



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: San Salvador (El Salvador), Caution Advised During Election Elections

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The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador is sending this message to inform U.S. citizens residing in and traveling to El Salvador that a national election is being held on **Sunday, March 11, 2012**. We anticipate the election will be peaceful; there is currently **no** information that indicates violent protests or other activity. However, electoral activities are likely to contribute to traffic congestion. Additionally, even election-related activities intended to be peaceful can become unruly or violent. The U.S. Embassy recommends the following precautions for U.S. Citizens living or traveling in El Salvador during this election time:

Avoid polling locations. Convention centers, hotels and schools are often used as polling locations. Traffic and crowds in and around polling locations will be very heavy.

Avoid wearing any clothing that has political party logos (FMLN, ARENA, GANA, PCN) or colors that represent them (Red, Blue-White-Red, Orange or Green).

Do not participate in, or observe any, political party rallies, parades or other events. Your activities in El Salvador are governed by Salvadoran law and the type of visa you have been issued. Under Salvadoran law, all foreigners who participate directly or indirectly in the internal political affairs of the country (i.e. political rallies, protests) lose the right to remain in El Salvador, regardless of visa status or residency in El Salvador.

“La Ley Seca”

This is a law that prohibits the sale of alcohol from midnight on Friday, March 9th, through midnight on Monday, March 12th. This law applies to all stores, bars, restaurants and markets.

After the results are released, local celebrations, rallies, parades and fireworks are common. U.S. Citizens should avoid these events also and should expect heavy traffic at abnormal times and locations.

The U.S. Embassy strongly encourages U.S. citizens to routinely monitor the Embassy website for important and helpful notices regarding safety and security in El Salvador. The Embassy's web site can be accessed at U.S. Embassy San Salvador.



As always, please keep the Embassy's Personal Security Suggestions in mind.

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador is located at Final Boulevard Santa Elena Sur, Urbanización Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad, telephone 011-503-2501-2999, fax 011-503-2278-5522, email congensansal@state.gov.

The Consular Section is open for American Citizen Services from 8:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. weekdays, excluding U.S. and Salvadoran holidays. After business hours, the Embassy can be contacted by telephone at 011-503-2501-2316 or 011-503-2501-2253.