

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

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**In this issue:**

- Mailing options for absentee voting..... page 2
- Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot..... page 3
- Immigrant visa services at U.S. Embassy Sarajevo..... page 4
- Vignettes on Slovenian highways..... page 5
- Some points on driving in Bosnia ..... page 6

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**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](mailto:rws@state.gov) (for registration)

**E-mail:** [IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov](mailto:IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov) (for immigrant visa questions)

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**WELCOME NEW CONSUL**

The new Chief of the Consular Section, Mr. Daniel H. Gershator, assumed duty on August 15, 2008. His prior tour was as Consular Chief in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dan is looking forward to meeting and working with fellow Americans in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He will mail his absentee ballot to California.

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## Mailing Options for Voting Materials

Voters in Bosnia and Herzegovina have a number of options for mailing Federal Postcard Applications, voted state ballots, and Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots to their local election officials in the United States. Mailing addresses for local election officials and state mailing deadlines can be found in the Voting Assistance Guide, available on-line at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

1. **Diplomatic Pouch:** Diplomatic pouch to the East Coast takes approximately 2-3 days. Processing of mail at the diplomatic pouch facility in the Washington, D.C. area and onward delivery by the U.S. Postal Service to local election officials across the U.S. can take another one to four days. The Consular Section will place a date stamp and seal on your ballot as evidence of the date and location from which the ballot was mailed. However, this is not a postmark. Voters should make every effort to submit their ballots to the U.S. Embassy no later than October 14 for diplomatic pouch mail.
2. **First Class Mail:** You may mail your Federal Postcard Application or voted ballot to the United States through the BiH mail system, with appropriate international postage. Mail to the U.S. takes approximately 15 days.
3. **Express Courier:** Last-minute voters can use express courier services such as FedEx, UPS and DHL to send their voted ballots to all states and territories except Alabama. Express courier companies cannot deliver to post office boxes, so you will need to know the street address of your local voting official in the United States. Mail sent by express courier companies is not postmarked. Contact information for some local express courier companies follows:

**Fed Ex:** [www.fedex.com](http://www.fedex.com) or

<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/ExpressYourVote.htm>

From September 15 to October 29, FedEx will ship voted ballots from (Country) to the U.S. for a special price of (\$23.50).

**UPS:** [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com) (033) 446 310

**DHL:** [www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com) (033) 774 000

## Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot or Emergency Ballot

If you do not receive your ballot by October 15, please feel free to come to the Consular Section to get the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)**. This is an emergency ballot, used if the voter requests but fails to receive an absentee ballot in time.

You can also use the PDF version from <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/get-backup-fed-write-in-ballot/index.html>. Voters using the PDF version of the FWAB should print out the return envelope template available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf> (which makes it postage free).

Only a few states require notarization, but many states have witness requirements. State requirements can be very particular. For instance, Wisconsin requires that an adult U.S. citizen witness the ballot return envelope and include his/her date of birth. Please check your state's requirements for use of FWAB at <http://www.fvap.gov>

All voting materials, including state ballots and FWABs, can be sent by diplomatic pouch.

Voters who receive their regular state ballot after voting the FWAB should still mark the state ballot and return it. If the regular state ballot arrives in time, the local election officials will count it rather than the FWAB.

All absentee votes that arrive by the state's deadline are counted for the official record. Many states have deadlines after November 4 (for instance, New York requires that ballots be postmarked by November 3, but arrive by November 17). In that case, election results may already have been announced but the vote will be counted for the record.



The **Voting Assistance Officer** at U.S. Embassy Sarajevo is also always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call (033) 445-700 x 2130 or 2210 or send an e-mail to [rws@state.gov](mailto:rws@state.gov) or [VoteSarajevo@state.gov](mailto:VoteSarajevo@state.gov)

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## Immigrant visa services at U.S. Embassy Sarajevo

U.S. Embassy Sarajevo started processing immigrant visas, fiancé (K) and diversity visas (DV) for residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina beginning October 1, 2007.



U.S. immigration law provides for the issuance of immigrant visas in four general categories: immediate relatives, family based, employment based and Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (also known as the "green card" lottery). Most immigrant visa category petitions cannot be filed at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo. Employment-based, family based and fiancé(e) visa petitions must be filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the United States.

In certain cases, some immediate relative based petitions can be filed at U.S. Embassy Sarajevo. The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo will accept immediate relative immigrant visa (or I-130) petitions from American citizens who have been continuously, legally resident in BiH for at least the six months prior to petition filing. Individuals, who are in the country on a temporary status, such as student or tourist, do not meet this residency standard and must file with USCIS in the United States.

All lawful permanent residents ("green card" holders) and U.S. citizens resident in the United States or with a permanent address in the United States must file immediate relative (or I-130) petitions at the USCIS service center in the United States having jurisdiction over their place of residence. (A list of service centers is included in the instructions with downloadable form I-130.)

The Immigrant Visa (IV) unit of the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo is open to the public on the basis of the below schedule:

**By appointment Monday-Friday:** Walk-in transportation / boarding letter issuances travel within the next 10-14 days due to lost or stolen green card. Abandonment of Legal Permanent Resident Status.

**By appointment only:** Immigrant Visa Interviews on an appointment basis only. You will be notified via letter if you are scheduled for an interview

If you have questions regarding the status of an immigrant visa petition, please send an email inquiry to [IVConsular@state.gov](mailto:IVConsular@state.gov).

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## Reminder: “Vignettes” required for driving on toll roads in Slovenia

(Adapted from: <http://www.slovenia.info>)

Mandatory toll stickers or vignettes were introduced on July 1, 2008 for all motorcycles, cars and vans not exceeding 3,500kg maximum laden weight on Slovenian motorways, expressways and the Ljubljana bypass.

The one-year vignette costs EUR 55 (valid from 1 December of the previous year to 31 January of the next year, for a total of 14 months), and the half-year vignette EUR 35 (valid for six consecutive months from the date of purchase).

Vignettes for one-track vehicles/motorcycles were also introduced, and the price of the one-year and half-year vignette stands at 27.5 and 17.5 euros respectively. In 2008, only half-year vignettes are available for purchase.

Vignettes can be purchased at gas stations in Slovenia and the neighboring countries, in branch offices of the national and foreign automobile clubs, post offices across Slovenia and some kiosks. Visit the list of sales points at <http://www.cestnina.si/> for more information.

Drivers using toll roads without a valid and properly displayed vignette or without paying the toll are fined EUR 300 to EUR 800.

For more information visit <http://www.cestnina.si>

## Safe Driving in Bosnia and Herzegovina (From the Law on Traffic Safety of January 21, 2006)



### **Speed Limits (unless a sign says differently):**

- 60 km/h in populated places
- 130 km/h on highways
- 100 km/h on “roads reserved for motor vehicles and fast roads”
- 80 km/h on other roads

### **Limit of alcohol in the blood:      0.3 g/kg**

**Foreign Driver’s Licenses:** Foreign driver’s licenses are accepted in conjunction with an international driver license, for a period of up to six months. After that, the person temporarily residing in BiH should apply for a BiH driver license.

### **Fines For Common Offenses:**

#### **100-300 KM:**

- if the speed is 30 km/h higher than the limit in a populated place, or 50 km/h higher in a non-populated place
- if the driver has over 1 g/kg blood alcohol level
- if you speed up while another car is passing you
- if you run a red light
- if you start passing a line of cars

#### **50-250 KM:**

- if the driver has from 0.3 g/kg to 1 g/kg blood alcohol level
- unsafe passing

#### **50 KM:**

- if the speed is 20 to 30 km/h higher than the limit in a populated place, or 30 to 50 km/h higher in a non-populated place

#### **30 KM:**

- for not wearing a seat belt
- if the speed is 10-20 km/h higher than the limit in a non-populated place



**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 should come to the Consular Section in person to present their passport. If you live far away from Sarajevo, you can fax (033 221 837) or e-mail ([rws@state.gov](mailto:rws@state.gov)) the form and a copy of your passport biographic data page to us, and come to the Consular Section later for the full registration.

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

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**MSG Detachment Sarajevo**  
Would like to cordially extend an invitation for all to the:  
**233<sup>rd</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball**

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Holiday Inn. The cocktail hour will commence at 1800 and the ceremony will follow at 1900. To conclude there will be dinner, and dancing.

Prices for tickets will be 60km. Tickets will be sold in the Embassy cafeteria Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1200 to 1300 beginning October 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are first come, first served basis. Only 200 tickets will be sold.



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### **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.



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### ***Embassy Closures:***

- **October 13 (Monday):** Columbus Day
- **November 11 (Tuesday):** Veterans Day
- **November 25 (Tuesday):** BiH Statehood Day
- **November 27 (Thursday):** Thanksgiving
- **December 8 (Monday):** Kurban Bajram
- **December 25 (Thursday):** Christmas 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.*

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