Absentee Voting For Overseas Citizens

2020 Election Year
The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows eligible citizens to:

- Register to vote and request an absentee ballot using one instrument (the FPCA);
- Vote by absentee ballot.

Who is covered by UOCAVA?

- Absent Uniformed Service members;
- Absent members of the Merchant Marine;
- Eligible family members of the two above groups;
- Other U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States.
Overseas Citizen Population Analysis

5.5 MILLION
U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

3 MILLION
OF THEM CAN VOTE*

*They’re 18+ years old

BASED ON 2016 DATA
Absentee Voting Process

**Voter submits FPCA to election office to register and request ballot.**

**Election office processes FPCA. Sends ballot to voter.**

**Voter receives ballot, votes it, and returns it to election office.**

**Voter contacts election office about the status of the ballot.**

**Voter does NOT receive ballot. Fills out the FWAB as a “back up” ballot and returns it to election office.**

**Voter contacts election office about the status of the ballot.**
The FPCA allows eligible voters to register to vote, request a ballot, and update contact information. Voters must fill out and sign the FPCA before returning it to their election office.

- For overseas citizens, the voting residence is usually the address at which the voter last resided prior to leaving the U.S.; for military, it is usually the address on their LES.
- The voter does not need to have any current ties with their residence address. This remains true even if the voter:
  - Holds no property in the state
  - Has no intention to return to the state
  - Resided at an address that is no longer valid
- 39 states allow citizens who have never resided in the U.S. to use a parent’s voting residence as their own.
- Voters are allowed to have only one voting residence for Federal elections.
The FWAB is also known as the “back-up” ballot

- In the event that a voter does not receive the official ballot on time to return it, the voter can submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).
- Each FWAB is designed with a “secrecy envelope” to ensure the ballot remains private and anonymous.
- Voters can use FVAP’s online assistant to walk them through the FWAB at www.FVAP.gov/FWAB.
  - Print the ballot package and sign it. Then, place the ballot portion of the FWAB in an envelope titled “Secret” and place it along with the voter information page inside a larger envelope for mailing.
  - Voters can find postage-paid envelope templates at FVAP.gov/materials.
Voters can use FVAP’s easy online assistant to get started on the FPCA/FWAB.

Voters can find postage-paid envelopes, calendars, and fact sheets.
Return Voting Materials From Abroad

FVAP.gov/COVID-19
Some states accept voting materials by MAIL only. U.S. citizens can mail their ballot to their election official via international mail, private courier, or the diplomatic pouch at a nearby U.S. embassy or consulate. The recommended mailing deadline for the 2020 General Election is October 13, 2020.

Postage-paid envelope templates can be found at: www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms

Voters must address their voting materials to their election officials. They can find that contact information here: www.fvap.gov/search-offices
Contact FVAP

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