

Embassy of the United States of America

Maputo · Mozambique



American Citizens e-Newsletter

August 2008

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American Citizen Services:
Monday, Wednesday &
Friday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In the event of an
emergency involving an
American citizen, please
call +258 21 49 0723

EMBASSY CLOSURES

The Consular Section will be closed Monday, **August 4th** and the Embassy will be closed **Monday, September 1st** for Labor Day.

Please note the Consular Section will have reduced staffing during the month of August. American Citizen Service (ACS) non-emergency hours will remain 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

WHERE'S MY REFUND?

You filed your tax return by the June 16th deadline for overseas citizens and you're expecting a refund. You have just one question and you want the answer now — *Where's my refund?*

Whether you opted for direct deposit or asked the IRS to mail you a check, you can track your refund through the IRS's secure website at www.irs.gov.

LOOKING FOR YOUR STIMULUS PAYMENT?

The IRS's new online tool, *Where's My Stimulus Payment?*, is now available at www.irs.gov.



QUESTIONS ABOUT AVIAN FLU?

The best safeguard for your health and safety in the event of an avian influenza pandemic is information and preparation.



The U.S. Government and international health agencies are advising Americans living, working and/or traveling overseas on how best to prepare if there is an outbreak in your country. For a fact sheet on frequently asked questions, and the latest guidance for travelers, please visit the Avian Flu Page of our travel website at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html.

NEW COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR MOZAMBIQUE

The Department of State prepares "Country Specific Information" (CSI) for every country. CSIs include information such as the presence and location of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the subject country, visa requirements, health conditions, currency regulations, crime and security information, etc. If an unstable condition exists in a country that is not severe enough to warrant a Travel Warning, a description of the condition(s) may be included under an optional section entitled "Safety/Security." CSIs generally do not include advice, but present information in a factual manner so the traveler can make his or her own decisions concerning travel to a specific country. CSIs are reviewed and updated every six months.

New Country Specific Information for Mozambique was released on July 15, 2008, and is available online at travel.state.gov.

OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

If you haven't registered and/or requested an absentee ballot to vote in the 2008 presidential and general elections, you should do so immediately.

Eligibility to Vote

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office. Some states allow overseas voters to vote in state and local elections as well.

Voting eligibility and residency requirements are determined by the various U.S. states, and are available online at www.fvap.gov. Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state where you last resided immediately prior to departure from the U.S. Voting rights extend to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence, and even if their intent to return to that state may be uncertain. For those who have never resided in the U.S., sixteen states allow certain U.S. citizens to register where a parent or spouse would be eligible to vote.



Voter Registration & Requesting an Absentee Ballot

Voters who have not yet registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot should do so now.

1. Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) using the instructions for your state in the Voting Assistance Guide. You may reference a hard copy of the FPCA at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, a hard copy is also available at the American Corners in Nampula. The most current version is available online at www.fvap.gov.

1. Sign, date and mail the completed FPCA to the address listed in the Voting Assistance Guide. If you are sending the FPCA through international mail, please affix appropriate airmail postage. Alternatively, you can print out a postage-paid address label and ask the Consular Section to send your FPCA postage-paid through diplomatic pouch. Some states allow voters to send in the FPCA by fax, but they also require you to send in the hard copy by mail. Follow your state's regulations precisely.
2. Send in a new FPCA if you have moved or changed your name since the last time you voted.
3. Check your state's voter registration verification website (available at www.fvap.gov), or follow up directly with your local election officials, to confirm that you are registered.

Voting

Your local voting officials should mail your absentee ballot 30 to 45 days before the November 4 general election. Return your voted ballot as early as possible. Be aware of your state's ballot receipt deadline, as well as any postmarking requirements.

Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for voters who registered in time but fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials. Please note: You must register to vote and request an absentee ballot by your state's deadline - usually 30 days before the election - to be eligible to use the FWAB. We strongly recommend that voters who have not received their ballot by October 15 complete and return the FWAB to ensure your vote is received in time to be counted.

Questions?

The official U.S. government website for overseas voters is the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at www.fvap.gov.

The Voting Assistance Officer at U.S. Embassy Maputo is always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer send an e-mail to votemaputo@state.gov.

FOREIGN ROADS CAN BE DEADLY FOR U.S. TRAVELERS

Motor vehicle crashes not crime or terrorism are the No. 1 killer of healthy Americans in foreign countries. The threat to travelers is poised to increase dramatically as worldwide economic growth gives more people access to motor vehicles. Read the USA Today article at:

www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-08-13-tourist-deaths_N.htm.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION FOR DUAL CITIZENS

Many U.S. citizen children who fall victim to international parental child abduction may possess or have a claim to dual nationality. While the U.S. Department of State makes every effort to avoid issuing a U.S. passport without the consent of both parents, the Department cannot prevent embassies and consulates of other countries from issuing their own passports to children who are also their nationals.

You can, however, ask a foreign embassy or consulate not to issue a passport to your child. Send the embassy or government agency a written request, along with certified complete copies of any court orders you have which address custody or the overseas travel of your child. In your letter, inform them you are sending a copy of the request to the U.S. Department of State.



If your child is only a U.S. citizen, you can request that no visa for that country be issued in his or her U.S. passport. Just keep in mind that no international law requires compliance with such requests, although some countries will comply voluntarily.

For more information on international parental child abduction, including resources and tools to prevent abductions, please visit http://travel.state.gov/family/abduction/abduction_580.html.