



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF RUSSIA
IN THE UNITED STATES,
Houston**

The Honorable Chris Benge
Oklahoma Secretary of State
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Ste. 101,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4897

W 1229

September 24th, 2016

Dear Secretary Benge,

While presenting our compliments, hereby would like to kindly request you for an assistance in allowing the officer of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Houston to be present (for a short period of time, when convenient) at one of the ballot station of Oklahoma with the goal of studying the US experience in organization of voting process during The United States Presidential Elections on November 8th, 2016.

Your reply would be highly appreciated.

Regards,

Alexander K. Zakharov
Consul General

Chris Bengé
Secretary of State
and
Native American Affairs



SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Mary Fallin
Governor

September 9, 2016

The Honorable Alexander K. Zakharov
Consul General of the Russian Federation
1333 West Loop South, Suite 1300
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Consul General Zakharov:

Thank you for your interest in our election and voting process. While it would be our honor to offer the opportunity to observe our voting process, it is prohibited under state law to allow anyone except election officials and voters in or around the area where the voting takes place.

I hope that you are able to view the televised election process on November 8, 2016, as citizens of the United States select the country's next president. It is truly an amazing system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bengé". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Bengé
Secretary of State

Cc: Paul Ziriaux, State Election Board