

Ask the Embassy - March 7, 2018

I am Jamaican-American and currently live in Jamaica. Can I vote in the November elections?

Yes! All U.S. citizens, who are 18 or older by November 6, 2018, can register and vote in the 2018 U.S. general election.

Just follow these simple steps to make sure that your vote is counted in the 2018 U.S. elections:

- 1. Register and Request Your Ballot:** Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You must complete a new FPCA **after** January 1, 2018 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to register to vote and to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)**, including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories. You can complete the FPCA **online** at www.FVAP.gov You can return it electronically or bring it to the Embassy, and we will mail it back to the U.S. for you.
- 2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot:** States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and at least 30 days before primary elections. To find out exactly when your state will send your ballot, check www.FVAP.gov
- 3. Return Your Completed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots, you can drop them off at the U.S. Embassy in Kingston or the Consular Agency in Montego Bay. Place your materials in a postage-paid return envelope, available at www.FVAP.gov or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials.

Q. I was born in the U.S., but I never lived there. Can I still vote?

Probably. If you are a U.S. citizen, but you have never lived in the United States, your eligibility to vote depends on where your parents or guardians last lived in the United States. Check here for state-by-state rules: www.FVAP.gov/citizen-voter/reside

You can find more information about American Citizen Services and how to travel to the U.S. on our website, <https://jm.usembassy.gov/> Keep on top of Embassy news on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyJamaica/> and by following @USEmbassyJA on Twitter. We also answer general questions on our Facebook and Twitter pages.