

Email sent out by the US Consulate – 3 August 2020

ACSJohannesburg@state.gov

Act early and take the necessary steps to vote in the 2020 U.S. elections!

In order to vote in the November 2020 elections, all overseas U.S. citizens need to request a ballot through their state's online portal or complete a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) in 2020. Whether you are a first-time voter or have already received ballots and voted absentee in past elections, you **must** complete this process **each year** to participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

Registering to Vote and submitting a ballot is fast, easy, and can be done from anywhere in the world! Follow a few simple steps to vote in the 2020 U.S. elections:

- 1. Register to vote:** Start by confirming your voter registration with your state. Some states require absentee voters to register annually, so you may need to re-register. Go to [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) to connect to your state's voter portal to register to vote, request a ballot, and more.
- 2. Request Your Ballot:** Most states provide the option to request ballots through their state election portals, which you can easily access via [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov). You can also choose to complete a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives), including primaries and special elections, during the calendar year in which it is submitted. [FPCA forms](#) that are correctly filled out and include a signature and date are accepted by all local election officials in every U.S. state and territory. FVAP's easy [online assistant](#) can assist you with completing the FPCA. Whether you request your ballot through your state's portal or the FPCA, we encourage you to select the option to receive your ballot electronically (by email, internet download, or fax) when available. This is the fastest way to get your ballot and ensures you have it in time to return a completed form before your state's deadline.
- 3. Receive and Complete Your Ballot:** States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office, and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. Most states allow you to confirm your [ballot delivery online](#).

4. **Return Your Completed, Signed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials by mail, you can do so through international mail, professional courier service, or through the U.S. Embassy's diplomatic pouch. The diplomatic pouch provides ballot mail service from embassies and consulates to a U.S. sorting facility. You will need to place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient U.S. postage, in order for them to be delivered to the proper local election authorities once received by the U.S. sorting facility.

If you plan to use the diplomatic pouch, drop off your completed voting forms and ballots addressed to your local election officials at the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg, Cape Town or Durban by **October 1, 2020** during the following hours:

U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg

9:00-15:00 Tuesday-Thursday

Email questions to: VoteJohannesburg@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Cape Town

9:00-15:00 Monday-Thursday

Email questions to: VoteCapeTown@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Durban

10:00-15:00 Tuesday-Thursday

Email questions to: ConsularDurban@state.gov

Address and other contact information for each Consulate is below. Please note that all visitors to the Consulates must wear appropriate PPE. It can take up to five weeks for mail to reach its destination if sent by an embassy via diplomatic pouch. All overseas U.S. citizens are advised to submit their forms and ballots accordingly. Ballots will be received and forwarded whenever submitted, including after October 1, 2020, but you may want to consider using a courier service if submitting your ballot close to or after the stated delivery time for pouch mail.

For more detailed information please visit our U.S. Citizen Voting Page at <https://za.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/>.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Go to the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources to 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 online. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, 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](#) (@DODFVAP), [Twitter](#) (@FVAP), and [Instagram](#) (@fvapgov).

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, FVAP.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!

- **United States Embassy to the Republic of South Africa**

(Note: The Embassy does not provide consular services)

877 Pretorius Street

Arcadia, Pretoria

Tel: 012-431-4000 (outside South Africa: +27-12-431-4000)

<https://za.usembassy.gov/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USEmbassySA/

- **United States Consulate General, Johannesburg**

(Covering Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces)

1 Sandton Drive (corner of Rivonia and Sandton Drive)

Sandhurst, Johannesburg

ACSJohannesburg@state.gov

Tel: 011-290-3000 (outside South Africa: +27-11-290-3000)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-1684 (outside South Africa: +27-79-111-1684)

<https://za.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/johannesburg/>

- **United States Consulate General, Durban**

(Covering KwaZulu-Natal Province)

Delta Towers, 31st floor

303 Dr. Pixley KaSeme Street

ConsularDurban@state.gov

Tel: 031-305-7600 (outside South Africa +27-31-305-7600)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-1445 (outside South Africa +27-79-111-1445)

<https://za.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/durban/>

- **United States Consulate General, Cape Town**

(Covering Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces)

2 Reddam Avenue

Tokai, Cape Town

ConsularCapeTown@state.gov

Tel: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27 21-702-7300)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-0391 (outside South Africa: +27-79-111-0391)

<https://za.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/capetown/>

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

- State Department – Consular Affairs 1-888-407-4747 or 1-202-501-4444

- [South Africa Country Information](#)

- Enroll in [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security updates

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