



Request for Public Comment

Proposed Changes to the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The public is invited to provide comment on all of these changes and submit additional recommendations for form changes to FVAP by April 8, 2011.

Comments and recommendations regarding the proposed revision to the FPCA and FWAB may be sent by email to vote@fvap.gov or by mail to:
Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program
1777 N. Kent Street
Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209-2162

Considerations for the Redesign of the Federal Post Card Application and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot Forms

The enactment of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act in 2009 eliminated State requirements for notarization of registration requests or absentee ballots submitted by citizens covered by the Uniform and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). As a result, it is necessary to revise the two forms prescribed by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)—the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (Standard Form 76) and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) (Standard Form 186)—to eliminate the existing reference to a notary requirement.

In conjunction with this change, the FVAP would like to consider other design changes that increase the overall usability form in both content and design. Enclosed in this document is an overview of the full scope of changes that are under consideration for the FPCA and FWAB. All changes listed below are subject to change and amendment based on public comments and FVAP discretion. All public comments received during this period will be used to assist the FVAP in the promulgation process which will include a formal redesign public comment period.

The public is invited to provide comment on all of these changes and submit additional recommendations for design changes to FVAP by April 8, 2011.

Comments and recommendations regarding the proposed revision to the FPCA and FWAB may be sent by email to vote@fvap.gov or by mail to:

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Possible Changes to the FPCA and FWAB:

MOVE Act Conformance:

Federal Post Card Application

- Removal of notarization requirements

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

- Removal of notarization requirements

General Considerations:

There are two current formats for the FPCA and FWAB forms: the printed, hard-copy form and the electronic fillable form. The electronic format will be generated from the changes made to the printed form and separate formal promulgations of both electronic and hard copy forms will be considered. Additionally, the FVAP website provides an electronic tool for each of these forms which guide the user through completion.

Form Size and Composition:

The information required on the FPCA or the FWAB Declaration Page should remain on a single sheet as a self-contained mailer. The current FPCA and FWAB printed forms provide the capability to be sealed, thus protecting personal information. The current FPCA is printed on a single sheet that can be folded and mailed as a postcard. To the extent practicable, the online version of the FPCA and FWAB will be automated to adjust to A4 printing as well as 8.5" x 11" printing to reflect the materials available for overseas voters.

Consolidation of FPCA and FWAB into one instrument:

The current version of the FPCA is almost identical to the Declaration Page of the FWAB and provides the same voter information to the local election official. The differences in these forms are:

1. The FWAB breaks Block 1 into two sections: Block 1(a) identifies the voter as Uniformed Services or overseas voter and Block 1(b) allows the voter to also request voter registration.
2. The FPCA includes Block 4(c) that allows the citizen to select the method by which the citizen desires to receive the absentee ballot.
3. Block 7 of the FWAB expands the oath/affirmation to include statements regarding the return of the voted ballot.

FVAP is considering consolidating these two forms into a single form in the format of the current FWAB. Procedurally, the resultant form could be used interchangeably with minor process changes.

The voter registration and absentee ballot request function of the FPCA would be fulfilled by using the Declaration Page provided by the FWAB.

The absentee ballot function would be fulfilled by including the Declaration Page, the ballot and Security Envelope page, and the outer mailing envelope. The current FWAB and supporting envelopes are currently stocked at embassies, consulates and military bases providing access to UOCAVA citizens. The security outer mailing envelopes could be used by citizens to submit absentee ballots provided by the States, downloaded from the Internet, or completed using online ballot delivery and marking tools provided by FVAP and the States as a resource for UOCAVA voters to use when lacking available balloting materials.

Removal of “hash marks” in text blocks:

The current version and previous versions of these two forms included hash marks in the fields for information entry to enhance the readability of data entered by hand. However, these hash marks interfere with data entry made by computer or typewriter and may negatively impact the usability of the forms.

Inclusion of barcode data:

For forms completed and printed using the electronic versions of the forms provided through the FVAP website or other electronic means, FVAP is considering the inclusion of a barcode that would capture the information the citizen has entered. This barcode could be scanned at the local election office and be electronically entered into the election office database while the hard-copy forms could be retained for filing. For privacy issues, we should consider the specific personal information that would be included in the barcode. Additionally, the location of the barcode should be considered regarding its placement on the form and the space that it takes from other desirable information.

Block-by-block Recommendations:

The 2005 revisions to the FPCA (sample provided on pages 5-6) and the FWAB (sample provided on pages 7-12) resulted in nearly identical layouts for each. The only difference in these forms is in Block 1, Block 4(c) and Block 7:

1. The FWAB breaks Block 1 into two sections: Block 1(a) identifies the voter as Uniformed Services or overseas voter and Block 1(b) allows the voter to also request voter registration.
2. The FPCA includes Block 4(c) that allows the citizen to select the method by which the citizen desires to receive the absentee ballot.
3. Block 7 of the FWAB expands the oath/affirmation to include statements regarding the return of the voted ballot.

Beyond these distinctions, either the FPCA or the FWAB may be used as a reference when evaluating the formats and content of each form block listed below:

Block 1 – Providing the voter the option to specify the types of ballots desired and the term the voter wants to receive ballots:

The voter should be able to choose which elections he or she desires to receive absentee ballots for:

1. All federal, state and local elections in a calendar year.
2. Only the next scheduled election.
3. Only federal elections.

An alternative would be to ask the citizen how many calendar years does he or she wish to receive absentee ballots: 1 year, 2 years, 3 years or 4 years. This would accommodate States that have not enacted legislation to change the duration of the FPCA from the two federal election cycles pursuant to the MOVE Act. It would also clarify the results of the current ambiguity of the duration of the FPCA per UOCAVA.

Block 1 – Adding choices for a voter to identify themselves as a spouse or dependent of a uniformed services member or as an overseas citizen as a result of employment:

The FPCA asks the voter to identify the category of UOCAVA voter that fits their case. It has been recommended that military spouses/dependents be further identified within respective categories. Block 1(a) currently groups all qualifying active duty service members, spouses and qualifying dependents together for purposes of applying for a ballot.

Overseas citizens are provided the choice of residing temporarily overseas or indefinitely overseas. Previous versions of the FPCA included an option for the voter to state whether he or she was overseas as a result of employment. Some election officials have asked to reinstate this option.

Block 2(a) (Name):

No changes are being considered for this Block.

Block 2(b) (Previous Name):

Block 2(b) was added in the latest revision to provide a space for individuals who have changed their names due to marriage or other reasons. In previous versions of the form, this information could be entered in Block 6

Block 2(d) (Race):

This information is desired by a few States to assist them in reporting information to the Department of Justice and, in some cases, to determine the eligibility of the citizen to vote in restricted elections.

Block 2(f) (Social Security Number):

Block 2(f) provides space for a complete Social Security Number (SSN). The Election Assistance Commission National Mail-In Registration Form does not include a space to enter SSN information, but does specify in the State instructions if this information is required. Although the majority of States ask for only the last four digits of the SSN, several States require the complete SSN. Many citizens have expressed privacy concerns with providing the full SSN. One option under consideration is to eliminate this block or to provide space in Block 2(f) for only four digits and have citizens refer to individual State instructions for guidance on when the full SSN place is required in Block 6 or provide clarifying instructions on the form's reverse to check www.fvap.gov to determine if the citizen's State requires the full SSN.

Blocks 2(h), 2(i) and 2(j) (Telephone number, Fax number and email address):

Consideration should be given to place this information in a separate section that identifies by what method the citizen desires to be contacted by the election office. Such a section could also prioritize the contact alternatives and include adequate space for multiple phone numbers, email addresses or mailing addresses

Block 3 (Voting Residence):

Determining a voter's residency address is frequently confusing for the voter. Block 3 does not clearly instruct the applicant on what information he or she must consider to determine residence

Block 4(a) (Current Address):

The current version of the FPCA does not provide sufficient lines to accommodate foreign mailing addresses.

Block 4(b) (Forwarding Address):

Block 4(b) was added during the last revision of the FPCA. The necessity, or desirability, of providing an additional space for a forwarding address should be evaluated. The original justification for this field was for overseas voters to indicate an alternative mailing address while simultaneously indicating physical residence overseas to qualify as a voter under UOCAVA. Election officials should comment on the frequency and value for the information presented in Block 4(b).

Block 4c (Method to Receive Ballot):

Block 4c asks the citizen for preferred method for receiving a ballot: mail, fax, or email. A few States have asked that this be expanded to include "online delivery" in order to address online ballot delivery tools and similar mechanisms.

Block 5 (Political Party Preference): No changes are anticipated to this block.

Block 6 (Additional Information): Adequate space must be provided in this section for the citizen to provide additional information required by their State and other information the citizen wishes to convey to the election official.

An additional recommendation has been to move the Additional Information section to an addendum page.

Block 7 (Affirmation): No changes are anticipated to the body of the oath/affirmation. Reference to notarization will be removed but there will the provision for a witness will remain.

Instructions for FPCA (page 6)

Revisions to the instructions are anticipated to accommodate changes to the form, but public comments are invited for overall improvements to the usability and content of FPCA Instructions.

Instructions for FWAB

Revisions to the instructions are anticipated to accommodate changes to the form, but public comments are invited for overall improvements to the usability and content of FWAB Instructions. MOVE Act changes necessitate removal of references to notarization requirements for the execution of the FWAB (page 7-Block 7 instructions & page 12, #2)

(After completion, fold to inside and seal before mailing.)

WARNING: Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions.

Standard Form 76 (Rev. 10-2005)
NSN 7540-00-634-5053

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (Mark only one):

- (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT
- (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY
- (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)					SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)					
c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH M M D D Y Y Y Y			f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - -		g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER			
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)						i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)					
j. EMAIL ADDRESS											

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)

a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)										
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE				c. COUNTY				d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE -	

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)						b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)				

(fold)

(fold)

c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY: MAIL FAX EMAIL

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots - see instructions for Block 6, paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)

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.....

7. AFFIRMATION (Required)

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____
M M D D Y Y Y Y (Witness/Notary and address (if required)) M M D D Y Y Y Y

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 42 USC 1973ff, "Title 1 - Registration and Voting By Absentee Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters in Elections for Federal Office."

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Serves as an application for registration and/or request for absentee ballot for all persons covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure to provide the necessary information may keep the pertinent jurisdiction from processing this request and may prevent you from voting absentee.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION.

Please use the *Voting Assistance Guide* for specific state-by-state information when completing this form. Type or print legibly. Assistance and information regarding the use and completion of this form, as well as specific state information may be obtained from military Unit Voting Assistance Officers, U.S. Embassy and Consular Voting Assistance Officers, or organizations of U.S. citizens overseas and <http://www.fvap.gov>.

Block 1. Place an X only in one block. Marking Block 1(c) generally means that you were a resident of that state before departing the U.S. and your intent to return at some time in the future is uncertain. Marking Block 1(c) applies for a Federal ballot only (if one is printed by the state).

Block 2. MY INFORMATION. Block 2d. RACE. This information is requested from some states for statistical purposes by the Department of Justice in their enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act. See *Voting Assistance Guide*.

Block 3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS. Enter the complete legal voting residence address (including county) where you ACTUALLY LIVED in the state or territory. Your right to vote in your state and determination of your voting precinct depend on the physical location of your residence while you were in the state. DO NOT USE A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER. In an area with no street names, indicate route name and number and box number. Also provide any additional information necessary to physically describe your residence location. If you have never lived in the U.S., check the *Voting Assistance Guide* for the states that allow you to vote using a parent's voting residence address.

Block 4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS. Block 4a is the complete mailing address where you are now living. If you have an alternate address or an address of a mail forwarding service that delivers your mail more quickly, enter that address in Block 4b. If your state allows absentee ballots to be sent via e-mail or fax, check the appropriate box in Block 4c. See *Voting Assistance Guide*. **This form should be resubmitted every time you change your mailing address.**

Block 5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE. This is an optional entry, however, this information is required by most states in order to vote in primary elections. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for any specific state information required.

Block 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

(1) Provide any information that may assist the local election official in approving this application. It would be helpful if you provide the date you last lived at the address in Block 3a and if you list a name and telephone number of a local contact in the event the local election official cannot contact you and has a question concerning the application.

(2) If you were previously registered to vote in a jurisdiction other than the one in which you are applying, indicate "previously registered in (location)."

(3) Submission of this form serves as a request to receive ballots for all Federal elections held through the next two regularly scheduled general elections. If you do not wish to receive ballots for that length of time, you may request a ballot for each election for Federal office held in the next election year OR a ballot for only the next scheduled election for Federal office by noting your choice in Block 6. (Depending on your state of residence, you may also receive ballots for State and local offices during the selected period as well.)

(4) If your state provides a special state write-in ballot and you are requesting one, indicate the reason you are requesting a special write-in ballot or place a sticker from the *Voting Assistance Guide* in this section.

Block 7. AFFIRMATION. Ensure that you read the oath, sign, and enter the date you completed the form in the spaces provided. **Not all states require a witness or notary, and state laws vary regarding the voting of convicted felons. Consult your state section of the *Voting Assistance Guide* or your Voting Assistance Officer for your state's requirements.**

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS. Fold and seal using the adhesive tabs so that the local election official's address is on the outside. DO NOT STAPLE.

(fold to outside)

FROM:

(Voter name and current complete military or overseas mailing address)



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406



PAR AVION

International airmail postage is required if not mailed in the U.S. Postal System or APO/FPO System, or Diplomatic Pouch.

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

TO:

FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 42 USC 1973ff, "Title 1 - Registration and Voting By Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters in Elections for Federal Office."

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Serves as a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for general elections or other elections provided by law or special provisions for all persons covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however failure to furnish requested personal information may result in the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot not being recognized and therefore not counted.

Please read instructions before completion. If you have any questions, consult your Unit Voting Assistance Officer or Embassy/Consulate Voting Assistance Officer, the *Voting Assistance Guide*, or <http://www.fvap.gov>. Type or print legibly.

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION:

Block 1b. Some states may accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a registration form if you have not registered previously in that jurisdiction. See the *Voting Assistance Guide*. For those states that do not accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a request form and you have not previously submitted a Federal Post Card Application, your ballot may not be counted.

Block 2. MY INFORMATION. Block 2d. RACE. This information is requested from some states for statistical purposes by the Department of Justice in its enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act.

Block 3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS. Enter the complete legal voting residence address where you ACTUALLY LIVED in the state or territory. Your right to vote in your state and determination of your voting precinct depend on the physical location of your residence while you were in the state. DO NOT USE A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER. In an area with no street names, indicate route name and number and box number. Also provide any additional information necessary to physically describe your residence location. This voting residence address must be the same as the voting residence on the application for your regular absentee ballot previously submitted.

Block 4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS.

Block 4a. Enter the complete mailing address where you are now living. **Block 4b.** If you have an alternate address or an address of a mail forwarding service that delivers your mail more quickly, enter that address here.

Block 5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE.

This is an optional entry, however, this information is required by most states in order to vote in primary elections. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for any specific state information required.

Block 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. Provide any information that may assist the local election official in accepting this ballot or application.

Block 7. AFFIRMATION. Ensure that you read the oath, sign, and enter the date you completed the form in the spaces provided. Not all states require a witness or notary, and state laws vary regarding the voting of convicted felons. Consult your state section of the *Voting Assistance Guide* or your Voting Assistance Officer for your state's requirements.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- a. For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or political party designation. If your state permits, you may vote for other offices in the spaces provided under the "ADDENDUM" section.
- b. Once the ballot is complete, fold and place it in the Security Envelope and seal. **PLACE ONLY THE VOTED BALLOT IN THE SECURITY ENVELOPE AND DO NOT WRITE ON THE SECURITY ENVELOPE.**
- c. Insert the sealed Security Envelope and the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation into the Mailing Envelope and seal.
- d. This absentee balloting material is Postage Paid if mailed in the U.S. Mail, APO/FPO, or Diplomatic Pouch. If mailed in a foreign postal system, international airmail postage must be affixed. In the return address section in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope, enter your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address. In the "TO" section in the center of the mailing envelope, enter the name and mailing address of your city, township, village, county or state election official. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for correct address. This must be the same election official where you sent your application for an absentee ballot.
- e. Some states allow the electronic transmission of FWABs. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for your state or territory's procedures.

VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)

1.a. I AM (Mark only one):

- A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT
A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY
A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

1.b. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law)

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)

Form fields for personal information: a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME, b. PREVIOUS NAME, c. SEX, d. RACE, e. DATE OF BIRTH, f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER, h. TELEPHONE NUMBER, i. FAX NUMBER, j. EMAIL ADDRESS

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)

Form fields for residence address: a. NUMBER AND STREET, b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE, c. COUNTY, d. STATE, e. ZIP CODE

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

Form fields for voting materials: a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS, b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested.)

7. AFFIRMATION: (Required)

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:
1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and
6. I have not received the requested ballot, and
7. I understand that if my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this write-in ballot will be voided, and
8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law and I have not been influenced, and
9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot inside the U.S., and
10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
11. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____
M M D D Y Y Y Y Witness/Notary and Address (if required) M M D D Y Y Y Y

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. SENATOR*

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER****

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

ADDENDUM

Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the *Voting Assistance Guide* to determine your state's policy. *If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above*, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE

CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION

DETACH HERE, FOLD AND INSERT INTO SECURITY ENVELOPE

(Use reverse side for additional space)

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

SECURITY ENVELOPE

(ONLY PUT VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT *(continuation)*

OFFICE

CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION

Standard Form 186 (Rev. 10-2005) (Back)

Security envelope - DO NOT WRITE ON THIS ENVELOPE

FROM:

(Voter name and current complete military or overseas mailing address)



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION



MAILING ENVELOPE

International airmail postage is required if not mailed in the U.S. Postal System or APO/FPO System, or Diplomatic Pouch.

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

TO:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

BEFORE YOU SEAL THIS MAILING ENVELOPE, CHECK THAT YOU HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Complete the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation.
2. Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if your state requires a Witness or Notary on the affirmation.
3. Sign and date the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and put inside this Mailing Envelope.
4. Vote your Ballot.
5. Put your voted Ballot in the Security Envelope, remove tape and seal Security Envelope.
6. Put the sealed Security Envelope in this Mailing Envelope.
7. Remove tape and seal this Mailing Envelope.
8. Put your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address in the "FROM" section.
9. Put address of proper election official in the "TO" section of this envelope. This address must be the same local election official address where you previously submitted your regular absentee ballot application.

NOW YOU ARE READY TO MAIL THIS ENVELOPE!

INSTRUCTIONS TO ELECTION OFFICIALS

This is an official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) authorized by 42 USC 1973 ff-2.

1. Upon receipt of this ballot, examine the voter's declaration. If it appears that the voter is eligible to vote in your jurisdiction and has applied in a timely fashion for a regular absentee ballot, or this requirement has been waived by appropriate authority, then this ballot is valid unless you receive the voted regular absentee ballot in time for it to be counted. This ballot should be handled in the same manner as required by state law for other absentee ballots. If this ballot is to be counted, deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box without examining the voter's choice.
2. The oath on this ballot is self-executing and need not be notarized or witnessed, unless required by state law.
3. Unless provided by law, or special provisions have been made, this ballot **should not be counted** if:
 - a. It was submitted by a member of the Uniformed Services (or eligible dependent) not absent from his or her voting jurisdiction; or
 - b. It was submitted from within the United States (an APO/FPO address is considered outside the U.S.) by a citizen who is neither a Uniformed Services member, member of the Merchant Marine, or a dependent of a Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine member; or
 - c. This voter's application for a regular absentee ballot was received by you less than 30 days prior to the election, or later than required by state law for receipt of application, whichever is later; or
 - d. You received this voter's completed regular absentee ballot by the state deadline for receipt of absentee ballots; or
 - e. This ballot was not received by the state deadline for receipt of voted absentee ballots.