

**U.S. Embassy in Singapore**

*Consular Section*

<http://singapore.usembassy.gov>

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**American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter**

***April - May 2010***

The newsletter is our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration, please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov). *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please send us an email with your full name and your request for removal to [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov).

**Topics covered in this Issue:**

Upcoming Holiday and Administrative Closures

Updated Travel Information

Needing to file an Extension on your Income Tax with the IRS?

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Register and Request Your Ballot Now!

Proposal for Changes in Schedule of Fees for Consular Services

Topic of Interest: Am I counted in the 2010 Census though I live abroad?

## **Upcoming ACS Closures**

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in April and May 2010. For an emergency during these holidays involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

<b>April 22, 2010</b>	<b>Consular Administrative Day*</b>
<b>April 30, 2010</b>	<b>Singapore Holiday: Labor Day</b>
<b>May 20, 2010</b>	<b>Consular Administrative Day*</b>
<b>May 28, 2010</b>	<b>Singapore Holiday: Vesak Day</b>
<b>May 31, 2010</b>	<b>U.S. Holiday Memorial Day</b>

Holidays: The Embassy observes certain local and American holidays. On these days, the Consular Section will be closed. For an emergency involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100 at any time.

\* We will be closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on these days. We will be open for collection of documents only at 3:00 – 3:30pm. Regular services will resume the following working day.

## **Current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts:**

**Travel Warnings** are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. Below please find a link to a Travel Warning for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Warnings for all regions, please visit:

<http://travel.state.gov>.

[Philippines](#)                      April 2, 2010

**Travel Alerts** are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, generally within a particular country, that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Below please find a link to a Travel Alert for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Alerts for all regions, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov>.

[Thailand](#)                              April 9, 2010

## **Current Warden Messages of regional interest:**

**Warden Messages** are notices sent directly to American citizens to provide important information about local conditions.

[Continued possibility of terrorist attacks in India, February 14, 2010](#)

[Risk of travel to the southern Philippine Islands of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, April 5, 2010](#)

[Security forces are mobilizing around demonstrations in Bangkok, April 6, 2010](#)

[The government of Thailand has declared a state of emergency for Bangkok, April 7, 2010](#)

### **Updated Country Specific Information for countries in our region:**

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to changing conditions. Recently, updates have been posted for the following countries in the region.

<a href="#">Bangladesh</a>	March 4, 2010
<a href="#">Brunei</a>	February 22, 2010
<a href="#">Cambodia</a>	February 16, 2010
<a href="#">Timor-Leste</a>	February 16, 2010
<a href="#">Hong Kong (SAR)</a>	March 22, 2010
<a href="#">India</a>	February 17, 2010
<a href="#">Indonesia</a>	March 9, 2010
<a href="#">Japan</a>	March 2, 2010
<a href="#">Macau (SAR)</a>	March 22, 2010
<a href="#">Malaysia</a>	February 24, 2010
<a href="#">Singapore</a>	March 19, 2010

## **Needing to file an Extension on your Income Tax with the IRS?**

An **extension** of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. You need to estimate your tax liability and pay any balance due when you request the extension. Several payment options are available, including electronic funds withdrawal, credit card and check.

If you are unable to pay the total balance due, you should pay as much as possible and then contact the IRS about an installment plan. Even if you cannot pay the balance due, it is important to either file a return or request an extension to avoid the failure-to-file penalty. For more information on this specific topic please go to:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=221035,00.html>

For **last minute income tax-filers**, find a form, file and pay electronically, request an extension of time to file, or apply for an installment agreement by going to: [www.irs.gov/](http://www.irs.gov/)

## **New Law Makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans**

On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans. For more information, please visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

**Attention voters** (read carefully, as a lot of States are mentioned!)

On Tuesday, April 13, 2010, Florida will hold a special general election to fill the Congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Robert Wexler. The 19th Congressional District includes parts of Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

The following states will hold primary elections during the months of May and June, 2010 on the dates indicated.

May 4, 2010	Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio
May 11, 2010	Nebraska, West Virginia

May 18, 2010	Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania
May 25, 2010	Idaho
June 1, 2010	Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico
June 8, 2010	California, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia
June 22, 2010	Utah

### **Register and Request Your Ballot Now!**

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States and have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request (FPCA) for the 2010 calendar year, should do so as soon as possible. The FPCA ballot application and instructions for the above States are available at [www.fvap.gov/FPCA](http://www.fvap.gov/FPCA). Click on your State on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot. Some States allow submitting the FPCA by fax or email in addition to regular mail.

Send your FPCA NOW to your election office to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return the ballot!

For more information, please visit [this website](#) and click on the news release for your state.

### **Proposal for Changes in Schedule of Fees for Consular Services**

On Feb. 9, 2010 the Department of State published a proposed rule in the Federal Register to change certain consular fees, including those related to U.S. passport and passport card applications, immigrant visas, and other services provided to U.S. and foreign citizens. The proposed rule to change fees is based on a comprehensive cost of service study completed in June 2009. As demand for passports increased to an average of 15 million per year, the increase in certain fees will help cover actual operating expenses for the Department of State's 301 consular posts abroad, 23 domestic passport agencies, and other centers that provide consular

services to both U.S. and foreign citizens. However, improvements in automated systems have also decreased some fees, such as the application fee for determining returning resident status.

The Department will not begin collecting either of these new proposed fees until it fully considers public comments and publishes a final rule. In order to view proposed rules please go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

### **Topic of Interest: Am I counted in the 2010 Census though I live abroad?**

Recently, an American citizen asked the question as to whether Americans living abroad are counted in the official U.S. Census. We found the answer in the [official 2010 U.S. Census website](#).

The 2010 Census counts will include federal employees (military and civilian) and their dependents living overseas with them that can be assigned to a home state. These data are provided to the Census Bureau by the employing federal departments and agencies through their administrative records. However, private U.S. citizens living abroad who are not affiliated with the federal government (either as employees or their dependents) will not be included in the overseas counts. These overseas counts are used solely for reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.