

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE MILITARY VOTER

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Am I registered to vote?

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your state or local election office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website has a listing of all the state election office's websites. Simply visit their website at www.fvap.gov and select the state election site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office.

Seven states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, allow you to check your voter registration online. The states providing this online service are: Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Delaware, South Carolina, and Virginia. Visit this website for more specific information on registering in these states: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html>

Where am I registered to vote?

In order to determine where you are currently registered to vote, contact the election office where you last resided in the United States. If you are unsure of the county you live in, visit www.fvap.gov and select "What is My County."

How do I change where I'm registered to vote?

In order to change the jurisdiction where you are registered to vote you must change your residence. Changing one's residence requires that you are physically present in that location and have the intent to remain a resident. Whenever you move into a new county or state, you should always contact the local election office to inform them that you have changed your address. Communicating with the local election office is the best way to help them help you. You can also signify that you have a new address by filling out block 6 in the FPCA. If you have previously registered to vote in a jurisdiction other than the one in which you are applying, indicate "previously registered in (location)". In order to obtain more information regarding

this procedure you can visit www.fvap.gov and select "State by State Instructions."

What do I do if I haven't received my ballot but I sent FPCA in on time?

One of the best ways to check on the status of your FPCA is to contact your local election office. Any questions regarding FPCA status should be addressed to them. To find out when your state mails out ballots, refer to the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* (found online at www.fvap.gov, select "State by State Instructions.") If election day is drawing near, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote.

Do I need a notary on my FPCA?

Out of the 50 states, the four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, 50 do not require a notary on the FPCA. The five that **DO** require a notary on the FPCA are: American Samoa, Michigan (only applies to civilians), Minnesota, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. In order to check the status of your state's rules regarding notary requirements to to: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/notaryreqts.html>.

Can I be registered in two different states?

Voting rights for the state you claim apply when you can provide proof of residence, ie: driver's license, water/gas bill, etc. (Each state's requirements are different, check with your state's election board to see what they require). You may only have one legal residence at a time, but Uniformed Service personnel and their family members may change residence each time they are transferred to a new location. If you continue to receive voting materials from your old county, notify the election board to remove you from their local voter list.

What are the implications for registering where I am stationed?

Exercising your right to vote in elections **for Federal offices only** does not affect the determination of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under Federal, state or local law. Voting in an election **for Federal offices only** may not be used as the sole basis to determine residence for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state *in addition to voting*, you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions or situations.

How do I get information about voting and upcoming elections?

If you have questions about where or how to vote, what forms to use or state specific regulations, consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* available in print form from FVAP or your Voting Assistance Officer, or its online version available at www.fvap.gov.

The Democratic and Republican parties have organized groups in many countries throughout the world, and information may be obtained by contacting their umbrella organizations:

- **Democrats Abroad**, (202) 863-8103, www.democratsabroad.org,
- **Republicans Abroad International**, (202) 608-1423, www.republicansabroad.com

FVAP also offers the Voting Information Center (VIC) that provides information on

elections and recorded messages from U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives and state Governors. Callers may connect directly to the office of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor or their chief state election official through the VIC. The VIC also provides direct access to Service Voting Action officers during normal business hours in the U.S. Telephone numbers:

- Commercial 1-800-438-VOTE (Collect calls not accepted).
- DSN 425-1343. DSN use is authorized for all military and family members.
- Toll free numbers are available for over 60 countries (Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* or www.fvap.gov for a full listing)

How do I get a FPCA?

In Person: You can obtain a cardstock version of the FPCA through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates.

Electronic: There is an online version of the FPCA (OFPCA), and it is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. The form is available on the FVAP's website at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html> in PDF format and can be filled in on-line, printed out, signed, dated, placed in an envelope with proper postage and then mailed to the appropriate Local Election Official (LEO). The form requires Acrobat Reader 6 or higher.

Having trouble? If you are still having trouble obtaining a FPCA, feel free to contact FVAP's Ombudsman service at 800-438-8683.

What's the difference between a FPCA and a FWAB?

A FPCA is a **Federal Post Card Application** (Standard Form 76) that should be filled out and sent to your local election official every year and whenever you change addresses, in order to ensure that you receive the necessary ballots with adequate time to vote through the mail. The FPCA is used to register, and/or request an absentee ballot. Postage is paid if mailed within U.S. postal system, including APO and FPO addresses and U.S. Embassies and Consulates. If mailed in a foreign postal system, international airmail postage must be affixed. Some states allow the electronic transmission (fax and/or email) of FPCAs, consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for state or territory specific procedures.

A FWAB is a **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** (Standard Form 186) that is used as a backup "emergency" ballot in the case the regular state ballot does not reach the *UOCAVA* voter in adequate time for voting. It contains both a write-in area and a special security envelope, and the same postage/ mailing conditions apply as for the FPCA. FWABs are available through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates (also available online at www.fvap.gov.) Generally, an absent uniformed services member or a citizen outside the United States can only use the FWAB under very specific conditions.

THE ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER MUST:

- Be absent from his/her voting residence;
- Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election; **AND**
- Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

THE CITIZEN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES MUST:

- Be located outside the United States (including APO/FPO addresses);
- Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election; **AND**
- Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.