

# THE ANDZNAGIR

*News for the American citizen community in Armenia*



Field Code Changed

Spring is on its way to Armenia! This winter in American Citizen Services we have been keeping up with your applications for passports, notarial services, and answering your questions. In a world full of concerns and questions on travel, health and safety, it is more important than ever to have your passport and other documents up to date and ready to use. Please check your documents and make sure you have time to renew your passport before you embark on a journey.

*What's in this issue?* We have updates and resources on **COVID-19** in our *Hot Topics* section on page 2. It's **tax season** again, and page 3 has resources for you to get that project started. 2020 is a presidential **election year!** See page 3 for updates. We've also included a few fun items of "*Best of Yerevan*". Don't forget to look at page 6 and spread the news regarding military service for dual nationals and U.S. residents. As always the last page is "About Us..." with all the important details of office hours and passport pick up.

Enjoy the warmer weather and keep in touch with ACS!

## Hot Topics



### Novel Coronavirus

<https://am.usembassy.gov/>

There's no shortage of online resources about the spread of COVID-19 around the world in recent weeks. We are maintaining a webpage focused on the situation in Armenia at (<https://am.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>). Please check regularly as we provide as accurate and timely information and resources for U.S. citizen visitors and residents in Armenia.

If you plan to travel internationally, we refer you to the following resources from the U.S. Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

Other useful websites are those of the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>) and a webpage maintained by Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (<https://systems.jhu.edu/>) which tracks case statistics globally.

If you haven't already done so, consider enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (<https://step.state.gov/step/>), which allows the Department of State to send you security and safety messages and to contact you in case of an emergency.

## VOTING/TAXES

[www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov)



# FVAP.GOV

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Vote Absentee in 2020 U.S. Elections

Living across the pond? Working outside the States?

No matter where you are, you can vote.

As a citizen living abroad, you can vote in all U.S. elections in 2020. Have your absentee ballots sent to you this election year.

[Watch the tutorial](#) to see how easy voting absentee can be.

### The 2020 Tax Season is Upon Us

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

It's that time of year again! All U.S. citizens or resident aliens must report and pay tax on their worldwide income, even if they live abroad. For more information on paying taxes while abroad, please go to <http://www.irs.gov> and click **FILE** on the drop down menu, you'll see a link for **International Tax Payers**. Click that link and it will give you several options to choose from. You can also call International Taxpayer Assistance at (215) 516-2000 (note: not "toll-free") 6:00 am to 11:00pm (EST) M-F.

For Military Personnel, please go to <http://www.irs.gov>, find **INDIVIDUALS** on the home page, and then click on **MILITARY**. Special rules and deadlines may apply for combat zone service or if you're serving outside the U.S.

## For Fun

From an informal survey conducted in 2019, please see the:

### “BEST OF Yerevan”

#### ***Favorite Place to Take a Visitor***

1. The Cascade
2. Garni, and Lavash restaurant

#### ***Best Trips from Yerevan***

1. Garni/Geghard
2. Khor Virap
3. Tatev Monastery

#### ***Best Weekend Trip from Yerevan***

1. Tatev/Goris
2. Dilijan

#### ***Best Coffee***

1. TIE: Coffeeshop Company & Green Bean
2. Eat Fit Café

#### ***Best Hamburger***

1. Black Angus
2. Classic Burger
3. Dargett

#### ***Best Italian Cuisine***

1. Ankyun
2. La Cucina
3. Limone

#### ***Best Vegetarian Food***

1. Eat Fit Café
2. Green Bean
3. Wine Republic

#### ***Best Bakery***

1. Baguette and Co.
2. Louis Chardin

### Don't Forget Your Social Security Number!

When applying for a passport or renewing a passport, the Department of State requires that you to provide your Social Security Number in order to receive a full validity passport. Sometimes passport applicants forget to fill in their SSN and call American Citizen Services asking us to fill the information in on their behalf. By law, we cannot put the SSN on the passport application, and what's more, we cannot approve your passport application without it.



Some children have not yet had a Social Security Number assigned to them. In this case, you can apply for a passport on behalf of your child and sign a statement acknowledging that the child does not yet have a number. The statement will be added to the child's passport application.

## Apostille Info

Lately American Citizen Services has been receiving many calls from U.S. citizens requesting document authentication or to have an *apostille* attached to a document.

Getting a document authenticated is **complicated!** Here are some tips:

- 1) We (the U.S. Embassy) don't have the authority to verify, authenticate or place an apostille on a U.S. document. Sorry!
- 2) Guidance is available to you. Start at the **travel.state.gov** webpage on Records and Authentications: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/records-and-authentications.html>
- 3) Depending on the type of document and which entity – federal or state government, private organization – originally issued it, you may have to turn to several offices for assistance.

To authenticate documents issued within the state of California, please visit:

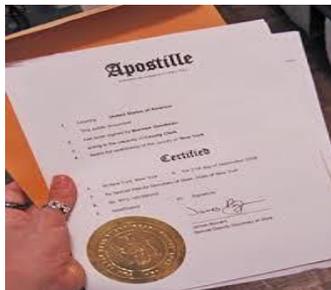
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/authentication/>

To obtain copies of vital records, please visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records.aspx>

*\* To obtain an apostille on Armenian civil documents and on documents notarized by Armenian notaries, please turn to Armenia's Ministry of Justice.*

Armenia's Ministry of Justice contact information:  
**1-17 (calls are free of charge)**  
**+374 (10) 527-000 (for overseas calls)**  
[hotline@gov.am](mailto:hotline@gov.am)



## YOU SHOULD KNOW!

(and please pass the information along...)

### DUAL NATIONALS VISITING ARMENIA

As of January 1, 2020, the potential penalties for evasion of military service in Armenia have changed. The section of Armenia's legal code which governs evasion of military service is Article 327: *Evasion from regular military service or training exercises of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia*, accessible

here: <http://parliament.am/legislation.php?sele=show&ID=1349&lang=eng>.

Armenian citizens, including dual U.S. and Armenian nationals, who have not completed required military service may face financial penalties or criminal prosecution. At present we do not have any further details on how these penalties may be applied or enforced.

Armenia's Ministry of Defense has a toll-free number at 1-28 in Armenia or +374 12 21 00 00 from outside Armenia, available to answer public questions from 9:00am to 6:00pm, Monday-Friday, local time.

<https://am.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-u-s-embassy-yerevan-january-21-2020/>



*I'm getting married in Armenia to an Armenian citizen, and the civil registry has told me that I need a form from the U.S. Embassy. Is this correct?*

This is correct. We provide a template affidavit form for you, which you can use to attest that you are free to marry. Make an appointment for a "notarial or other service" via our website. Keep in mind, however, that this service is available for **U.S. citizens only**.



*The civil registry requires this form from **green card** holders as well, but the Embassy does not offer this service. So what are green card holders to do?*

A U.S. permanent resident can apply for a marriage record check from their county government offices **before leaving the United States** and must **have an apostille affixed to the document**, see this webpage for information on obtaining an apostille: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/records-and-authentications.html>. Without an apostille, Armenia will not accept the report.

## The STEP Program: What it is and Why You Should Register



STEP is short for *The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program*. It's a way for U.S. Citizen and nationals living and travelling abroad to register with the U.S. Embassy in any given country, and a way for the embassy to contact its citizens and nationals in the event of a political crisis or natural disaster, a mass evacuation, or even a family emergency. STEP is a way for family and friends to contact you during such events. STEP is also the way the U.S. Embassy in Armenia communicates important Travel Advisories and Alerts via text and SMS, as well conveying information through newsletters and emails. Though visitors and those living in Armenia and elsewhere are not required to register for STEP, we highly encourage it. Have your passport and itinerary handy when you register: <https://step.state.gov>

## The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT)



Are you interested in working in a US Embassy? The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) will be offered to Americans living in Armenia.

The FSOT is free. In order to take the FSOT, applicants must have U.S. citizenship, and be at least 20 years of age and no older than 59 years of age on the day the candidate submits the registration. **The website is open for registration on April 23, 2020**, and closes on the May 27, 2020. Applicants must register for the FSOT via the website: <http://vue.com/fsot/>

Register as soon as possible. Candidates who have waited until the last minute have either missed deadlines or found that their preferred testing location was full.

For answers to General FSOT FAQs, see <http://vue.com/fsot/faqs.asp>.

## About Us...



**Shane Spellman** serves as chief of our American Citizen Services Unit. Shane and his family were previously assigned to U.S. Embassy Beijing.

**Anahit Movsesyan** is an Armenian citizen with extensive consular experience. She has worked for the U.S. Embassy for thirteen years. She previously served as Protocol Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador. Anahit speaks Armenian, Russian, and English.

**Georgetta Carroll** serves as our new Consular Clerk. Georgetta and her family's previous post was Bucharest, Romania, where she worked in the Consular section.

### **Websites to know**

**US Embassy Yerevan:** [www.usa.am](http://www.usa.am)

**Employment at US Embassy:**

[https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms?\\_ref=yymm4c1h3pt0](https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms?_ref=yymm4c1h3pt0)

**Social Security:** <https://gr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>

### **Fees for Services**

Notarial services -\$50 per seal  
Marriage letter notary - \$50  
Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) - \$100  
Adult passport renewal - \$110  
Minor passport / renewal - \$115  
First time adult or replacement of lost or stolen passport -\$145  
*Fees can be paid in either U.S. dollars or Armenian drams.*

After applying for a passport or CRBA, you will receive an email from our office indicating that document is ready for pick up:

**Passport and CRBA Pick-Up Hours**  
**2:00 - 4:30p.m., Monday to Friday**  
**(Excluding holidays)**

**As always, we welcome your comments, questions and feedback. Please write to us at [ACSyerevan@state.gov](mailto:ACSyerevan@state.gov)**

U.S. Embassy, Yerevan  
Consular Section/ACS  
1 American Ave, Yerevan 0082

Phone (M-F 8:30am-5:30pm):  
(+374) 10 49-45-85

Emergency Phone (after hours):  
(+374) 10 49-44-44