



need to know absentee voting information



To register or request an absentee ballot, use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at FVAP.gov. To get your ballot sooner, many States allow you to submit the FPCA by email or fax. The instructions in your application package will tell you how you may submit the form.

The length of time an FPCA is valid varies by State. FVAP recommends: Uniformed Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens complete a new FPCA each January or at least 90 days before the specific election in which they want to vote. Check FVAP.gov for details.

States are required to send ballots out to voters at least 45 days before an election.

States no longer require voting materials to be notarized for absent military Service members, their families and overseas citizens. Some States still require a witness.



recommended mailing dates

From overseas and deployed naval vessels: 4 weeks before the election.

From within the United States: 1 week before the election.

Don't wait to submit your FPCA. To vote in the general election, submit it no later than August 1.

If you have not received your requested State ballot by October 4, use the FWAB and submit it immediately.

Keep current on voting-related news and subscribe to our Voter Alerts. Sign up at FVAP.gov.

Future questions should be directed to:
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155
Office: 800.438.VOTE / Fax: 703.693.5527
Additional toll-free numbers available at FVAP.gov
vote@fvap.gov
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/FVAP>



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

send
your
vote
home



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FVAP works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.



★ frequently asked questions

Where is my "legal voting residence"?

For voting purposes, your "legal voting residence" can be the State or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service OR the State or territory that you have since claimed as your legal residence. Even though you may no longer maintain formal ties to that residence, the address determines your proper voting jurisdiction. To claim a new legal residence, a Judge Advocate General Officer or legal counsel should be consulted because there are usually other factors that should be considered besides voting.

I am not in the Military; can I also vote absentee?

Eligible spouses and children (U.S. citizens, 18 years or older) of military personnel may vote absentee. U.S. citizens residing overseas may vote absentee using the last place of residence before leaving the United States. Some States allow children of military personnel and U.S. civilians residing overseas, who are U.S. citizens but who have never resided in the U.S., to claim one of their U.S. citizen parent's legal State of residence as their own.

Can I vote in person where I am stationed?

There are no provisions for in-person voting or on-site registration at U.S. embassies, consulates or military installations. Installation Voter Assistance Office staff and U.S. embassy and consular officials can assist U.S. citizens in completing the FPCA and FWAB forms and provide other absentee voting information. Military members may vote in the U.S. State or territory where stationed if they change their legal residence to that State or territory.

Voting by absentee ballot is easy



Register to vote if required.



Request an absentee ballot at FVAP.gov.



Sign and send the request to your local election office.



Receive your absentee ballot.



Vote, sign and return the ballot to your State.

★ the absentee voting process

step 1: Register and Request Your Absentee Ballot

You must do this in your State of legal residence by completing a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) according to your State or territory's specific instructions and submitting it to your local election office. Visit FVAP.gov.

step 2: Your Election Official Processes Your FPCA and Sends You a Blank Ballot

They will determine if you meet the jurisdiction's residency requirements and may decide which ballot to send. You may also be contacted if there are any questions about your application.

step 3: Vote With Your State Ballot or Use the Back-Up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Vote and return your State ballot as soon as you receive it. If you have registered and requested your ballot by your State's deadline (or at least 30 days before the election, whichever is later), you may use the FWAB anytime before the election. A FWAB is a back up ballot that can be used if you requested your State ballot but did not receive it in time to vote. Visit FVAP.gov.