



# Fact Sheet: Americans Living Abroad

Thurston County Auditor's Office - Elections Division  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, Washington 98502  
(360) 786-5408 [www.thurstonvotes.org](http://www.thurstonvotes.org)



- Q. I am currently living out of the country and am not registered to vote. I want to vote in the next election. What do I do?
- A. You are eligible to vote based on your last residential address in the United States, even though you no longer live there. You may register to vote online at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov), or we can send you a registration form.
- Q. How far in advance of the election do I need to register?
- A. It is helpful if you register as early as possible, although you have the right to register and vote a ballot up to and including Election Day. To be registered when you return your federal ballot you must include all the required information on the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and the ballot must be signed by Election Day.
- Q. I'm overseas, not registered, and the election is tomorrow. What can I do?
- A. You have two options. **First**, you can go to the U.S. Embassy or consulate and request a Federal Write-in Ballot. Complete all the information on the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and sign, date, and mail your ballot by Election Day. It will act as both your registration AND your ballot, so be sure to provide a valid Thurston County address. **Second**, if you have access to the internet and a printer, we can send you a ballot and voter registration form via email. You must sign, date, and mail your ballot and registration form by Election Day.
- Q. I'm worried my ballot won't make it to you by Election Day. How can I make sure it's counted?
- A. As long as your ballot oath is signed by or on Election Day, and your ballot is received in our office by the date we certify the election (15 days after the Primary or Special Election and 21 days after the General Election), your vote will be counted. If you prefer, you may fax your ballot (along with a statement waiving your right to privacy) to us at (360)786-5223, and your ballot will be counted as long as the original is received by certification day.
- Q. I already sent in my email ballot, but have just received a paper ballot by mail. What should I do with it?
- A. We recommend voting and mailing the paper ballot as well. We always send the paper ballot as a backup to the email ballot to ensure you have every opportunity to vote. It is not illegal to vote both ballots. We only count one.

Americans living overseas can receive a Federal Post Card Application Form and Federal Write-in Ballot from an US Embassy or Consulate. Both forms are valid in any state in the country. Overseas Americans are eligible to vote based on their last residential address in the United States. Federal ballots only include federal races, but votes for other offices may be written on the ballot.



## Top Election Offices

These numbers represent a place to start your elections inquiry. You may be directed to contact a more local governing body.

**Alabama Secretary of State**  
800-274-8683 or 334-242-7210

**Alaska Lt. Governor**  
907-465-3021

**Arizona Secretary of State**  
877-THE-VOTE

**Arkansas Secretary of State**  
800-482-1127 or 501-682-5070

**California Secretary of State**  
916-657-2166

**Colorado Secretary of State**  
303-894-2200

**Connecticut Secretary of State**  
860-509-6100

**Delaware Comm. of Elections**  
302-739-4277

**Florida Department of State**  
850-245-6200

**Georgia Secretary of State**  
404-656-2871

**Guam - Elections Commission**  
671-477-9791/2/3

**Hawaii Office of Elections**  
808-453-VOTE

**Idaho Secretary of State**  
208-334-2852

**Illinois State Board of Elections**  
217-782-4141

**Indiana Secretary of State**  
317-232-3939

**Iowa Secretary of State**  
515-281-0145

**Kansas Secretary of State**  
785-296-4561

**Kentucky Secretary of State**  
502-564-3490

**Louisiana Secretary of State**  
800-883-2805

**Maine Secretary of State**  
207-264-7736

**Maryland Board of Elections**  
800-222-8683 or 410-269-2840

**Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth**

800-462-VOTE or 617-727-2828

**Michigan Secretary of State**  
888-SOS-MICH

**Minnesota Secretary of State**  
651-215-1440

**Mississippi Secretary of State**  
601-359-6359

**Missouri Secretary of State**  
800-NOW-VOTE or 573-751-2301

**Montana Secretary of State**  
888-884-VOTE or 406-444-4732

**Nebraska Secretary of State**  
402-471-2554

**Nevada Secretary of State**  
775-684-5705

**New Hampshire Secretary of State**  
603-271-3242

**New Jersey Secretary of State**  
609-984-1900

**New Mexico Secretary of State**  
800-477-3632 or 505-827-3600

**New York Board of Elections**  
518-474-6220

**North Carolina Board of Elections**  
919-733-7173

**North Dakota Secretary of State**  
800-352-0867 ext 8-4146

**Ohio Secretary of State**  
877-767-6446 or 614-466-2585

**Oklahoma Election Board**  
405-521-2391

**Oregon Secretary of State**  
503-986-1518

**Pennsylvania Secretary of State**  
717-787-5280

**Puerto Rico - Departamento de Estado**  
787-722-2121

**Rhode Island Secretary of State**  
401-222-2340

**South Carolina Secretary of State**  
803-734-2158

**South Dakota Secretary of State**  
605-773-3537

**Tennessee Secretary of State**  
615-741-7956

**Texas Secretary of State**  
800-252-8683 or 512-463-5650

**Utah Lt. Governor**  
800-995-VOTE or 801-538-1041

**Vermont Secretary of State**  
802-828-2304

**US Virgin Islands Election System**  
340-773-1021

**Virginia Board of Elections**  
800-552-9745 or 804-864-8901

**Washington Secretary of State**  
360-902-4180

**Washington DC Board of Elections**  
202-727-2525

**West Virginia Secretary of State**  
877-SOS-VOTE or 304-558-8000

**Wisconsin Government Accountability Board**  
608-266-8005

**Wyoming Secretary of State**  
307-777-7186