

## 2018 Midterm Primary Elections - Your Expat Vote Counts

This year's midterm elections are arguably the most important in a generation. The US Embassy has a message for American citizens:

The 2018 primary elections have already begun. You can register and request your absentee ballot at FVAP.gov

This year the entire House of Representatives and a third of the US Senate are up for election. Don't miss your opportunity to vote in your state's primary election, as it will determine who is on the November 2018 general election ballot. To register and request your absentee ballot, visit FVAP.gov. Complete the Federal Post Card Application ("FPCA") using the online assistant ("fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots"). You may also use the fillable PDF (fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca.pdf) or pick up a hardcopy version from the US Embassy or nearest US Consulate.

The following states have elections in the next 2 months:

### May elections

May 8: Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, West Virginia

May 15: Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania

May 22: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Texas

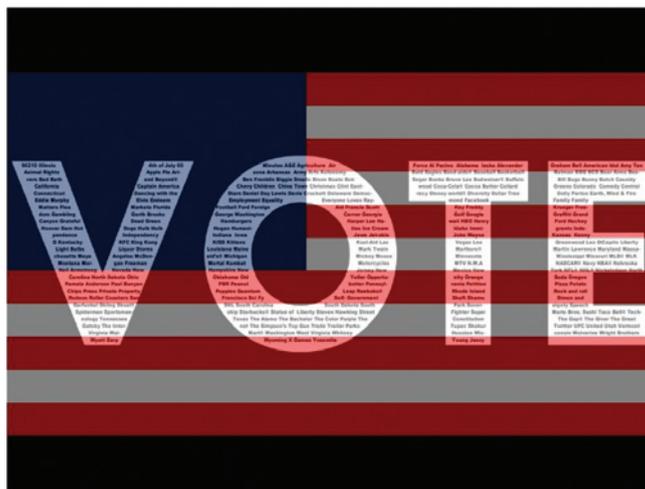
### June elections

June 5: Alabama, California, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota

June 12: Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia

June 19: Arkansas, District of Columbia

June 26: Colorado, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) recommends that all US citizens overseas send in a FPCA every January to ensure receipt of absentee ballots for all federal elections in the following year.

Now is the time to update your mailing address and absentee ballot request information to reflect any changes since the 2016 general election.

Not voting in the states listed above? Find your state's primary election dates at FVAP.gov: Select the state where you want to vote from the drop-down menu in the "Voters Start Here" box at the top left-hand side of the screen. To find your state's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices, visit FVAP's contact page (fvap.gov/info/contact).

There is an alternative - come join us, vote in the UK, and have a lot of fun. See below!

### Vote in person in the UK

Way back in September 2016 *The American* held a pre-election event called *ElectionFest*, at which US citizens could register to vote, apply for a ballot, receive the correct forms for their home state (not always an

easy or obvious task!) and hand their completed ballot to FVAP representatives, who took them back to the US to ensure their vote was counted. It was a huge success, and a great party for Americans too, with US comedians and live music.

This September we are inviting you to *PledgeFest*, another event at which you can do all of the above, and find out all about how to tax-effectively donate to your favorite US charities too. Look out for full information in the next issue, or sign

up for our free e-newsletter.

It's easy, just head along to [www.theamerican.co.uk](http://www.theamerican.co.uk) then click on the red SUBSCRIBE button on the navigation bar.

You'll be the first to find out the details of *PledgeFest* as they are announced.

## London Sports sponsored by MASECO

London Sports, the UK's largest and long-established youth baseball & girls' softball league, have a new sponsor, the wealth management firm MASECO Private Wealth who readers will recognize as providing many useful articles to expats in our pages.

Since 1986, London Sports ([www.londonsports.com](http://www.londonsports.com)) have registered and trained over 15,000 children to play baseball and softball in over 12,000 games. Many American families are involved, so it's a great place to meet like-minded US families as well as the kids playing their favorite sport.

The sponsorship will help a new Scholarship & Infrastructure Fund, which will pay for underprivileged children to join the league free of charge. It also introduces a Player of the Week and Home Run Leaderboard. The season commenced on Saturday April 14th and continues until June 10th. All games will be played on Saturday and Sunday at Wormwood Scrubs Park in White City and are open to boys or girls aged 5-18, with or without experience.



Join the gang, play softball and baseball in London COURTESY LONDON SPORTS