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Contact: Wayne Stanley, deputy press secretary
260-422-1505 | wayne_stanley@lugar.senate.gov

Sen. Lugar hosts passport fairs across state

FORT WAYNE— U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, along with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Postal Service, will host Passport Fairs across the state throughout the week of March 2.

“All Americans planning international travel to any destination after or through June 1 will be required to have a current U.S. passport,” said Lugar. “It is important to start the application process to avoid possible delays.”

The goal of the passport fair is to educate Hoosiers on the [Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative](#) (WHTI) and provide services for U.S. citizens to apply for their passports.

Currently, all U.S. citizens are required to present a passport book when travelling by air to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. On June 1, 2009, the U.S. government will require U.S. citizens entering the United States at land borders or sea ports of entry to have a passport book, passport card, or [other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security](#).

The goal of the WHTI is to strengthen U.S. border security while facilitating entry for U.S. citizens and legitimate foreign visitors by providing standardized documentation that denotes both identity and citizenship.

The Passport Fair schedule includes:

MONDAY, MARCH 2

New Albany, IN
Floyd County Public Library
Meeting Room
180 West Market Street
4 to 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Evansville, IN
Evansville Vanderburgh Public
Library-Oaklyn Branch
3001 Oaklyn Drive
4 to 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis International Airport
Board Room
7800 Col. H. Weir Cook Mem. Dr.
4 to 7 p.m.
Complimentary parking provided

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Valparaiso, IN
United Way of Porter County
951 Eastport Centre Drive
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Fort Wayne, IN
Lugar Community Service
Center
6384-A W. Jefferson Blvd.
Covington Plaza
3 to 6 p.m.

— More —

Members of the U.S. Department of State and Senator Lugar's staff will be present to answer passport questions and concerns. Passport Acceptance Agents will be present to execute passport applications. Documentation and fees required for an application are located at: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html.

Personal check, money orders, and cash will be accepted at the passport fairs. Please note that a separate payment is made to the passport acceptance agent for the execution fee and to the Department of State for the passport fee.

When the air requirement of WHTI was implemented in January 2007, many Hoosiers were severely impacted by the huge demand in passports and long processing times resulting in delayed travel plans or canceled trips. Lugar dedicated staff to assist Hoosiers and worked to extend the deadline of the land and sea requirement to June 1, 2009.

For more information on the Passport Fairs please contact Susan Brouillette at 317.226.5555. For additional information/assistance with passports, visit Lugar's online Passport Assistance: <http://lugar.senate.gov/services/passport>.

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