

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN OSLO, NORWAY



SPRING 2018

What's inside

Ambassador Braithwaite
Formally Accredited as U.S.
Ambassador to Norway

International Travel:
Know Before you Go

Embassy Takes Part
in Arctic Frontiers

Have You Registered To
Vote?

Retirement Planner:
Helping You Plan Now

Changes to Passport
Payment at the
Embassy

Taxes and your
Passport

Passport Execution
Fee increase

American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at osloACS@state.gov
Please enroll in STEP, our free travel messaging program. Visit step.state.gov.



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PAGE 1

SPRING 2018

Kenneth J. Braithwaite Formally Accredited as U.S. Ambassador to Norway

On Thursday, February 8, 2018, U.S. [Ambassador Kenneth J. Braithwaite](#) presented his credentials to Norway's Head of State, His Majesty King Harald V, and was thereby formally accredited as U.S. Ambassador to Norway. Newly-appointed ambassadors to Norway present their credentials to the King at a formal audience. The formality of the time-honored ceremony, which harks back to the beginnings of diplomacy in the Italian Renaissance, accentuates the honor of the appointment and the gravity of the diplomatic mission. [Read more](#)



His majesty King Harald welcomes the United States' new Ambassador Kenneth Braithwaite, in a formal ceremony at the Royal Castle. Photo:



International Travel? Know before you go.

Visiting other countries can be a great experience, whether you are traveling for work or pleasure, solo or in a group, staying for a few days or several years. Planning ahead can help ensure your time abroad is both enjoyable and safe. The Department of States' Travel website has a travelers checklist. [Read more](#)

Embassy Takes Part in Arctic Frontiers

On January 17-22, Charge d' Affaires Jim DeHart participated in the Arctic Frontiers Conference and Emerging Leaders Program. The Conference is an international arena for the discussion of Arctic-related issues, bringing together academia, government and business to create a firmer foundation for decision-making and sustainable economic development in the Arctic. [Read more](#)



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EMBASSY UPDATES

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PAGE 2

SPRING 2018

Have your registered to vote?

Did you know that many U.S. elections for house and senate have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline. The first step is to register with the Federal Post Card Application. [Read more](#)

How to Vote From Anywhere
WHEN YOU'RE AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS

STEP 1
REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT WITH THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA).

STEP 2
FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES.

Retirement Planner: Helping you Plan Now



A secure, comfortable retirement is every worker's dream. And now because we're living longer, healthier lives, we can expect to spend more time in retirement than our parents and grandparents did. Achieving the dream of a secure, comfortable retirement is much easier when you plan your finances. [Read more.](#)

Changes to passport payment at the Embassy

Due to an unexpected change in banking procedures, the United States Embassy in Oslo is no longer able to deposit bank checks (bankremisse) in person, as required by our financial management regulations. This means that we have been prohibited from accepting payments of consular fees with a bankremisse, bank transfer, and Vipps. [Read more](#)



U.S. Passport Execution Fee Increases to \$35

Effective April 2, 2018, the passport execution fee increased from \$25 to \$35. The \$10 execution fee increase only applies to U.S. passport applicants using the DS-11 form, such as first-time applicants over 16, and applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen. [Read more](#)

Taxes and your Passport

If you have been certified to the Department of State by the Secretary of the Treasury as having a seriously delinquent tax debt, you cannot be issued a U.S. passport, this could have implications for your current U.S. passport. [Read more](#)



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