Voting While Abroad

U.S. citizens living overseas have the right to vote in all U.S. elections, even while abroad!

The easiest way to request an Absentee Ballot and/or register to vote is through an online voter registration tool that allows you to complete the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) in just 5 minutes. This tool asks you all the questions relevant to registering in your state. You then print the completed FPCA, sign and mail it to the County Clerk address provided. This tool is non-partisan and your data will not be saved. It is available at Overseas Vote Foundation http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/

- Information is also available at Federal Voter Assistance Program (http://fvap.gov/).
- You can print out the FPCA from http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf. However, you should look up the information on your state’s requirements (see below).
- You can also get a FPCA from your Voting Assistance Officer at your local US Embassy or Consulate.

The Basic Absentee Voting Process for Citizens Abroad:

**Step 1:** Citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76) well in advance of the election date. Generally, it’s best for local election officials to receive the FPCA at least 60 days before the election. If the citizen is both registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot, the FPCA may need to be mailed earlier. Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form: http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/fpca.html

**Step 2:** Local Election Official approves Registration request or requests further information.

**Step 3:** Local Election Official mails absentee ballot (usually 30-45 days before an election).*

**Step 4:** Citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines (See state specific information below).

*In order to receive an absentee ballot in a timely manner, it is imperative for citizens to keep their local election official informed of address changes. If you do not receive your ballot by two weeks before the election, contact your local election office.

*Be sure to sign and date your FPCA.

VIEW STATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/svid.htm

All states and territories accept the FPCA as an application for both voter registration and as a request for an absentee ballot; however, deadlines, addresses, and other procedures vary from state to state. Please consult your state’s voting and registration procedures.

You can also find information and register at Youth Voting Overseas (https://yvo.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm) and Vote from Abroad (http://www.votefromabroad.org/)