The Federal Post Card Application

FACT SHEET

Wherever U.S. citizens go, FVAP ensures their voice is heard.

The Federal Voting Assistance (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

The Federal Post Card Application

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF-76) allows eligible U.S. citizens to apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot and/or update their contact information with their local election office.

The FPCA is the primary method of communication between you and your election official. The information you provide on this form is all the local election office has to determine if you meet the State voter registration requirements, which election materials to send you and where and how to send you a ballot.

Where to get an FPCA

Online — FVAP.gov offers an online assistant that walks you through completion of the form, and provides a populated fillable PDF. **Once completed, do not forget to print and sign the form before submitting it to your local election office.**

Hardcopy — Hardcopies of the form are available at all military installations and U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide.

Facts you need to know about the FPCA

- The length of time the ballot request is valid varies by State. To ensure you receive an absentee ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote, **you should complete a new FPCA annually** and with every change of your mailing address, or at least 90 days prior to the election you want to vote in.
- The current FPCA was redesigned in 2013 and is incorporated into the online assistant at FVAP.gov. If you only have access to an older hardcopy version, you can still use it. Please refer to the latest State requirements and deadlines at FVAP.gov or in the current Voting Assistance Guide.
- To process your request and provide you a ballot in a timely manner, your election official may need to contact you for further information or clarification. Be sure to provide contact information (email is preferable for quick communication) in block 5 of the FPCA.
- Block 9 of the FPCA is your opportunity to provide extra information to your election official to help them determine your residence eligibility or other details necessary to help ensure you receive your ballot.

> Looking for more information on completing the FPCA? FVAP.gov has everything that you need, from an online assistant to walk you through the form, to State-specific deadlines and rules.

- Submit your completed FPCA in accordance with your State's laws. Link to your State's submission requirements at our website: FVAP.gov/vao/vag.

How and where to submit your FPCA

- **Double-check for completion and sign**
  - Look over your completed FPCA to ensure you have provided all the information required by your State, including a complete voting residence address, current mailing address in that State and all other contact information.
  - Make sure the information provided is clear and legible.
  - Don't forget to sign and date the FPCA.
- **Submit by email, fax or postal mail**
  - Check the Voting Assistance Guide at FVAP.gov/vao/vag to determine if your State allows the FPCA to be submitted by either email or fax. Follow the instructions for electronic submission provided.
  - Hardcopy FPCAs can be folded and sealed using the form's adhesive edging; online FPCAs printed must be placed in an envelope for mailing.
  - If mailing the FPCA through the U.S. Postal Service, APO/FPO or diplomatic pouch, it can be sent postage-paid using the mail indicia available at FVAP.gov. Mailing the FPCA using a foreign country's postal service requires local postage and should have "USA" in the address line of the mailing envelope or folded hardcopy form.
- **Follow up to check registration status**
  - You can contact your local election officials to confirm that your FPCA was successfully processed. Find current contact information at FVAP.gov.

Will my FPCA be processed?

YES

All FPCAs submitted on time and according to State rules will be processed. Here are the most common mistakes to look out for:

- **Illegible handwriting.** If you prefer to type, you may complete the FPCA form online and print it out.
- **No signature.** Don't forget to sign and date your completed FPCA before mailing to your local election office.
- **Submitted in a manner not in accordance with State law.**
- **Received after registration or request deadline.** Deadlines vary by State.*

Your local election official is required to contact you if your form is rejected, but states differ in notifying voters of a successful application. We encourage you to contact your local election officials* to confirm that your FPCA was successfully processed.

*Find your State's requirements and contact information for election officials at: FVAP.gov/FPCA

CONTACT FVAP

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Phone: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) I DSN: 425-1584 I Email: vote@fvap.gov

Go to FVAP.gov and click on "contact" to find where to send your election materials. Media inquiries: media@fvap.gov

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