

Send your Absentee Ballot by October 2, 2010!

The [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) (FVAP) recommends that overseas voters submit their absentee ballots by October 2nd. If you have received your absentee ballot, come to the Embassy to drop it off and we will send it to your State official. If you have not requested your absentee ballot, visit the [Overseas Vote Foundation](#) or the [Federal Voting Assistance program](#) (FVAP) website to fill out the absentee ballot request form (FPCA). For more information on how to vote overseas, please see the information below or e-mail VoteIslamabad@state.gov.

Emergency Ballots

[The Federal Write-in Ballot \(FWAB\)](#) serves as an emergency ballot for voters who registered in time but fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials. Please note: You must register to vote and request an absentee ballot by your state's deadline – usually 30 days before the election – to be eligible to use the FWAB.

How can I register to vote and vote absentee?

Voter registration and absentee ballot requests are accomplished through the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which can be accessed online on the [FVAP](#) website.

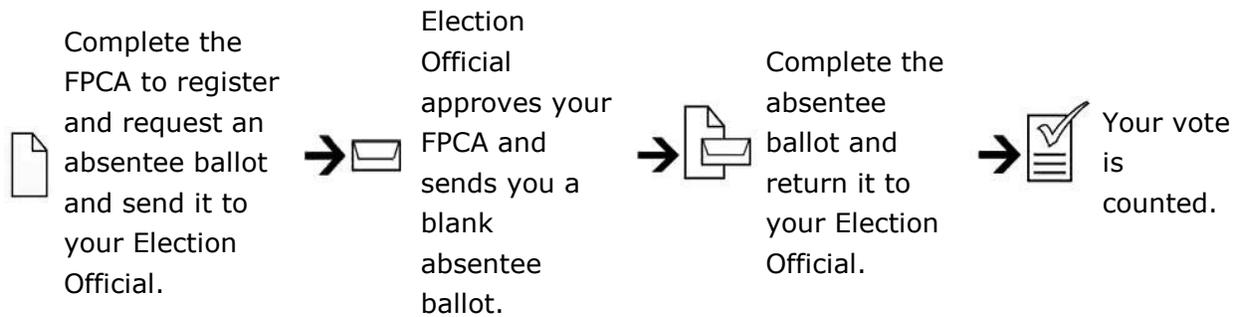
This form must then be submitted to the appropriate U.S. election official. The FPCA can be used to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for any federal, state, or local election, as well as to report a change in address. However, the extent and manner of FPCA usage is controlled by the individual laws of states and territories, and occasionally by local procedure. Accordingly, please check with your [state of registration](#) in order to determine its procedures for handling the use of FPCA.

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How it works?



Reminders and Recommendations

- If you have received your absentee ballot, submit it to your local election officials by October 2nd.
- For information regarding your specific state, please visit the [FVAP](#) website.
- Complete a FPCA and send it to your local election officials at the start of each calendar year, and whenever there is a change of address, change of e-mail address, or change of name.
- Do not forget to provide an e-mail address or fax number (if applicable) on your FPCA to enable local election officials to transmit election materials in the fastest manner available.

Get a MOVE on Voting!

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections and makes voting easier for overseas U.S. citizens. Under the MOVE act States are required to:

- Send out ballots a minimum of 45 days in advance of Election Day so overseas voters will receive their ballots in time.
- Confirm whether an overseas voter's ballot has been received by the State.
- Allow overseas voters to request and receive their ballots electronically.
- Develop a free access system, by which overseas voters can check to see if their ballots were received.

Additional Information on Voting

2010 is a Federal Election year and primary elections are currently underway. If you are a U.S. citizen residing overseas during the primary or general election, you can sign up to receive an absentee ballot. Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office.

What is the Federal Voting Assistance Program?

The [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) (FVAP) is responsible for the administration of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). This Act requires that states and territories allow U.S. citizens who are overseas to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office. U.S. citizens eligible to vote under this Act include: members of the Uniformed Services and their eligible family members; Merchant Marines and their eligible family members; Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. citizens employed by the Federal Government residing outside of the U.S.; and all other private U.S. citizens residing outside of the U.S.

Important Deadlines

Please note: the deadline for submitting the FPCA may vary from state to state. In order to ensure timely delivery of the election ballot we encourage all U.S. citizens to submit their ballot requests as early as possible. Previously unregistered citizens should submit their request at least 60 days prior to the election, while registered citizens should submit their request at least 45 days prior to the election.

FVAP recommends that you send your absentee ballot by **October 2, 2010**. The U.S. Embassy can mail both the FPCA and absentee ballot to your State official. If you are submitting your FPCA and absentee ballot after these dates, we cannot guarantee that it will arrive on time. If you want an absentee ballot for your State's primary, you will have to check your State's deadline. Remember that for each State's deadline, you should factor in at least **two weeks** for mailing time.

FVAP also recommends that overseas voters complete and submit the FPCA every year, in January, and whenever you move. When completing the FPCA indicate your new address and your old address. Completion instructions for each state can be found [here](#). In addition to informing the local election official of your current mailing address, submitting the FPCA confirms your registration and acts as a request for absentee ballots for any subsequent elections.

Additional Resources

The FVAP website maintains a section featuring information from the 55 states and territories regarding registering to vote, the absentee ballot, legal State of residence, and State deadlines. Each state and territory has different information on laws and requirements.

- The 2010-2011 Edition of the [Voting Assistance Guide](#)

- State voter [registration verification](#) website
- Resources for those who have [never resided in the U.S.](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#) about the FVAP

If you have additional questions, or would like further assistance, you may contact the Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad by emailing VoteIslamabad@state.gov.