

MOVE Act

- Improvements made in the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act:
 - Gives all U.S. citizens who are overseas the ability to request and receive voter registration applications, absentee ballot request forms, and absentee ballots electronically if the voter so chooses.
 - Requires States to send out ballots **a minimum of 45 days** in advance of Election Day so overseas voters will receive them in time to vote. (If an overseas voter requests a ballot less than 45 days in advance of Election Day, the State must still send the ballot as expeditiously as possible, provided the ballot request is received by the State before the State's deadline.)
 - Expands the use of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, or FWAB, a Federally-issued back-up ballot that any overseas voter can use if their ballot does not get to him or her in time. Under MOVE, the FWAB can now be used as a backup ballot by overseas voters *in any general, special, primary, and run-off election for Federal office*. It is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf>.
 - Allows overseas voters to confirm whether their ballot has been received by their State.

- FAQs
 - **How do I request a voter registration application? How do I request a ballot?**
 - You have two options. First, you may obtain a voter registration application or absentee ballot request form from your local State election official. If you choose to receive your voter registration application and absentee ballot request form by requesting it from your State, your inquiries should be directed to your local State election office. This website contains links to the election office websites of all 50 States and the U.S. territories. Click on your State's link to get the contact information you need to request these materials. **Remember**

that all States are now required by law to allow overseas voters to request and receive their ballots electronically. So you can now request and receive these materials by the simple click of a mouse. Remember to let your election officials know whether you want to receive your voting materials by mail or electronically.

- An alternative, efficient option would be to use the Federal Postcard Application, or FPCA, a Federally-issued combination voter registration application and absentee ballot request form that is available online. All States and U.S. territories are required by law to accept and process the FPCA in lieu of State-issued applications. The FPCA is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>. You should download the form, fill it out, and send it in to your local State election official.
- **Where do I send my voter registration and absentee ballot request applications once I've filled them out?**
 - Both your voter registration application and absentee ballot request form (and similarly the Federal Postcard Application) should be completed and sent directly to your local election official. Some States allow voter registration applications to be sent back electronically. Check with your local election official to see if they accept these forms electronically in your State. Otherwise, you must send the materials to your local election official through the mail, so it is important to complete this step as soon as possible. If you have questions about this process, you should contact your local election official, the Federal Voting Assistance Program, or consult the U.S. embassy for more information.
- **When should I apply for my absentee ballot?**
 - It is best to apply in January of the year in which there is a regularly scheduled election for Federal office. Some States have very early primary elections, so it is important to apply for your ballot as soon as possible. Remember that MOVE requires States to send the ballot 45 days before Election Day only if the State receives your ballot request form 45 days prior. If a State receives your ballot request form after the 45 day mark, a State is still required to accept and process your ballot request form up to 30 days before Election Day (or may allow even more time if allowed under State law) and must send the

ballot to you as expeditiously as possible. (Note that some States have extended the amount of time they will accept and process an absentee ballot from an overseas voter to later than the 30 days required by Federal law.)

- For special or run-off elections, you should apply for your absentee ballot as soon as your State starts to accept them.
- **When should I expect my ballot?**
 - The MOVE Act requires States to send out ballots a minimum of 45 days before Election Day. If you haven't received your ballot at least 4 weeks before the election, you should either contact your election official to check on the status of your request, or complete and submit the backup Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (though you can submit the FWAB earlier if you choose to). Be sure to complete and return your absentee ballot regardless of when you receive it.
- **I requested my absentee ballot some time ago and I haven't received it yet. What do I do?**
 - You should email your election official to inquire about the status of your ballot and your registration status. If you can request a blank ballot to be sent to you electronically, you should try to do so.
 - You may submit a [back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#) or "FWAB." In order to be eligible to use this back-up ballot, you must meet the following, minimum conditions. (1) You must submit the ballot outside the territorial bounds of the United States. (2) You must have applied for a regular ballot early enough to meet the State's deadline for receiving such ballot requests. Under Federal law, you have at least until 30 days before Election Day for your State to receive your absentee ballot request form. Some States have extended the deadline to give overseas voters even more time to submit a ballot request form. The FWAB is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf>. Hard copies of the FWAB are available at your U.S. embassy or consulate.
 - Read and follow the FWAB instructions carefully before completing and submitting the ballot. Also be sure to consult your State's election office website to ensure you have all necessary information, such as the appropriate election office mailing address and mailing deadlines.

- **How do I know whether my ballot was received by my State?**
 - Under MOVE, States are now required to develop a free access system, by which overseas voters can check to see if their ballots were received. States are free to develop this system in the way they see fit. This may be by providing this service online through their election office website, or by creating a toll-free number that the voter can call into to see if their ballot was received.
- **Can I register or vote in-person at the embassy or consulate?**
 - Currently, there are no procedures to vote in-person or to register on-site at U.S. embassies or consulates. However, U.S. embassy and consular officials are a great resource for questions about voting. They can assist U.S. citizens in completing the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form or other election materials for their State, witness election materials (if required), and provide other absentee voting information. Some jurisdictions are allowing voters to register to vote over the internet - that would be a quick method of ensuring overseas registration.
- Helpful links:
 - Federal Voting Assistance Program: <http://www.fvap.gov/>
 - National Voter Registration form: http://www.eac.gov/files/voter/nvra_update.pdf (See page 4 or the form)
 - U.S. Election Assistance Commission: <http://www.eac.gov>
 - Overseas Vote Foundation: <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/>
 - OVF on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ythvoteoverseas>
 - OVF in Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Vote-Overseas/110570138939>

State	Board of Elections website
Alabama	http://www.sos.state.al.us/elections/default.aspx
Alaska	http://www.elections.alaska.gov/

American Samoa	http://205.161.14.36/
Arizona	http://www.azsos.gov/election/
Arkansas	http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec/
California	http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/
Colorado	http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm
Connecticut	http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp
Delaware	http://elections.delaware.gov/
District of Columbia	http://www.dcboee.org/
Florida	http://election.dos.state.fl.us/
Georgia	http://www.sos.georgia.gov/Elections/
Guam	http://gec.guam.gov/
Hawaii	http://hawaii.gov/elections
Idaho	http://www.sos.idaho.gov/
Illinois	http://www.elections.state.il.us/
Indiana	http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/
Iowa	http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/index.html
Kansas	http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections.html
Kentucky	http://www.elect.ky.gov/
Louisiana	http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/68/Default.aspx
Maine	http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/
Maryland	http://www.elections.state.md.us/
Massachusetts	http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/

Michigan	http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633---,00.html
Minnesota	http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=4
Mississippi	http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/elections.asp
Missouri	http://www.sos.mo.gov/ELECTIONS/
Montana	http://sos.mt.gov/
Nebraska	http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/
Nevada	http://sos.state.nv.us/nvelection/
New Hampshire	http://usgovinfo.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.state.nh.us/sos
New Jersey	http://www.njelections.org/
New Mexico	http://www.sos.state.nm.us/
New York	http://www.elections.state.ny.us/
North Carolina	http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/
North Dakota	http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/
Ohio	http://www.sos.state.oh.us/Text.aspx?page=361&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1
Oklahoma	http://www.ok.gov/~elections/
Oregon	http://oregonvotes.org/
Pennsylvania	http://www.electionreturns.state.pa.us/
Puerto Rico	http://www.ceepur.org/
Rhode Island	http://www.elections.state.ri.us/
South Carolina	http://www.scvotes.org/
South Dakota	http://www.sdsos.gov/

Tennessee	http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/
Texas	http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml
Utah	http://elections.utah.gov/
Vermont	http://vermont-elections.org/
Virgin Islands	http://www.vivote.gov/
Virginia	http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Index.html
Washington	http://www.secstate.wa.gov/
Washington DC	http://www.dcboee.org/
West Virginia	http://www.wvsos.com/elections/main.htm
Wisconsin	http://elections.state.wi.us/
Wyoming	http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Elections.aspx

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 9:42 AM

Subject: Public Announcement from the U.S. Consulate General, Auckland – Voting

**U.S Consulate General
Auckland, New Zealand**

New Law Makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans

On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans.

New Procedures for 2010 Elections

Beginning with the November 2010 general election, and for all subsequent general, special, and primary elections, states will be required to mail out ballots at least 45 days prior to an election for a federal office. This requirement may cause some states to select earlier primary dates in order to comply with the 45 day mailing deadline, or to request waivers due to special circumstances.

In addition to mailing ballots to overseas voters, the states will be required, at the voter's request, to provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and blank ballots via fax or email.

However, each state's laws determine whether ballot requests or voted ballots can be returned via fax or email. The new law prohibits states from rejecting marked ballots based on notarization, paper size, or paper weight requirements. The witnessing requirements of individual states remain in place.

Overseas Absentee Ballot Requests

Effective immediately, states will no longer be required by federal law to continue to mail election materials to overseas addresses (even when they are determined to be invalid) for two complete general election cycles on the basis of a single ballot request. It will now be up to each state to determine how long to continue to send out election materials before requiring overseas voters to submit new ballot requests. This change, sought by local election officials, should greatly decrease the volume of voting materials sent abroad to addresses where Americans no longer reside.

State Department Recommendations

In light of these changes, the Department of State recommends that all U.S. voters residing abroad request absentee ballots from their 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, by completing and sending in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). To locate information on your specific state's requirements, and to obtain an on-line version of the FPCA, please visit www.fvap.gov.

Voters may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. embassy or consulate. FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the United States via international mail or from any U.S. embassy or consulate. Many states allow U.S. citizens overseas to submit the FPCA by e-mail or fax.

The Department of State strongly encourages all U.S. overseas voters to provide email addresses or fax numbers on their FPCAs to enable local election officials to transmit

election materials in the fastest manner available, which should then allow sufficient time for the return of voted ballots. For information regarding your specific state, please visit www.fvap.gov.

Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for the November general elections for federal offices, although some states also permit its use for elections for state and local offices. Beginning in January 2011, the new law allows use of the FWAB for primary, special, and runoff elections for federal offices. Voters who request an absentee ballot in advance of their state's ballot request deadline, but who fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials in time to vote, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot and send it back to local election officials in time for it to be counted. An on-line version of the FWAB, together with instructions for its use, is available at www.fvap.gov.

Questions?

The Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Consulate General, Auckland is also always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call +64-9-303-2724 extn: 2800 or send an e-mail to

Voteauckland@state.gov

American Citizens' Services

Auckland, New Zealand

Ph: 64-9-303-2724 extn: 2800

Email: aucklandacs@state.gov

<http://newzealand.usembassy.gov>