



CONSOLATO D'ITALIA  
DI I CLASSE  
DETROIT

## VOTING BY MAIL FOR ITALIAN CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD

The Italian Parliamentary elections will be held in 2018, and citizens who reside abroad will be able to vote. Italian citizens can elect representatives to the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Republic by voting for **candidates running for the Overseas Constituency**.

**VOTING is a RIGHT** protected by the Italian Constitution, and in accordance with Law no. 459 of 27 December, 2001, Italian citizens who reside abroad and are registered on the **electoral rolls** of the **overseas constituency can VOTE BY MAIL**. *Please check with your consulate to ensure that your personal data and address are up-to-date.*

**YOU CAN DECIDE, ALTERNATIVELY, TO VOTE IN ITALY IN YOUR OWN MUNICIPALITY, giving written notice** of your choice (**OPTION**) to the Consulate within the legally required deadline. Voters who choose to vote in Italy for the upcoming political elections will receive the voting notification card from their respective municipalities - at the polling stations in Italy - **for candidates in the national constituencies and not for the Overseas Constituency**.

The choice (option) to vote in Italy is only valid for one election.

Anyone who wishes to vote in Italy **will have to write** to their Consulate **BY DECEMBER 31st** of the year before the year scheduled for the natural expiration of parliament (March 2018), therefore, **by December 31, 2017**.

In the even of an early dissolution of the Parliament, the option may be sent or delivered by hand by the 10th day after the election has been called.

**In any case, the option MUST ARRIVE at the Consular Office NO LATER THAN TEN DAYS AFTER THE DATE IN WHICH THE ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED.** The aforementioned option notification may be written on plain paper and - in order to be valid - must contain the name, surname, date, place of birth, place of residence and **signature** of the voter. You may also use the **form** herewith attached in order to provide this notice, and the **form** is also available at the Consulate, "Patronati" (Italian social service offices), Associations, COMITES (Committee of Italians Residing Abroad), or can be downloaded from the website of the Foreign Ministry ([www.esteri.it](http://www.esteri.it)) or your consulate's website.

If the statement is not delivered in person, it must be accompanied by a copy of the proof of identification of the voter.

As provided by law, voters will be responsible for ensuring that notification of the option sent by mail has been received within the allotted time period by the Consulate responsible for their jurisdiction of residence.

The choice to vote in Italy may be subsequently **WITHDRAWN** by written notification sent or delivered to the Consular office using the same procedures and within the same timeframe set forth in order to exercise the option.

By law, those voters opting to return to Italy to vote are **NOT** entitled to any type of **reimbursement** for travel costs, but they are eligible for certain fee waivers within the Italian territory. Only voters who reside in countries that do not meet the conditions for voting by mail (Law 459/2001, article 20, paragraph 1-bis) will have the right to reimbursement of 75% of the cost of travel in economy class.

**THE CONSULAR OFFICE IS AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION.**

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