

U.S. Consulate General Dubai Newsletter

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**Register to
vote at:
FVAP.gov**



Voting Season Is Around the Corner

Questions for Overseas Citizens



Can I vote absentee?

You can vote absentee in any election for Federal office if you are a U.S. citizen 18 years or older and are a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States.

If I do not maintain a legal residence in the U.S., what is my "legal State of residence"?

Your "legal State of residence" for voting purposes is the State or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This applies to overseas citizens even though you may not have property or other ties in your last State of residence and your intent to return to that State may be uncertain.

When completing block 7 of the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including rural route and number. That address determines your proper voting jurisdiction.

How do I register to vote, or apply for an absentee ballot?

You may register and request an absentee ballot with a single form: The Federal Post Card Application. This application form is accepted by all States and territories and is postage- paid in the U.S. mail, including the Military Postal System and State Department Pouch mail. Hard copies of the form can be obtained from a U.S. embassy or consulate or requested directly from the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

An online version the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form is also available. The online version of the form must be mailed in an envelope with proper postage, or mailed using our prepaid return envelope.

Your Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form must be completed, printed, signed, dated and mailed directly to your local election official.

Can I register or vote in-person at the embassy or consulate?

There are no provisions for in-person voting or on-site registration at U.S. embassies or consulates. U.S. embassy and consular officials can assist U.S. citizens in completing the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form or other election materials for their State, witness election materials (if required), and provide other absentee voting information.

You may mail election materials from U.S. embassies and consulates. Remember to make sure that all election material is postmarked.

When is the best time to apply for an absentee ballot?

We recommend that you register to vote/request an absentee ballot in January of each year, or at least 90 days before Election Day.



Register to Vote!



- **Almost all adult U.S. citizens overseas can vote in 2012, even if they have never lived in the U.S. or have been away from the U.S. for a long time.**
- **Everyone should request electronic delivery of his/her ballot and include an email address on his/her application.**
- **All U.S. citizens need to go to www.FVAP.gov to complete and submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) if they haven't completed one since January 1, 2012.**

Farewell Message From The Consul General Justin Siberell



My last day as Consul General in Dubai is just around the corner, and I wanted to take a few moments to express to all the American Citizens and their families just how much I have enjoyed my three years in Dubai. One of my first tours in the Foreign Service was as a Political Officer in Dubai. I have greatly enjoyed this opportunity to return as Consul General and to witness for myself all of the dynamic changes in the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai has continued to build upon its reputation as global business, tourism and travel hub. It is a bustling, cosmopolitan with a truly international population, including an ever-growing number of American citizen here to seek out new business partners in the region, to explore the dunes of the Arabian desert, or perhaps even to try the unique experience of skiing indoors!

As my family and I head to Washington, DC for my next assignment, we will treasure the friendships we've made here in Dubai and we will carry with us many wonderful memories of the City of Gold.

I wish all of you a very safe, happy (and hopefully not too hot!) summer,

Justin



Are You Ready For Retirement?

Applying for social security retirement benefits is easier than ever.

Go to www.socialsecurity.gov and select "Apply online for retirement benefits."

The social security office uses the most secure technology to keep your information private. Once the social security office receives your application, they will review it and contact you if they need any more information. When they have all the necessary information and documents they'll process your application and send you a letter in the mail with the result.

Don't Delay! Go Direct Today!

By **March 1, 2013**, everyone getting the following federal benefits by paper check is required to switch to electronic payments – **direct deposit** to a bank or credit union account or to the **Direct Express**® Debit MasterCard® card:

- * Social Security
- * Supplemental Security Income
- * Veterans Affairs
- * Railroad Retirement
- * Office of Personnel Management
- * Department of Labor (Black Lung)

If you are already receiving benefits, you can obtain a password and start or change Direct Deposit options online at <https://secure.ssa.gov>.

At the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai

The Consulate does not have a Federal Benefits Unit, but can accept Social Security card applications and forward them for processing. Processing takes approximately 4-6 months from the time of application and the card will be mailed to you directly. To apply for a new or replacement card, fill out [Form SS-5-FS](#).



Going to the US this summer? These are some things you may consider addressing:

- Request your absentee ballot at FVAP.gov
- Apply for a Social Security number for yourself or children.
- Authenticate any US documents you plan to use in the United Arab Emirates. Please visit dubai.usconsulate.gov for more information.

Did you know...

- Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building, along with the world's tallest man-made structure.
- Dubai is the Middle East supply hub for the jewelry market.
- Since 1833, Dubai has been ruled by the Al Maktoum dynasty.
- Oil was discovered in Dubai in 1971.
- Although Dubai's economy was built on the oil industry, its model of business drives its economy.

American Trivia



1. What document was the legal framework of the United States?
2. Who wrote the words to the Star Spangled Banner?
3. Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
4. Where did immigrants first set foot in the New World to gain entry?
5. Flying a flag upside down is a symbol of what?

1. Constitution 2. Francis Scott Key 3. John Hancock 4. Ellis Island 5. Distress/Harm

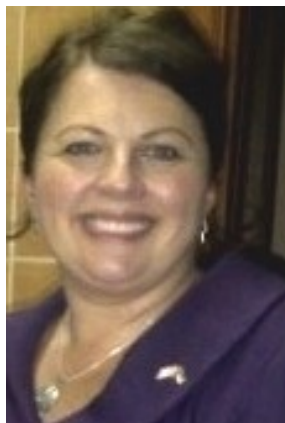
Mary Catherine's Yummy Bean Dip Recipe

- 1 can of refried beans (you can use the spicy, vegetarian or no fat)
- 1 bar of cream cheese
- 1 small container of sour cream
- 1 can of chopped green chilies (optional)
- 1 bag of shredded Mexican or taco style cheese
- Red pepper flakes to taste (optional)
- Tostitos scoops or rounds or any other type of plain tortilla chips

- 1.) Spread the cream cheese to cover the bottom of the round stoneware dish
 - 2.) Add a layer of sour cream on top, followed by the refried beans, the chopped green chilies and grind some fresh red pepper on top.
 - 3.) Cover the top with a layer of shredded cheese and bake in the oven for about 15 minutes at 350 degrees or until you see the cheese bubbling .
- Let the bean dip sit for 10 minutes or so to cool a bit and serve with tortilla chips and the beverage of your choice.



Consular Corner



American Citizen
Services Chief
Jolanta Mikiewicz

Summer is almost upon us, and everyone is getting ready for vacation. If you haven't yet, check to make sure that your passports are valid for your planned travel. Many countries require at least six months validity on your passport to enter. You can renew your passport whenever you

want, there's no need to wait until the last minute. Go to our website for all information on renewing passports and to make an appointment. And where ever your travels take you, be smart, use sun block!

June 28-July 7 is Overseas Citizens Voters Week. It is necessary to register to vote annually while overseas. Don't assume that just because you had an absentee ballot last year, you'll automatically get one this year. Visit www.FVAP.gov to register and to request your absentee ballot. With the Presidential and numerous State and Congressional elections, you do not want to miss out on making your voice heard. You may drop off your registration application and your absentee ballot at the Consulate, we'll send it to the U.S. for you. And remember, even if you've been out of the

U.S. for a long time, or have never lived in the U.S., if you are a U.S. citizen, you have the right to vote. Vote! It Counts!

If you receive your Federal Benefits payments via paper checks, you will have to switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013. Don't wait until the last minute, you can do so now. Direct Deposit or Direct Express is easy and secure. See our section in this newsletter for more information.

The entire Consular Section wishes all of the American citizens living in the UAE and their families a very safe and relaxing summer 2012! Happy Traveling!

Jolanta





Upcoming Holidays/Consulate Closing

June 17, 2012: The Prophet's Ascension Day*

July 4, 2012: Independence Day

August 19-21, 2012: Eid Al Fitr*

September 2, 2012: Labor Day



*Denotes UAE religious holidays which are dependent upon the sighting of the moon and are likely to vary from the above estimated dates.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

All Americans in the United Arab Emirates, whether visiting or residing here, are encouraged to register their presence using the Department of State's convenient online system. By registering, you will be able to receive warden messages directly via email. You will also help the Consulate General better assist you in the event of an emergency. If the timings of your trip or your contact details change, you can just visit the website and update the information. Please take a moment to register your presence or to update your information at travel.state.gov.



VOTING 2012:

How to Request A Ballot for U.S. Federal Elections

Obtain info about Absentee Ballots and the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at the FVAP website: <http://www.fvap.gov>. You may contact FVAP at 1-800-438-8683, and through email at vote@fvap.gov. You may subscribe for voter information at <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/subscription.html> and you may also friend FVAP on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP or follow @FVAP on Twitter.

ACS Appointment System

We realize that visiting the Consulate can take significant time out of your day. In order to provide the most efficient service, the American Citizen Section at the US Consulate General in Dubai has established an appointment system for routine services. Please book an appointment online at dubai.usconsulate.gov under US Citizen Services. When you have made your appointment a confirmation page will appear on your screen. Please print the confirmation page and bring it with you on the day of your appointment.

Emergency Services will still be provided as needed.

Contact Us

Telephone number: +971 4 309 4000

Email: Dubaiwarden@state.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>

Emergency: +971 4 309 4000

Dubai Emergency Numbers

Police/Ambulance: 999

Fire: 997



The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is located at the Corner of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road and Al Seef Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE