

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Message for U.S. Citizens
July 4th Voting Message
June 23, 2016

Celebrate democracy this 4th of July by taking the necessary steps to vote in the 2016 U.S. elections!

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 participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

If you would like to drop off your completed Federal Post Card Application over the 4th of July holiday for delivery to the United States via diplomatic pouch free of charge, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka is organizing the following events to provide voter assistance and accept Federal Post Card Applications.

We are arranging a voter registration drive at the American Club during its annual Independence Day Celebration which will be held on July 4th, 2016 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. AEEA club membership is compulsory for entry.

Use a postage-paid envelope template available online at [FVAP.gov](#). Otherwise, seal the FPCA in a regular envelope and address it to your election office; the address can be found online at [FVAP.gov](#). Be sure to also include your return address.

You can drop off the postage-paid envelope at the American Citizen Services Unit at the Embassy and we will mail it back home for you without the need to pay international postage. If it's easier for you to use Bangladesh's postal system, be sure to affix sufficient international postage and allow plenty of time for international mail delivery.

Please come to the American Citizen Services Unit to drop off the postage-paid envelope containing your FPCA or ballot on any working Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 14:00 and 16:00 hours for return to the U.S. via diplomatic pouch. To enter the U.S. Embassy, you must bring your U.S. passport along with your completed FPCA or ballot. Please note that it can take up to three weeks for mail to reach its destination if sent via pouch. All overseas U.S. citizens are advised to submit their forms and ballots accordingly.

If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense. Normal transit time from Bangladesh to the United States is 14 days.

If you have never voted while overseas before, the process is easy -- just follow these steps:

1. **Request Your Ballot:** Complete a new [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). *You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2016 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2016 elections.* 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. The [FPCA](#) is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. 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). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the [FPCA](#) to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

2. **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. For most states, you can confirm your [registration and ballot delivery online](#).
3. **Return Your Completed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically and others do not. 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 U.S. embassy or consulate. Place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address them to the relevant local election officials.

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 on-line. 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](#).

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 Dhaka's Voting Assistance Officer at +880 2 5566-2000, or at dhakavote@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh