

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register and vote overseas?

To begin the process, you should submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to the voting officials in the appropriate state in the United States. Once they have received the application and confirmed your registration, they will send you an absentee ballot by mail, e-mail, or fax. You can then fill out and return this ballot according to the instructions provided along with the ballot itself.

You can access the FPCA form [here](#). Your form will come with its own set of general instructions, including where to send it. A good rule of thumb is to apply at least 45 days before the election to ensure that you get your materials in time to send them back before Election Day. Note also that many states will now send you your blank ballot via e-mail or fax, a service that significantly speeds up the process.

When and how will I get my ballot?

If all goes well, your voting officials will register you and send you a ballot which you will fill out and return according to the accompanying instructions. In some cases, voting officials may need to contact you in order to confirm your prior residency in the state and your citizenship before they will send you a ballot. It is important to provide accurate contact information on the FPCA and to explain any unusual circumstances in the space provided.

What if my ballot doesn't come on time?

If you have not received your ballot, and your postcard application was mailed in time to be received from your precinct 30 days prior to the election, you may be eligible to use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote for federal offices. You can download the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot [here](#), or you can pick up a hard copy of the ballot from the Embassy every Monday to Thursday between 0830 and 1200.

This ballot may be used only for general elections and is an emergency backup for voters who expect to be able to use the regular absentee ballot but who did not receive that ballot in time to vote and return it. The federal write-in ballot must be received by in your precinct no later than the deadline for receipt of regular absentee ballots under state law.

Can I vote directly at the Embassy?

Unfortunately, the Embassy does not supply state-specific ballots, nor can you vote there on Election Day. You can, however, deliver your Absentee Ballot or Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to the Embassy for mailing through the U.S. Postal Service at no cost. We encourage all citizens to use electronic options to submit your ballots when available, as this is the fastest and most secure way to ensure your vote is counted.

How do I contact the Embassy if I have other voting questions?

For more general information on voting overseas, you can visit www.FVAP.gov.

We invite every American citizen to exercise their right to vote. Voting is a citizen's opportunity to be heard, to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in important issues that affect us.