

**U.S. Embassy Sarajevo
Consular Section
American Community Newsletter**

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In this issue:

- 4th of July address by President Obama page 1
- Helpful hints for voters page 3
- Vignettes for Slovenia, Austria and Montenegro..... page 5

Contact Information and Operating Hours

Address: Alipašina 43, 71000 Sarajevo

American Citizen Services Hours: Monday-Friday 14:00-15:30 and Friday 8:00-10:30
It is always preferable to call for an appointment!

Non-Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment through **Visa Information Service** at
(387) 33 295 375

Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment only

Tel: (387) 33 445 700 ACS Ext. 2210, 2337
NIV Ext. 2241
IV Ext. 2453

Fax: (387) 33 221 837

E-mail: rws@state.gov (for registration)

E-mail: IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov (for immigrant visa questions)

**Remarks of President Barack Obama
Weekly Address
The White House
July 4, 2009**

Hello and Happy Fourth of July, everybody. This weekend is a time to get together with family and friends, kick back, and enjoy a little time off. And I hope that's exactly what all of you do. But I also want to take a moment today to reflect on what I believe is the meaning of this distinctly American holiday.

Today, we are called to remember not only the day our country was born – we are also called to remember the indomitable spirit of the first American citizens who made that day possible.

We are called to remember how unlikely it was that our American experiment would succeed at all; that a small band of patriots would declare independence from a powerful empire; and that they would form, in the new world, what the old world had never known – a government of, by, and for the people.

That unyielding spirit is what defines us as Americans. It is what led generations of pioneers to blaze a westward trail.

It is what led my grandparents' generation to persevere in the face of a Depression and triumph in the face of tyranny.

It is what led generations of American workers to build an industrial economy unrivalled around the world.

It is what has always led us, as a people, not to wilt or cower at a difficult moment, but to face down any trial and rise to any challenge, understanding that each of us has a hand in writing America's destiny.

That is the spirit we are called to show once more. We are facing an array of challenges on a scale unseen in our time. We are waging two wars. We are battling a deep recession. And our economy – and our nation itself – are endangered by festering problems we have kicked down the road for far too long: spiraling health care costs; inadequate schools; and a dependence on foreign oil.

Meeting these extraordinary challenges will require an extraordinary effort on the part of every American. And that is an effort we cannot defer any longer.

Now is the time to lay a new foundation for growth and prosperity. Now is the time to revamp our education system, demand more from teachers, parents, and students alike, and build schools that prepare every child in America to outcompete any worker in the world.

Now is the time to reform an unsustainable health care system that is imposing crushing costs on families, businesses, large and small, and state and federal budgets. We need to protect what works, fix what's broken, and bring down costs for all Americans. No more talk. No more delay. Health care reform must happen this year.

And now is the time to meet our energy challenge – one of the greatest challenges we have ever confronted as a people or as a planet. For the sake of our economy and our children, we must build on the historic bill passed by the House of Representatives, and make clean energy the profitable kind of energy so that we can end our dependence on foreign oil and reclaim America's future.

These are some of the challenges that our generation has been called to meet. And yet, there are those who would have us try what has already failed; who would defend the status quo. They argue that our health care system is fine the way it is and that a clean energy economy can wait. They say we are trying to do too much, that we are moving too quickly, and that we all ought to just take a deep breath and scale back our goals.

These naysayers have short memories. They forget that we, as a people, did not get here by standing pat in a time of change. We did not get here by doing what was easy. That is not how a cluster of 13 colonies became the United States of America.

We are not a people who fear the future. We are a people who make it. And on this July 4th, we need to summon that spirit once more. We need to summon the same spirit that inhabited Independence Hall two hundred and thirty-three years ago today.

That is how this generation of Americans will make its mark on history. That is how we will make the most of this extraordinary moment. And that is how we will write the next chapter in the great American story. Thank you, and Happy Fourth of July.

The United States Embassy to Bosnia and Herzegovina is on Facebook!

Check it out here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sarajevo-Bosnia-and-Herzegovina/United-States-Embassy-to-Bosnia-and-Herzegovina/84175439430?ref=nf>

(Note: to become a fan - which we hope you will - you have to be a member of Facebook). By becoming a fan, you will be informed of all the activities and posts on the Embassy's Facebook page.

Helpful Hints for Voters

Attention all US Citizens Residing Overseas and Members of the Uniformed Services on Active Duty! Please review the following helpful hints. These suggestions will help simplify the absentee voting process and eliminate many possible reasons for disenfranchisement.

Voter Registration

Unregistered absentee voters should request their ballots at least 60 days before the election and registered voters at least 45 days before the election. Remember, voter registration can be affected or cancelled for several reasons: not voting for a period of time, changed residence since the last registration or election, or changed name since the last registration or election.

Legal Voting Residence

Your legal voting residence address (Block 3 of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF-76) helps determine the type of ballot a local election official sends to you. So, even if the home has been sold, rented or is no longer there because the site has been redeveloped, that address continues to be your legal voting residence for voting purposes as long as you continue claiming that state as your legal residence.

Determining a voting residence is a concern to many. Some citizens do not know where they should be voting and what state they should claim as their home of legal voting residence.

Note: If you have questions determining your state of legal residence for voting purposes, you should consult with your legal counsel.

Notarizing Voting Materials

Always check your state instructions (Chapter 3 of the current *Voting Assistance Guide*) to determine whether your state requires a witness or notary on the FPCA, FWAB and/or the ballot return envelope. Military personnel, including noncommissioned officers, who are designated as VAOs are authorized, in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1000.4 of April 14, 2004, to administer oaths (notary services) in connection with voter registration and voting to members of the military and their eligible dependants. However, they may not act as a notary for DoD or other U.S. government civilian personnel or non-governmental civilians unless able to do so in another capacity. United States citizens overseas are afforded full voting assistance at all U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Embassy/Consulate VAOs will provide notary services for voting materials free of charge.

Postage for Mailing From Overseas

The FPCA and FWAB do not require postage if mailed in the U.S. postal system, including all U.S. military post offices (APO, FPO) overseas as well as diplomatic pouches. Many Embassies and Consulates have access to U.S. military post offices. Those that have access will accept the FPCA and FWAB and give it to the U.S. military post office. The FPCA and FWAB may also be sent postage-free through the diplomatic pouch at Embassies and Consulates. However, the diplomatic pouch may not have a regular pick-up schedule. If you are mailing election materials from overseas and do not have access to a U.S. Embassy/Consulate or an APO/FPO address, please affix the proper postage necessary to get the materials into the U.S. postal system.

Electronic Transmission

Visit www.fvap.gov to find out if your state allows electronic transmission of voting materials to expedite processing of your voting materials. When utilizing the Electronic Transmission Service, please refer to Appendix C of the *Voting Assistance Guide* for a cover page and additional information. Most states that permit faxing of the voted ballot require the voter to sign a waiver of his or her right to a secret ballot. Use the following numbers when faxing: DSN 223-5527, (703) 693-5527, or 1-800-368-8683. Additional international toll-free fax numbers are listed on the FVAP website.

Status of Your Application

To assist local election officials to notify you of the status of your FPCA, you should provide your phone and email contact information when completing the FPCA.

Provide your telephone number with all country prefixes and/or your e-mail address. Provide your fax number and include all international prefixes, country or city codes.

Providing fax, phone and/or email will give the local election official options to contact you for questions, clarifications or to request additional information on your FPCA. If you do not provide clear

contact information on the FPCA, it may be difficult for your local election official to notify you of any problems with your application or request.

For voters who want to know if their application has been denied, your state is required by law to notify you and explain why it was denied. If you suspect that there is a problem with your application or absentee ballot request, contact your local election official.

Vignettes – Toll Stickers – in Slovenia, Austria and Montenegro

Slovenia

Since 1 July 2008, motorcycles, cars and vans with a maximum permitted laden weight not exceeding 3.5 tons have been required to display a vignette (toll sticker) in order to use motorways and express roads in the Republic of Slovenia and the Ljubljana bypass.

Here is a list of available vignettes:

Annual vignette for motor vehicles up to a maximum permitted weight of 3,500 kg	EUR 95.00
Monthly vignette for motor vehicles up to a maximum permitted weight of 3,500 kg	EUR 30.00
Weekly vignette for motor vehicles up to a maximum permitted weight of 3,500 kg	EUR 15.00
Annual vignette for motorcycles	EUR 47.50
Six-month vignette for motorcycles	EUR 25.00
Weekly vignette for motorcycles	EUR 7.50

As of 1 July 2009 the six-month vignette remains in use for motorcycles but not for cars and vans.

Vignettes can be purchased at gas stations in Slovenia and neighboring countries, at offices of the national motoring organization and foreign motoring organizations, at post offices in Slovenia and at some news kiosks. For more information consult the <http://www.slovenia.info/?faq=199>
Using a toll road without a valid vignette (i.e. without paying the toll) is punishable by a fine of between 300 and 800 Euros.

Austria

Highways and expressways in Austria (also city motorways) are generally subject to toll. Tolls are paid by purchasing a toll sticker that is attached to the windshield.

A toll sticker can be purchased in Austria: at automobile clubs ÖAMTC und ARBÖ, at tobacconists' shops and gas stations.

In neighboring countries: at local automobile clubs and at gas stations close to the border.

Placement of the toll sticker:

Passenger cars: on the windshield or the front left fixed side window

Motorcycles: on a clearly visible part, that is difficult to be removed

Toll fees:

Yearly Sticker:

Passenger Car: € 72,60

Motorcycles: € 29,00

2-Month-Sticker:

Passenger Car: € 21,80

Motorcycles: € 10,90

10-day-Sticker:

Passenger Car: € 7,60

Motorcycles: € 4,30

Violation of toll regulations will be punished with an additional charge of € 400.-- to € 4.000,--.

In addition to the toll stickers, there are other charges for the following major roads that are subject to toll: Arlberg-tunnel road, Brenner-highway, Dachstein road, Felbertauern road, Gerlos Alpine road, Großglockner-alpine road, Maltatal-Hochalm road, Nockalm road, Pyhrn-highway (Gleinalm tunnel), Pyhrn-highway (Bosruck tunnel), Silvretta alpine road, Sölden – Rettenbachferner-Tiefenbachferner, Tauern-highway, Timmelsjoch, Villacher alpine road – Dobratsch.

Montenegro

Foreign citizens entering Montenegro by motor vehicle are required to pay an annual eco-tax. The fee amounts range from €10 to €150 and are determined according to the make and size of the vehicle. For most cars with a capacity of up to eight passengers the fee is €10. The eco-sticker obtained upon payment of the tax is valid for a period of one year and must be displayed on the inside of the front windshield in the upper right hand corner.

Important note on notarial services

If the document you need notarized (power-of-attorney or similar) provides a space for one or two witnesses to witness your signature, please **bring the witnesses with you** to your appointment. The consular staff cannot act as witnesses.

REGISTRATION WITH THE EMBASSY

If you would like to update your registration with the Embassy, please fax or e-mail us the **Registration Form** (available also at <http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov>). Americans registering for the first time can come to the Consular Section in person to present their passport and complete a registration form. You can also fax (033 221 837) or e-mail (rws@state.gov) the registration form and a copy of your passport biographic data page to us.

To receive Warden Messages by e-mail you need to be registered with the Embassy



Important Security Announcement

When visiting the Embassy, please remember not to bring mobile phones or any electronic devices, such as Blackberries, iPods, or PDAs, as they are not allowed within the Embassy.



We also strongly advise that you do not bring large bags, such as backpacks, suitcases or packages to the interview as there are no storage facilities on Embassy grounds.



Embassy Closures:

- **September 7 (Monday):** **Labor Day**

There is always an Embassy duty officer available to assist U.S. citizens with serious emergencies. The duty officer can be reached at (033) 445 700.