



# *Next Generation Vital Statistics: A Hearing on Current Status, Current Issues and Future Possibilities*

September 11, 2017

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Consular Affairs

Office of Passport Services



Panel 2.

## **CURRENT STATUS OF VITAL RECORDS: FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE**



# The Bureau of Consular Affairs: Who are we?

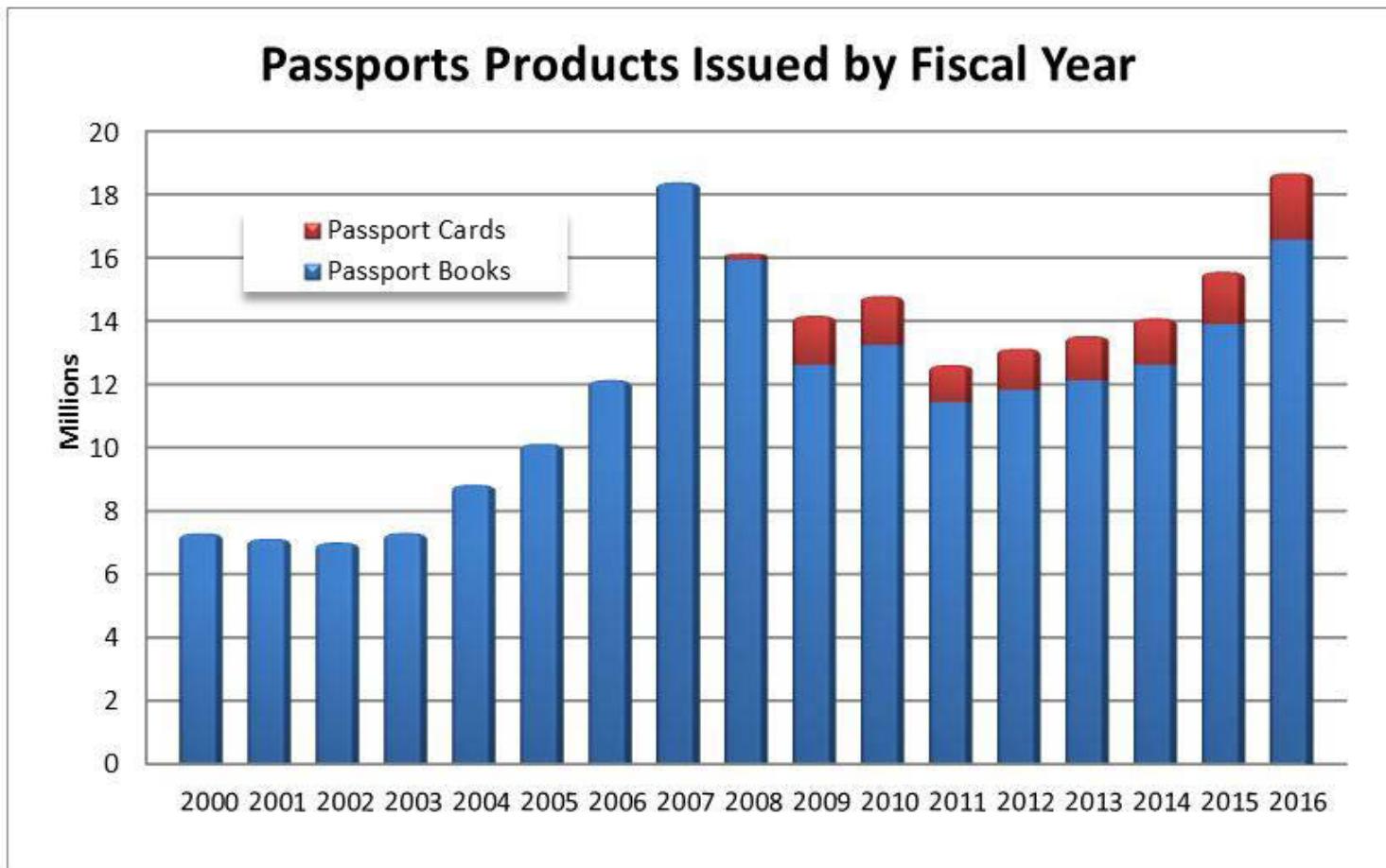
The Bureau of Consular Affairs is the public face of the U.S. Department of State to millions of people around the world. The Bureau's Office of Passport Services issues U.S. passports to traveling U.S. citizens and nationals. We protect the integrity of the U.S. passport as proof of U.S. citizenship at home and around the world, while providing the highest level of customer service, professionalism, and integrity.

## **The Office of Passport Services consists of:**

- 26 Regional Passport Agencies and Centers - Open to the public
- Charleston Passport Center - Closed to the public
- 1 Special Issuance Agency
- 2 Passport Production Centers
- National Passport Information Center
- Network of more than 9,100 Passport Application Acceptance Facilities
- Headquarters offices in Washington, DC

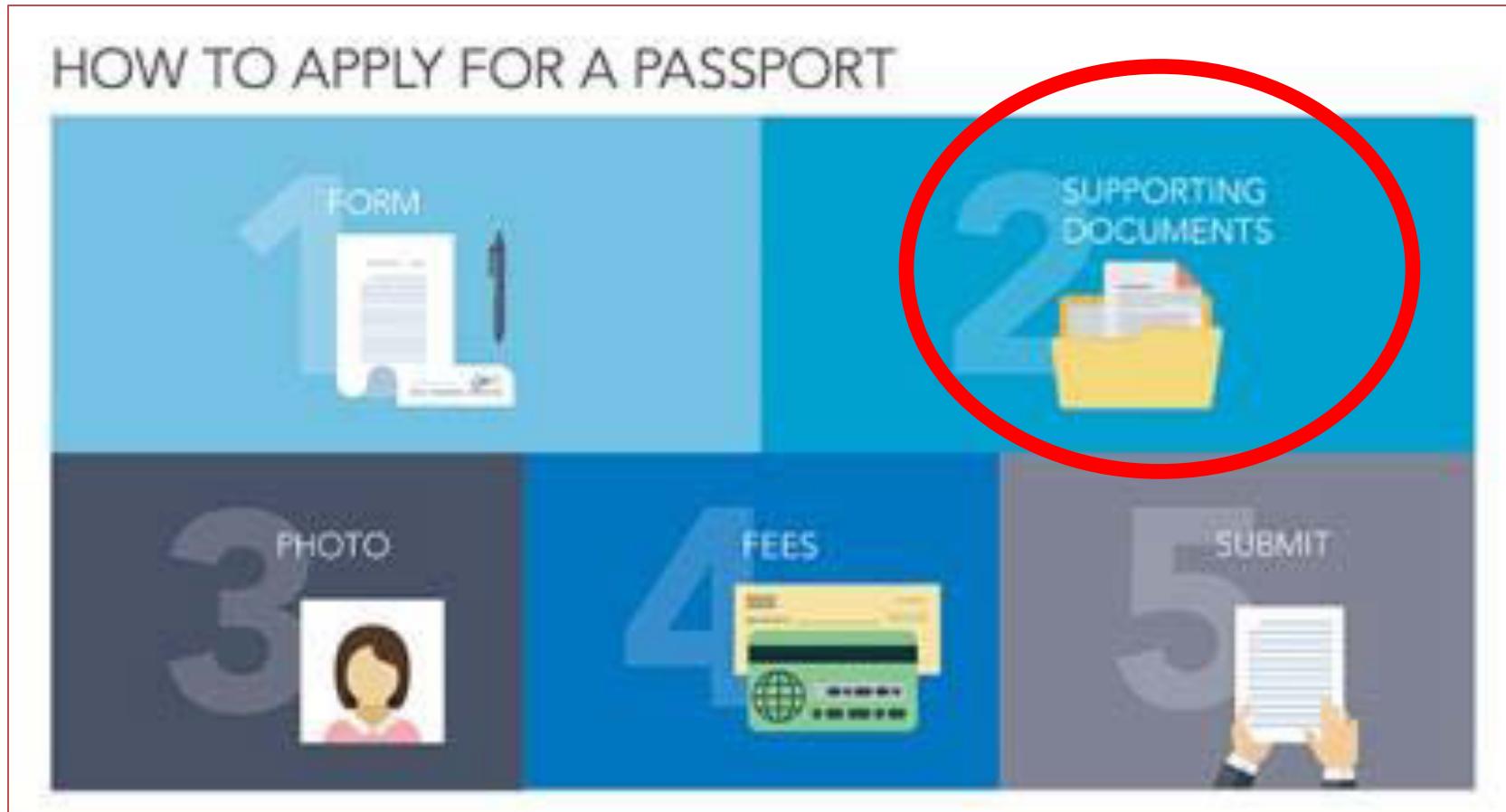


# What do we do?





# What is our process?





## How do Vital Records play a part?

- The Office of Passport Services uses vital records to help establish identity, citizenship, and entitlement to a U.S. passport.
- Vital records are critically important to us because most document the details of the recorded vital event near the time of occurrence.
- Currently, our customers submit a request for a certified copy of their vital record to the appropriate state or local office. The certified record is then submitted by the customer to us, where it is reviewed and returned to the customer. We retain a photocopy of the record for auditing and future requests from the customer.
- Customer information and documents submitted to us are handled as sensitive and private information and are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and Department policy.
- We rely on our long-standing relationships with Vital Registrars and their staff to resolve discrepancies and to verify and confirm records issued by their jurisdictions. We also rely on our partnerships with organizations like NAPHSIS to verify and confirm the registration of an event in a jurisdiction.



Thank You