

American Citizen News

U.S. MISSION

GERMANY

ADDRESSES & CONTACT INFO:

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0830-1200 M-F
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Giessenerstr. 30
Tel: 069-7535-0
0730-1130 M-F
- **MUNICH:**
Königinstrasse 5
Tel: 089-2888-0
1300-1600 M-F

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Happy Independence Day!



Notes from Mission Germany's Acting Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs Lawrence Mire

Even if you don't typically follow soccer it is difficult to not be pulled into the World Cup mania. It's quite a sight to see fans walking around Frankfurt waving not only German flags but also Ghanaian, American, and Brazilian ones as they cheer on teams from around the world. The World Cup gives every nation the chance to show its best face as some of the world's finest athletes attempt to win it all for their countries.

Much like our national team, each one of our citizens who lives abroad represents our nation to the world. Our country's image isn't determined solely by the decisions our government or major corporations make. Each one of us is the face of America for a sizable group of our neighbors. It is thus important that those of us abroad be prepared for life as both a citizen of America and a resident of Germany.

Here at the consulate we do our best to ensure that all Americans in the Frankfurt Consulate area have the necessary resources to exercise their rights as Americans and, for those of us who are recent arrivals, acclimate to life here. To this end we have information in this issue on updated passport and consular fees, primary voting, federal benefits, and the Newcomer's Festival as well as the American Citizen Information Night.

I hope you enjoy the World Cup!



American Citizens Info Night



On Thursday, September 2, the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt will hold its annual American Citizen Information Night from 17:00 –19:00. Americans living in Germany and their immediate family members are invited to attend to obtain information on **Absentee Voting, Passport and Immigration Services, Security Awareness, U.S. Tax Forms and Filing, and Social Security and Other Federal Benefits**. There will also be a **Community Groups Information Fair** consisting of non-profit organizations such as schools, churches, and social groups that are of interest to Americans in the Frankfurt region. Free refreshments will be served. Additional information and directions will be available on

Important Notice: Passport and Consular Fees are Changing, See Page 2 for full story

New Consular Fee Changes

In order to ensure that the Department of State has sufficient resources to meet the increasing cost of delivering consular services, the Department is revising the fees associated with passport and immigrant visa services. The changes reflect more accurately the actual costs of doing business, as determined by a June 2009 cost of services survey. The following fee changes are of particular interest to American citizens. For information on other fee changes please visit <http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov>.

PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICES:

Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> for the official list of new fees, which are summarized as follows:

- Initial Adult Passport Book: **\$135**
- Adult Passport Book Renewal: **\$110**
- Minor (under the age of 16) Passport Book: **\$105**
- Adult Passport Card: **\$30**
- Adult Initial Applicant applying for a Passport Card ONLY: **\$55**
- Minor Passport Card (In connection with a book application): **\$15**
- Minor Passport Card ONLY: **\$40**
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad: **\$100**
- Additional Visa Pages: **\$82** (NOTE: This is a new fee)
- Issuance of a Certificate of Loss of Nationality based on a formal Renunciation of U.S. citizenship: **\$450** (NOTE: This is also a new fee)



NOTE: Citizens who regularly travel internationally and have had to add extra pages in the past can apply for a 52-page passport book. It costs the same as the normal 28-page book and may eliminate the need to pay for additional pages later on. Interested applicants should specify on their application form that they are requesting the 52-page book.

OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES:

- The fee for making arrangements for a deceased non-U.S. citizen is changing from consular time (Item 75 on the Schedule of Fees) plus expenses to **\$200, plus expenses**.

DOCUMENTARY SERVICES:

- Notarial and authentication services will all be **\$50**.

JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES:

- The fee for processing of letters rogatory will increase from \$735 to **\$2,275**.
- Fees for taking depositions and executing commissions to take testimony will change as follows: scheduling/arranging appointments for depositions, from \$475 to **\$1,283**; attending or taking depositions or executing commissions to take testimony, from the consular time charge of \$265/hour to **\$309/hour plus expenses**; swearing in witnesses for telephone depositions and supervising telephone depositions, from the consular time charge of \$265/hour to **\$231/hour**; providing seal and certification of depositions, from \$70 to **\$415**.

Beware of IRS Impersonators

Phishing is a method used by “fraudsters” to get information on individuals to use for various kinds of identity theft. Phishing can be in the form of emails, faxes, or phone calls.

Taxpayers, both in the U.S. and abroad, have been the victims of “Vishing” (Voice + phishing) scams during the past 18 months. **Individuals acting alone (or possibly in groups) are faxing taxpayers bogus IRS documents.** Taxpayers are then completing these documents, containing their Personal Identifying Information (PII), and sending the documents back to these individuals via fax or via email. Fraudsters use this PII in identity theft schemes.

The Internal Revenue Service does not contact taxpayers via email or fax and never requests that taxpayers provide the agency with PII. Believe me, they already know.

These bogus requests/documents have been delivered in several ways:

- Documents are sent directly to the taxpayer’s fax machine. Individuals are typically instructed to complete a form (such as Form W8-BEN, Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding) and fax the requested information to the number provided.
- These vishing requests are also sent as an email with or without an attachment to the tax payers.
- Individuals may receive other bogus government documents (such as an IRS tax receipt) by fax or email; normally as part of an elaborate scam that usually involves lottery winnings or a large number of stock shares.

Regardless of the circumstances or method used, taxpayers who receive phishing or vishing documents should send an email, with all attachments, to phishing@irs.gov. **[If you receive documents via direct fax you will need to scan the document into your email to the IRS.]**

If an individual taxpayer is a US citizen and has experienced losses, they should file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [FTC Complaint Assistance](#)

If the taxpayer is NOT a US citizen, but has been a victim, they should file a complaint at [Econsumer](#).

For more information visit the IRS at [Newsroom](#).

You can also contact the IRS in Frankfurt at 069-7535-3811 for additional information.



The Internal Revenue Service does not contact taxpayers via email or fax and never requests that taxpayers provide the agency with PII.

For more information visit the IRS at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/index.html>

You can also contact the IRS in Frankfurt at 069-7535-3811 for additional information.

Voting News: Register for Summer Primaries!

our

website in the coming weeks.

Military and Overseas Voters, Submit your Ballot Request for the July and August State Primaries!

The following States will hold Primary Elections during the months of July and August 2010 on the dates indicated.

- July 20, 2010: Georgia
- July 27, 2010: Oklahoma
- August 3, 2010: Kansas, Michigan, Missouri
- August 5, 2010: Tennessee
- August 10, 2010: Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota
- August 17, 2010: Washington, Wyoming
- August 24, 2010: Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Vermont
- August 28, 2010: Louisiana (1st Round Congressional Party Primaries)

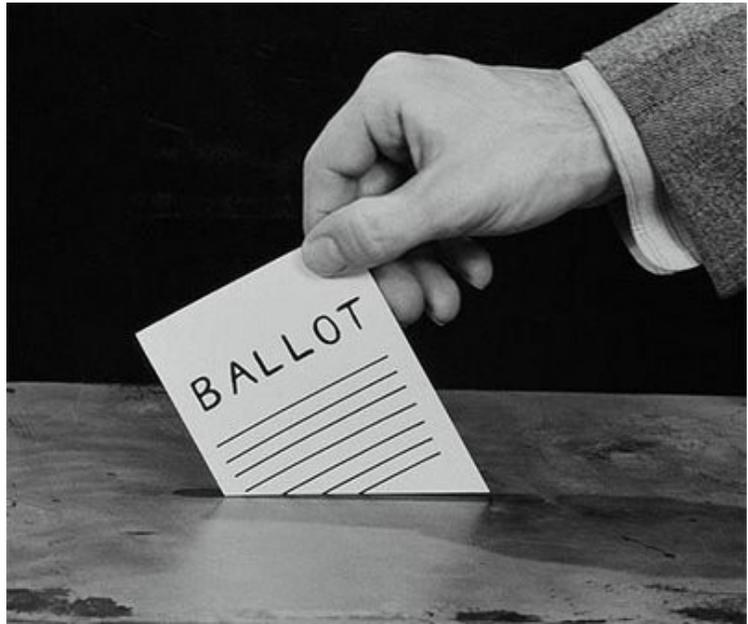
Register and Request Your Ballot Now!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and any other 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. 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, visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.



Annual Newcomers Festival

COME SEE US AT THE 10th ANNUAL NEWCOMERS FESTIVAL

The 10th annual Newcomers Festival will be held this year on Sunday, September 26 from 1 to 6 pm. This is a free event for the international community which will be held in the Frankfurt Town Hall (Frankfurt Römer). As many as 5,000 visitors and 85 exhibitors will attend the event. There will also be entertainment and regional food & drink.

The US Consulate will have an exhibition stand to provide information about the services we have available for American Citizens living in the greater Rhein-Main area.



The Newcomers Festival consists of an exhibition of services, clubs and organizations in the area. For a full listing of the exhibitors and more information about the event, please consult the website at www.newcomers-festival.de

Test Your Knowledge of American Facts!

1. The tune of the "Star-Spangled Banner" was originally

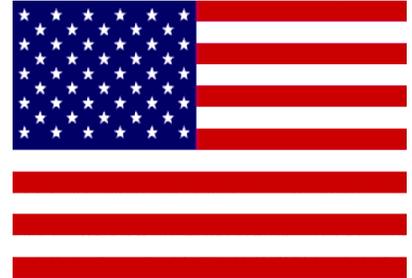
- A. A British drinking song
- B. A song from a musical comedy
- C. Written by Francis Scott Key

2. Who was the President of the Continental Congress that passed the Declaration of Independence?

- A. George Washington
- B. John Adams
- C. John Hancock

3: What state was admitted to the Union through legislation with a provision allowing it at any time to split up into as many five states, each represented in Congress by two senators?

- A. Texas
- B. California
- C. Alaska



Answers: 1 A 2 C 3 A

Opening Hours and Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt

Giessener Strasse 30

60435 Frankfurt am Main

<http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov>

Passport Unit

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F

Tel: (069) 7535-2100, 2:00pm to 4:00pm only

Fax: (069) 7535-2304

Email: frankfurtpassports@state.gov

frankfurtbirthabroad@state.gov

Special Consular Services

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F

Tel: (069) 7535-2102

Email: GermanyACS@state.gov

After-Hour Emergencies: (069) 7535-0

Holiday Closures and Upcoming Events

July 5

September 6

October 3

October 11

November 11

November 25

December 24

December 25

December 26

Independence Day

Labor Day

Day of German Unity

Columbus Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas

Christmas

Second Christmas

December 31 New Year's Day for 2011

