



American Citizens Services Newsletter



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

La Paz, Bolivia

OCTOBER 2010

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Contact Us

Phones:
Regular Hours 216-8246
After Hours 715-33713

E-mail:
consularlapaz@state.gov

Web Page:
<http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

Hours of Operation

LA PAZ
Mondays through Thursdays
08:15 to 12:00
Thursdays
14:00 to 13:45
(except U.S. and local holidays)

COCHABAMBA
Temporarily Closed

SANTA CRUZ
Mondays - Fridays
9:00 to 12:00
Mondays and Wednesdays
14:00 to 16:15
(except U.S. and local holidays)

American Citizens Services Fees

Reminder: New American Citizens Services fees took effect on July 13. A full list of current fees can be viewed at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/06/143724.htm>

Meet the New Consular Agent in Santa Cruz

Nicole Martinez was born in Paraguay and has lived in Chile, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Haiti and most recently Bolivia, where she has been living and working in the field of conservation for the past 20 years. Nicole's parents were married in La Paz where they met while her mother was the secretary for Ambassador Sparks and her father was in the U.S. Army.

Although a big change from the conservation field, Nicole is enjoying the challenge of working as a Consular Agent. She received her B.A. in International Affairs from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Consular Agency in Cochabamba Temporarily Closed

Due to the absence of consular personnel, the consular agency in Cochabamba is temporarily closed. Though we do not know the exact date the agency will re-open, we anticipate that it will be within the next few months.

If you need to apply for passports or consular reports of birth abroad, or need notarial services, you may seek these services at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz or at the U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz.

Anyone requiring services from the American Citizens Services Unit in La Paz or at the U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz will be required to make an appointment in advance. You must make an appointment on the Embassy's website at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

If you seek emergency services you may contact the American Citizens Services Unit directly, U.S. Embassy, in La Paz at (591-2) 216-8246 or via email at consularlapaz@state.gov.

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU!



To REGISTER, **VOTE** and Get
EVERYONE
You Know To Do So Also!



The 2010 general elections are scheduled for November 2. At stake are one-third of the seats in the U.S. Senate and every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Most U.S. states will mail out their blank absentee ballots by September 18. Voters who provide an email address or fax number will receive their absentee ballots electronically. If you have not requested an absentee ballot this year, complete and submit a Federal Post Card application (FPCA) now (see below for additional information on using the FPCA). The official U.S. Government resource for overseas absentee voters is the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

Almost all states have already started mailing out absentee ballots. Please read the following information carefully on requesting/returning ballots, and use of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

REGISTERING AND REQUESTING BALLOTS:

Overseas voters are eligible to submit voter registrations and absentee ballot requests up to their state's registration/ballot request deadline. Check the [state-by-state requirements](#) to determine whether the state requires that the FPCA be mailed, or allows voters to send it in by fax or email. Most states that allow faxing or emailing also require voters to send in the hard copy of the FPCA by mail by election day or the FPCA will be voided. Most states have an on-line voter registration verification website. [See the on-line Voting Assistance Guide for details.](#)

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF BLANK ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Under the 2009 MOVE Act, states are required to make blank ballots available electronically. Ballots can be posted to a State website, or they may be faxed or emailed to overseas voters. To be eligible to get their ballots electronically, voters should have completed a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) this year, and indicated in Block 4c their preference for email, fax, or mail (depending on what their State allows). If your voters have not yet done so, they are still eligible to submit a new FPCA with a request for electronic delivery of their blank ballot.

MAIL DELIVERY OF BLANK BALLOTS:

The MOVE Act requires States to mail out blank ballots to overseas absentee voters 45 days before election day, unless granted an emergency waiver. Previously, most States mail out ballots 30 days before the general election. In spite of the new mandate, overseas voters in many of countries may still not receive their ballots early enough to vote and return them because of slow mail transit times to/from your country. You should be aware of mail transit times and alert to domestic delays that may delay ballot delivery.

November 2 Election: REGISTER NOW !!

Cont.

RETURN OF VOTED BALLOTS:

Some states will allow voters to return voted ballots electronically, but most still require voters to send in their voted ballot by mail. Be aware of mail transit time to Hometown, USA, and encourage voters to return voted ballots in sufficient time to comply with ballot receipt deadlines.

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Some states will allow voters to return voted ballots electronically, but most still require voters to send in their voted ballot by mail. Be aware of mail transit time to Hometown, USA, and encourage voters to return voted ballots in sufficient time to comply with ballot receipt deadlines.

USE OF FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB):

Every voter who has not received his/her absentee ballot by October 2, 2010 should complete and mail in a FWAB. Voters who subsequently receive their blank absentee ballot from their local election officials should vote and submit their absentee ballot as well. Submitting both ballots will not invalidate their vote. Local election officials will only count the FWAB if the full absentee ballot is not received by the ballot receipt deadline.

NOTE: To be eligible to use the FWAB, voters must have submitted an FPCA sufficiently early so that local election officials receive it 30 days in advance of the election, or by the State's registration deadline. A select few states allow voters to use the FWAB as a simultaneous registration/request for absentee ballot/absentee ballot. You should consult the State-specific instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) at www.fvap.gov to determine procedures for the State in question.



More than six million Americans live abroad - a number larger than the populations of 24 states in the Union. Republicans Abroad represents and works to protect the interests of overseas Americans on a wide range of issues. Republicans Abroad mobilizes the support of Americans overseas to support Republican candidates in US elections.

Membership in Republicans Abroad provides a unique opportunity for Americans living overseas to communicate their concerns to Republican leaders in Washington. Republicans Abroad has fought for issues of concern to Americans abroad like repatriation issues, strong support of Section 911 foreign earned income exemption, anti-terrorism legislation, fair trade policies, and the inclusion of the expatriate population in the United States Census.



Democrats Abroad is the overseas branch of the U.S. Democratic Party. The organization consists of Americans living in more than 160 countries around the globe: informed of critical issues at home and abroad, inspired to build a better world through their own active participation, and involved at every level of the political process.

Abroad has committees throughout Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. These Country Committees keep Americans abroad informed of their rights and help them participate in the U.S. political process. A small support office is maintained in Washington, D.C.

Safety and Security Spotlight

The State Department issued a Travel Alert for Bolivia on August 12, 2010 . This Travel Alert was issued to alert U.S. citizens to unstable social and security situations in several regions of Bolivia.

This Travel Alert expires on November 12, 2010. You will find this Travel Alert at

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_2529.html

Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures



Please note that the Embassy will be closed on the following official holidays during the months of October - December 2010.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Columbus Day* | Monday, October 11 |
| All Saints Day** | Tuesday, November 2 |
| Veterans Day* | Thursday, November 11 |
| Beni Day (<i>Only in Trinidad</i>)** | Thursday, November 18 |
| Thanksgiving Day* | Thursday, November 25 |
| Christmas Day (observed)*** | Friday, December 25 |
| Christmas Day*** | Saturday, December 25 |

* U.S. Holiday **Bolivian Holiday ***U.S. & Bolivian Holidays

(a) When a Bolivian holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the host government may designate Friday or Monday as a day off at its discretion.



The American Citizens Services' (ACS) quarterly newsletter offers information to American citizens residing in Bolivia pertaining to consular procedures, policies, and other topics of general interest.

If you believe others would benefit from receiving this newsletter, please forward it to them and ask them to contact the American Citizens Services Unit to be added to the distribution list.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or would like to be removed from our email list, please email us at consularlapaz@state.gov or USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com. Our email address is reserved exclusively for U.S. citizen services.