passports would upend officials' ability to verify identities and backgrounds because of reliance on drivers' licenses and birth certificates issued by states offering only male and female gender options.

Thank you for properly securing your passport and for staying on top of your travel plans.



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

FACT SHEET

**Wherever U.S. citizens go,
FVAP ensures their voice is heard.**

The Federal Voting Assistance (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF 186) is for use by Service members, their eligible family members living outside their voting jurisdiction and U.S. citizens residing overseas. This write-in absentee ballot can be used as a backup when you are living outside your voting residence, have applied for a regular State ballot through the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76) and have not received the requested State ballot in time to vote by the election deadline.

When to submit your FWAB

If you have registered to vote and requested your absentee ballot by the State's deadline but have not received your regular State ballot within 30 days of the election, or longer if you are living in an area where mail delivery is not reliable, FVAP recommends submitting the FWAB as a backup. If you receive your State ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return it as well. If both your State ballot and your FWAB are received by the deadline, only your State ballot will be counted.

NOTE: Some States allow you to use the FWAB for registration if you did not submit an FPCA. For information about your State's requirements, visit FVAP.gov/FWAB.

Where to get a FWAB

FVAP provides an online FWAB assistant to walk you through the form and provide you with applicable candidate names for Federal offices. Simply select your State from the drop-down and choose "Get My Ballot Now" or "Get My Backup Ballot" to begin. **Once completed, do not forget to print and sign the form before submitting it to your local election office.**

For your convenience, the most current FWAB available may be printed out at FVAP.gov. Forms are also available in hardcopy at military installations, U.S. embassies and consulates. If you only have an older hardcopy version of the form, please use it in conjunction with your current State guidelines.





Will my FWAB be counted?



YES

All FWABs submitted on time and according to State rules will be counted. However, here are the most common reasons for rejection:

- **Illegible handwriting.** If you prefer to type your information, you may complete the FWAB form online and print it out.
- **No signature.** Don't forget to sign and date your completed FWAB before mailing to your local election office.
- **No ballot request on file.** Ballot requests can be made using an FPCA. Not all States require you to first submit an FPCA.*
- **Transmitted in a manner not allowed by State law.** Some States accept an emailed or faxed FWAB, while others require a hardcopy.*
- **Received after the deadline.** Deadlines vary by State.*
- **Not witnessed.** Some States require witness signatures.*
- **Voter signatures on file don't match the submitted ballot.**
- **Not filled out completely or accurately.** Look over your completed FWAB to ensure you have provided all the information required by your State, including a complete voting residence address (P.o. Box addresses are not valid).

*Specific State requirements at FVAP.gov/FWAB.

★ Cast your ballot by submitting a completed FWAB

The FWAB has two distinct sections: (1) the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation, which serves to identify and authenticate you with the local election official processing the form and (2) the ballot and security envelope, which allow you to make your selections and keep those choices secret. For the hardcopy or online version of the FWAB, both the Declaration/Affirmation and security envelope (with voted ballot inside) are mailed to your election official.

Step 1: Complete and Sign



- Complete one of two versions of the official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot: (1) hardcopy or (2) PDF version from the online FWAB assistant or fillable form.*



- Complete and sign the attached Voter's Declaration/Affirmation form.

Step 2: Seal



- Place the ballot portion of the FWAB in a sealed security envelope. This comes attached to the hardcopy version, but if you are using a PDF version you must find a blank envelope and label it "Security envelope."

- Place the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation form and the sealed security envelope in a larger mailing envelope. This comes attached to the hardcopy version, but you must provide one yourself if using a PDF version.

Step 3: Fill out envelope



- In the upper left corner, enter your current mailing address and the date of the election in which you just voted.
- Under "To," enter the name and mailing address of the local election office* to which you are sending the packet.

Step 4: Postage

- **Within the U.S.:** The form is postage paid in U.S. mail. This information is included on the hardcopy version's mailing envelope and an envelope template can be downloaded at FVAP.gov if you are using a PDF version.
- **Outside of the U.S.:** The form is postage paid in U.S. mail, to include APo/FPo and diplomatic pouches. If using foreign postal systems, put the correct amount of local postage on the front of the envelope, in the top right corner.

*For information about your State's requirements, how to transmit the form and how to contact your election official, visit FVAP.gov/FWAB.

Go To FVAP.GoV For More INForMATIoN

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eT Phone: 1-800-438-VoTe (8683) | DSN: 425-1584 | email: vote@fvap.gov
Go to FVAP.gov and click on "contact" to find where to send your election materials. Media inquiries: media@fvap.gov
[Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and Twitter @FVAP

The Launch of MissionOne Initiative

On July 12, 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry announced a new program called **MissionOne** at the Washington Passport Agency in the District.

He announced the Department's MissionOne initiative that will modernize the services we offer to U.S. citizens here and overseas. The Secretary mentioned several Consular Affairs (CA) key initiatives, such as online passport renewal, the American Liaison Network, and the Local Resource Initiative.

To assist and protect Americans abroad, Secretary Kerry stated that the **MissionOne** initiative will expand and modernize its services to Americans. For example, it will bolster the **American Liaison Network (ALN)**, a web of expat civilians who work in concert with embassies and consulates to aid U.S. travelers. **The wardens will assume greater responsibilities in their role as intermediaries; they also earn a new name tag, Citizen Liaison Volunteers (CLVs).**

“CLVs will work with U.S. embassies and consulates to identify the needs of the U.S. citizen community so that we may more effectively work to address security, safety, and health issues that affect U.S. citizens,” the department stated in a news release.

MissionOne will also provide a more inclusive compendium of information under the Local Resources Initiative. Embassies around the globe will compile lists of contacts for such essential needs as medical care, crisis counseling, police and shelters. The U.S. Embassy in London is a prime example. It posts links on topics including marriage and civil partnerships, money transfers and relocation services.

In the Secretary's words – “there is indeed an America's desk at the Department of State, and its job is Mission One.” Thanks for all that everyone does to support the Department and a big thanks to everyone who helped support the Secretary's visit and the launch of MissionOne.

Website: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/service.html> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmericanCitizenServicesIndia

ACS appointment go to: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/service/appointment-and-contact-info.html>

Absentee Voting Week is September 26-October 3

Be an Active Voter by taking the necessary steps to vote in the 2016 U.S. elections and participating in Absentee Voting Week!

In many states, the voter registration deadline for the November 2016 elections is October 10. For some voters this might mean their paper voter registration and absentee ballot request must reach their local election officials by October 10. In order to vote in the November 2016 elections, all overseas U.S. citizens need to have completed a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) in 2016. Whether you are a first-time voter or have already received ballots and voted absentee in past elections, you must complete an FPCA **each year** to ensure you are able to participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

If you have already completed a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\) in 2016 and requested electronic delivery of your ballot, you will be receiving your blank ballot or instructions for how to access your ballot soon if you have not already received it. If you are not sure about the status of your absentee ballot request you should contact your local election officials in the United States or check the status of your registration via your state's voter registration verification website.](#)

ABSENTEE VOTING WEEK: September 26 – October 3

If you would like to drop off your completed Federal Post Card Application or completed ballot for delivery to the United States via diplomatic pouch free of charge, the U.S. Embassy and ACS-New Delhi is more than happy to forward your absentee ballot to your state/county election officials. You may drop off your sealed and addressed ballot with the American Citizen Services section at the U.S. Embassy on any working day between **9am and 4pm**. You do not need an appointment but please bring your U.S. Passport for identification purposes to **Gate 6**. Please keep in mind that it may take 2-3 weeks for the ballot to arrive through diplomatic mail services. No postage is required. Alternatively, you may send your ballot through international post which may well be faster but will require you to pay the necessary postage. You should be able to find the deadline date for your ballot to arrive through the FVAP link to your state.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions, feel free to email (acsnd@state.gov) or call the American Citizen Services section at 11-2419-8000.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OVERSEAS VOTING

Please help spread the word to your friends, family, and colleagues that now is the time to start thinking about overseas voting. Consider posting to your Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or other social media account that you are an active voter and will be dropping off or mailing your Federal Post Card Application or completed ballot. Use #ProudOverseasVoter to help get the word out about voting.

If you have never voted while overseas before, it's not too late. The process is easy -- just follow these steps:

1. Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Whether you are a first-time voter or have voted absentee in past elections, complete an [FPCA](#) to receive your ballot this fall. It allows you to register to vote and request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (presidential and state primaries, run-off, special, and the November general elections) during the course of the year in which you submit the FPCA. Local election officials in all U.S. states and territories accept the [FPCA](#).

The [online voting assistant](#) available at [FVAP.gov](#) is an easy way to complete the [FPCA](#). It will ask you questions specific to your state and tell you if electronic ballot delivery is possible. 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 to take advantage of electronic delivery. The [online voting assistant](#) will generate a printable [FPCA](#), which you can then print and sign.

2. Submit the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

ACS-New Delhi is more than happy to forward your absentee ballot to your state/county election officials. You may drop off your sealed and addressed ballot with the American Citizen Services section at the U.S. Embassy on any working day between **9am and 4pm**. You do not need an appointment but please bring your U.S. Passport for identification purposes to **Gate 6**. Please keep in mind that it may take 2-3 weeks for the ballot to arrive through diplomatic mail services. No postage is required. Alternatively, you may send your ballot through international post which may well be faster but will require you to pay the necessary postage. You should be able to find the deadline date for your ballot to arrive through the FVAP link to your state. We hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions, feel free to email (acsnd@state.gov) or call the American Citizen Services section at 11-2419-8000.

3. Receive Your Ballot

After submitting your FPCA, most states allow you to confirm online your registration and ballot delivery selection. States are now required to send out ballots 45 days before an election (on or around September 24) for federal office (President, U.S. Senate, or U.S. House of Representatives) to any overseas U.S. citizen who has completed an FPCA.

4. Return Your Ballot

As with the FPCA, you can return your voted ballot to your local election officials free of charge via the nearest embassy or consulate or mail it directly at your own expense.

Your Vote Counts

Many U.S. elections within the past ten years have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%. 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 (differs by state).

Be an educated voter. Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, and search the Internet to locate articles and information.

To receive information by email about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, or the upcoming election dates, visit [FVAP.gov](#), 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.



The American Club presents...

Oktoberfest 2016

at the ball field
Saturday, September 24
6:00 pm onwards...



. ACSA members - 1,000 per person

. Members' guests, American Citizens and
Third Country Diplomats - 2,100 per person

Adults only event (21 years & above)

(American Citizens- RSVP at events@acsaindia.org no later
than Tuesday, Sep 20).

Live band - DJ and dance - Games and prizes - Night bazaar

UniiMII•cl German food and beer with lots of cheer...

For tickets: 011-2419 8110, +91 96541 00733

Tickets available now at **177j** and Coffee Kiosk

Octoberfest 2016

Admission Policy – ADULTS *only* event(21 years and above)

- U.S. Mission Americans: **Must bring Embassy ID.**
- U.S. passport holders: American citizens and spouses only, **NO guests.**
 - **Each American and his/her spouse must bring a valid passport**
- ACSA Members and Reciprocal Members: ACSA guest policy applies. **Must bring ACSA ID.**
- Third Country Diplomats & their spouse: **Must bring Diplomatic ID.**
- Guests who do not fall under the categories mentioned above are not allowed entry.
- Tickets are non-transferrable and non-refundable.
- No entry after 9:30 pm.
- No entry without a valid photo ID.
 - Must bring valid government ID (no photocopies or phone images).
- All attendees are subject to security screening.
- Please do not bring backpacks, umbrellas, coolers, or other large items as they must be thoroughly searched and may delay your entry into the event.