

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL WRITE- IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)?

If you are currently registered to vote and have requested your ballot by the absentee application deadline and it has not been received, Virginia allows you use the FWAB as an absentee ballot for Federal Offices only, as long as it is received by Election Day.

If you are currently registered to vote and have not requested your ballot, Virginia allows you to use the FWAB as an absentee ballot application and ballot so long as it is received 7 days before an election for Federal Office.

WHAT ARE EARLY BALLOTS AND HOW CAN I GET ONE?

Virginia allows Uniformed Citizens to receive Early Ballots **only for the elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General**. These elections are held every four years, one year after the Presidential election. In order to receive an Early Ballot you must qualify and request that this ballot be sent to you.

In order to qualify for the Early Ballot, the voter shall write: **"I am unable to vote in any other manner due to overseas military service"**. You may indicate this statement in remarks section on the FPCA. Your application must be received at least 90 days before the election.

Upon receipt of the application at least 90 days before the election your Local Election Official will issue the printed ballot for these three offices only.

If you request the Early Ballot, this will be the only ballot you will receive for that Election.

RESOURCES

The FPCA is available on-line at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs.onlinefpc.html>

Information on absentee voting while serving in the Uniformed Services is available from your Voting Assistance Officer or on-line at www.fvap.gov.

You can check the status of your absentee application and receive additional information on elections (including upcoming deadlines) on-line at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

If you are stationed in Virginia, but not a Virginia resident, please contact either your Voting Assistance Officer or the Secretary of State in your state of voting residence.



Phone: 804-864-8932

Fax: 804-371-0194

Website: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

Once you receive your ballot, remember to complete it according to the enclosed instructions and mail the voted ballot to your Local Election Official as soon as possible.

Your voice cannot be heard if your ballot is not received by Election Day!

VIRGINIA'S GUIDE TO VOTING ABSENTEE FOR THE UNIFORMED CITIZEN

**ENSURE THAT YOUR VOICE
IS HEARD!**



Dear Uniformed Services Member:

Thank you for your sacrifices and for your interest in our country's elections though you may be far away. The Virginia State Board of Elections recognizes that serving as a member of the Uniformed Service presents many challenges. We would like to assist you in overcoming one of them - voting.

Vickie R. Williams

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act Coordinator
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GENERAL INFORMATION

YOU CAN VOTE ABSENTEE IF YOU ARE:

- Qualified to register to vote in Virginia
- A U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old, or whose 18th birthday is no later than the day after the November General Election of that year
- A U.S. citizen who claims Virginia as your residence
- On active duty in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine or the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or family members residing with these persons
- Away from the jurisdiction in which you are eligible to vote.

Persons convicted of a felony or declared mentally incapacitated by a court may not register or vote unless their rights have been restored.

HOW DO I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

1. Obtain a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) from your Voting Assistance Officer, an embassy or consulate, or on-line at www.fvap.gov.
2. Send the completed FPCA to the Local Election Official in the city or county of your last residence in Virginia. This FPCA can be used to register to vote and/ or request an absentee ballot

You may send the completed and signed FPCA by mail, fax, or as an e-mail attachment. If transmitting the FPCA by fax or e-mail attachment, send the original, signed FPCA by regular mail.

The hard copy is postage-free when placed in the U.S. mail, but you must use proper postage on an envelope if mailing the on-line FPCA.

The address, fax number and e-mail address of your Local Election Official are available at the State Board of Elections (SBE) website, www.sbe.virginia.gov

To vote in a primary election, you must indicate your party affiliation on the FPCA (example: Democrat, Republican). If you indicate a party preference, and the party holds a primary in which you are eligible to vote, you will receive the ballot for that primary. Currently, only two parties are qualified to call primaries in Virginia- Democratic and Republican. **If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections.**

CAN MY BALLOT BE E-MAILED OR FAXED TO ME?

Uniformed Citizens stationed within the Continental United States (CONUS) can **only** receive their ballots by mail.

Uniformed Citizens deployed outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) are eligible to receive their ballots by e-mail or fax upon request.

For e-mail **write your e-mail address in the remarks section** on the FPCA as well as the following statement: "I **would like my ballots e-mailed to me at this address**".

You are still required to print, if e-mailed, sign and mail the voted ballot back to your Local Election Official.

For fax **write your fax number in the remarks section on the FPCA** as well as write the following statement: "I **would like my ballots faxed to me at the following fax number**". It is also important that you include the **country code** and the **time (in U.S. Eastern Time)** that you would be able to receive the fax.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY BALLOT?

Under normal circumstances, Virginia begins mailing absentee ballots to Uniformed Citizens 45 days before an election. If you do not receive your absentee ballot two weeks before the election, contact your Local Election Official immediately

Once the registrar has reviewed and approved your request, you will receive your ballot packet within 72 hours of your request.

WILL I HAVE TO RESUBMIT A NEW FPCA FOR EACH ELECTION THAT IS HELD IN VIRGINIA?

By using the FPCA, you are asking to receive absentee ballots for every election in which you are eligible to vote for the next two regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office held after you initially filed your application.

For example: If your application was received before the November 2004 application deadline; you will receive absentee ballots for all elections you are eligible for until and including the November 2006 election for Federal office. If your application is received after the November 2004 application deadline; you will receive absentee ballots for all elections you are eligible for until and including the November 2008 election for Federal office.

You are required to immediately notify your Local Election Official if you do not want to receive these absentee ballots, you have returned to your Virginia residence or you no longer claim Virginia as your legal voting residence. Using your FPCA to notify your Local Election Official of important changes ensures that you will continue to receive your ballots as required by law.