

Citizen Services

Voter Registration General Information

Current updates on voting are available at: http://france.usembassy.gov/voter_registration.html.

Voting by Absentee Ballot for U.S. Elections from France

All American citizens age 18 years or older may register to vote by absentee ballot for U.S. elections. Overseas registrations are accepted by most state officials up to 30-45 days prior to a General Election.

Generally, U.S. citizens who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in any election for Federal Office. This includes primary, run-off, and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general election in November. Some states allow overseas voters to vote in elections for state and local offices, and for state and local referenda.

Eligibility

Voting eligibility and residency requirements are determined by the various U.S. states, and are available on-line at: <http://fvap.gov/>.

Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state where you last resided immediately prior to departure from the United States. Voting rights extend to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence, and even if their intent to return to that state may be uncertain. For those who have never resided in the U.S., seventeen states to date, allow eligible U.S. citizens to register where a parent would be eligible to vote: <http://fvap.gov/reference/nvr-res.html>.

Information and Forms

In order to obtain information and assistance concerning absentee voting from overseas, you may refer to the official U.S. Government website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) at: <http://fvap.gov/>.

This website provides a wealth of information about absentee voting, including state-specific instructions <http://fvap.gov/FPCA/index.html> for completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) <http://fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>.

Links to state and local officials and a downloadable emergency ballot — Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for use by those who register in time but fail to receive an official ballot are available at: <http://fvap.gov/FWAB/index.html>.

You may also consult the FVAP resources including [Frequently Asked Questions](#): <http://fvap.gov/faq.html> and toll free telephone numbers available overseas at: <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html>.

To register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot, you can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA): <http://fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf> (standard printed and online forms). Some states may require that your signature on the FPCA be notarized by a notary public; for this information, you must refer to the state specific instructions: <http://fvap.gov/FPCA/index.html>.

If your state requires that your signature be notarized on the Federal Post Card Application. Please see information concerning notarial services at: http://france.usembassy.gov/usc_notarial.html provided by the Consular Section in Paris. You may also contact the Consular Offices located throughout France: <http://france.usembassy.gov/consulara.html> for this service. No fee will be charged for notarial services required by the Federal Government for voting purposes.

Where to send your voting materials

You must mail your request for an absentee ballot or voted ballot to a specific election official. Select your state to open an address list see: <http://fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpca.html>. Don't know your county? Go to the country finder at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/cgi-bin/qfd/lookup>. Don't know your zip code? Go to the United States Postal Service website: <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp>.

The on-line version of this form, the OFPCA, is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. The on-line OFPCA form must be completed legibly, printed, signed, dated, and **mailed** to your local election officials. Your state may allow faxing to speed the process, but you will still need to send in the signed, dated original by mail. Use an envelope addressed to your state's election officials and affix proper local postage for airmail letters to the United States.

As a general rule, you should try to send in the FPCA so that it reaches your local election officials at least forty-five days before the first election in which you are eligible to vote – ample time for them to process the request and send you a blank ballot. If applying for both registration and an absentee ballot, you may want to mail the FPCA earlier. One FPCA will qualify you to receive all ballots for Federal offices for the next two regular Federal elections (through 2010).

We recommend, however, that you submit a new FPCA in January of every year, and whenever you move, to ensure that your most recent mailing and e-mail addresses are on file with your local election officials.

Under normal circumstances, most states and territories begin sending ballots to overseas citizens 30-45 days before an election. If you haven't received your ballot within three weeks of your state's ballot receipt deadline, however, and you are required to return your voted ballot by mail, you should download, complete, sign, date, and send in a Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB): <http://www.fvap.gov/FWAB/index.html>.

Make sure it is witnessed if required by your state.

If you subsequently receive your regular absentee ballot, execute it and return it regardless of when you receive it. Court decisions sometimes require late counting of ballots voted by Election Day, but received by local election officials for a specified period of time following Election Day.

Be an Educated Voter

Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via the Internet. Use the links appearing on the FVAP website Reference Center at: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/index.html>, read your hometown newspaper online, or search the Internet to locate articles and information.

In order to respond to all your questions concerning the voting process, the Consular Sections of U.S. Embassies worldwide are also available to assist you. You may contact consular staff by e-mail, phone and fax or mail (see contact information below).

Contacting the Voting Assistance Officers in France

The Voting Assistance Officers at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates, American Presence Posts and Agencies in France are available to answer questions about absentee voting.

When requesting the FPCA, please indicate your name, current address in France and your last "state of legal residence" in the United States.

Voting Assistance Officers

To contact the Voting Assistance Officer and/or request voting forms or information, you may send us an email or call numbers provided below. The Voting Assistance Officers at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Paris, and the Consular Offices located throughout France:

<http://france.usembassy.gov/consulara.html> are always available to answer questions about absentee voting.

U.S. Embassy, Paris

Telephone: 04 91 54 96 10 or 01 43 12 29 93 or 01 43 12 20 93 or 01 43 12 20 21, or send an e-mail to VoteParis@state.gov.

U.S Consulate General, Marseille

Telephone: 04 91 54 96 10 or 04 91 54 90 84, or send an e-mail to VoteMarseille@state.gov.

*United States Embassy
American Citizen Services
4, avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08
France
Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22
Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>
E-mail: citizeninfo@state.gov*

*U.S. Consulate General Marseille
Place Varian Fry
13006 Marseille
France
Telephone: 04 91 54 92 00
Consular Section: 04 91 54 90 84
Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov/marseille.html>
E-mail: citizeninfomarseille@state.gov*

<http://france.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/paris-voting.pdf>

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