



Newsletter for American Citizens in Norway

2nd edition

October 2010

WHAT'S INSIDE

November General Elections
Page 1

Appointment System for American Citizens
Page 1

Town Hall Meeting Questions Answered
Page 1

New Embassy at Huseby
Page 2

Registering with the Embassy
Page 2

New Consular Fees
Page 2

American Prisoners in Norway
Page 3

U.S. Tax Information
Page 3

ESTA Registration
Page 3

General Election in November



Only eight days and counting until the November 2nd General Election. At stake are one-third of the seats in the U.S. Senate, every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and numerous State and local offices.

Despite the late date, there may still be time, if you have not already cast a ballot, for your vote to count in this election.

Check your state's absentee voting rules at www.FVAP.gov. Many states allow absentee ballots to be returned via fax. Some will also count absentee ballots arriving after election day, so long as they are postmarked by November 2, 2010. Ballots delivered in person

to the Embassy in Oslo, for official (postage-free) express mailing will receive a U.S. postmark for the day they are received at the Embassy. The Embassy can accept ballots from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday through Friday; and from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm on November 2.

If you requested an absentee ballot but have not yet received one, you should vote by using the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Please see www.FVAP.gov to download an FWAB for your state. Alternatively, the Embassy has a stock of universal FWAB forms and envelopes.

**For further information please contact the Embassy at osloamcit@state.gov
There is also a toll-free voting assistance telephone hotline for Norway at: 800-10520**

Town Hall Meeting Q and A's



Over the past six months, the Embassy has held Town Hall meeting in Oslo, Trondheim, Bergen

and Stavanger. Some of the interesting issues raised at these gatherings are [available here](#).

The next Oslo Town Hall meeting is tentatively planned for March 2011.

New Appointment System for American Citizen Services

All American citizen services now require an appointment. Simply go to our webpage and click on the [appointment](#) icon to schedule a time during our opening hours. We look forward to serving you.





EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

OSLO • NORWAY

The New Embassy at Huseby



Since 1959, the U.S. Embassy has been located in the heart of Oslo. Recognizing that the current location unfortunately no longer meets current security standards and community needs, the Embassy undertook a lengthy search to identify a suitable location for a new facility. We are very pleased to have signed a purchase agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Defense for a tract of land at Huseby for the site for the new Embassy.

While the construction of a new Embassy is a time-consuming and complicated process, the Embassy will do its utmost to complete the move to Huseby as expeditiously as possible.

We are looking forward to moving to our new location and are grateful for the cooperation and consideration of everyone involved.

Registering with the Embassy

Register Now!

All U.S. citizens planning to visit long-term or reside in Norway are encouraged to register with the Embassy. Registration will make your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary to contact you in an emergency. If you have previously registered, please be sure to notify us of any changes in your contact information. Please see our website for registration details www.norway.usembassy.gov

New Consular Fees

New fees for passport and other consular services went into effect on July 13, 2010. These fees are not only used to cover the costs of producing U.S. passport books or cards, they also cover the costs of providing emergency services for American citizens overseas. New Fees [fee schedule](#). for consular services.

A Hub of Information

Living or traveling abroad? The travel.state.gov website is a great source of information for Americans living overseas. Please visit this website at www.travel.state.gov



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

OSLO • NORWAY

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

American Prisoners in Norway



While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations. People who violate the law, even unknowingly, may be expelled, fined, arrested, or imprisoned.

One of the requirements of the Department of State and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad is to provide assistance to U.S. citizens incarcerated abroad. Embassies monitor conditions in foreign prisons and when necessary assist incarcerated citizens and their families in accordance with international law

Consul Rodger Deuerlein says that the number of U.S. prisoners in Norway varies, but is currently low. In the past few years, most arrests have been narcotics-related, though there have also been recent cases involving larceny, assault, and rape.

U.S. Tax Information



All U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents must report worldwide income from all sources to the Internal Revenue Service. You may not have to pay any U.S. tax, but you must file a return. Normally U.S. citizens residing abroad have until June 15 to file. Embassy Oslo does not have a tax office. Inquiries can be directed to the London tax office, [click here for more information](#). *Important info-IRS will no longer be mailing individual or business tax packages beginning tax year 2010.*

Tax forms are available on the Internet at www.irs.gov. [click here](#) for further

Norwegian Citizens Must Register with ESTA Before Traveling to U.S.A.



All Norwegian citizens must obtain approval through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), prior to traveling to the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). ESTA is a web based system, available in 16 languages including Norwegian. Under ESTA applicants answer the same few questions that have long been answered on the small green paper form I-94W (typically on the airplane prior to landing). In most cases, ESTA will provide an almost immediate determination of eligibility for VWP travel. However, determination may take up to 72 hours, so travelers are encouraged to apply well ahead of time. Applicants whose ESTA applications are denied will have to seek a visa in order to travel to the United States. Beginning September 8, 2010, there is an ESTA fee comprised of a processing charge of \$4.00, and an authorization charge of \$10.00 if your application is approved for travel. If your application is denied, then you are only charged the processing fee.

Travelers who have not received an approved travel authorization via ESTA may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing, or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry. [Register with ESTA now](#)