

Dear Friends,

After years of stalemate it is time to renew the Committees of Italians abroad: Comites. Systems that are important for the support of our community in the world, that have been forgotten by the institutions and bodies so far, will after 10 years finally be renewed with new elections to be held by December 2014.

Elections will be different from those in 2004, diverse especially in the process. Those who will vote for the renewal of Comites will have to register on a list established at the consulates. Voters will have to fill out a form that will be returned - by postal mail, e-mail, fax, or in person - within 30 days prior to the date election including with it a copy of an identity document.

This is an essential task that should be done as soon as possible, considering that the election date has been set for December 19, 2014 and that, therefore, the inclusion of the voter in the list must be ratified by November 19, 2014.

On the website of each Consulate forms are already available for registration. My plan is to compile it and send it immediately to the respective consulates to avoid work overload of the same offices that may result in delays, loss of documents and various obstacles can potentially compromise the inclusion on the list of voters.

Even more important is that each of you will become an ambassador of the right and duty to vote. Let everyone know, your friends and acquaintances, of this obligation of registration. To help the sending of forms, follow the step-by-step instructions listed below.

Best Wishes,
Sen. Renato G. Turano

HOW TO VOTE

Italian citizens residing abroad that are of age, registered to vote and have been a resident for at least six months in the consular district, vote by mail, as long as they were sent - by the deadline required by law - to the Consular Office of reference enclosed application.

The Consulate specialist will send, to each voter who has filed an application for admission to vote by the twentieth day prior to the date of the election, an envelope containing the election material and an information sheet showing how to vote.

The citizen shall vote according to the instructions provided, then return the form to its consular office. To mail the card using the pre-paid envelope contained in the ballot papers. The envelope should be sent as soon as possible so as to arrive at your destination no later than 24 hours before of the day set for the vote.