



# The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

**Wherever U.S. citizens go, FVAP ensures their voices are heard.**

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (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 Write-In Absentee Ballot – FWAB

States administer elections in the United States and send absentee ballots to voters away from their voting residence. However, if you do not receive a requested absentee ballot in time to return it to your state, you can use the FWAB as a backup ballot to vote for federal offices. If your official state absentee ballot arrives after sending in the FWAB, fill out and send in the official ballot as well. Your state will count only one.



## Instructions

### Voter Information Page

#### Section 1



Check the box that describes you best. Then enter your current name. If you registered under a different name, write this information in the previous name area. Your date of birth is required.

You must provide either a state-issued ID number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have either of these numbers, you must write in Section 6: "I do not have a Social Security Number or state-issued ID number."

#### Section 2



Include the complete street address of your voting residence. You cannot use a post office box mailing address. If your address is a rural route, write a description of your voting residence in Section 6.

Election officials use your U.S. voting residence address to determine whether you are eligible to vote absentee and which offices and candidates you are eligible to vote for. For overseas citizens, it is usually the last place you lived before moving overseas. This address is valid even if you no longer have property or other ties to this state; your intent to return to that state is uncertain; or your previous address is no longer a recognized address.

If you cannot remember the address where you last resided, then FVAP recommends checking family correspondence, passports, or old tax records. Election offices may also help identify your address.



### Section 3

Include your current mailing address. If you are an overseas citizen, your current address must be located outside the United States to ensure protections under federal law.



### Section 4

Include your contact information so your election office can contact you if they need additional information in order to process your FWAB. If you want to receive your absentee ballot by email/online, you must provide an email address.



### Section 5

(A) Choose "yes" if you would like to receive ballots for future elections. (B) All states allow you to receive your absentee ballot by mail or email/online. Choose your preferred method of receiving your absentee ballot. (C) In many states, to vote in primary elections, you must enter the name of the party whose ballot you want to receive.



### Section 6

Provide any clarifying information that may assist your election office to approve your request. There may be state specific information you will need to provide. Please visit the FVAP.gov to see your state's submission guidelines.



### Section 7

Sign and date.

## The Ballot Page

Top of the Ballot: The FWAB is used for federal elections. Choose your preferred candidates for the Offices of President and Vice President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative by writing the name or political party of the candidates you choose next to the office.

Bottom of the Ballot: Some states have expanded the use of the FWAB for state and local elections. Include the office and preferred candidate's name or your choice on ballot initiatives if your state allows.

## Sending your FWAB:

Every state can accept your FWAB by mail. Some states allow you to submit your FWAB electronically. Visit FVAP.gov to see your state's submission guidelines.

You can find the address and other contact information for your election office at FVAP.gov.

If returning by mail, place the ballot page of the FWAB in any blank envelope you have on hand and write "Security Envelope" on the front. Place this envelope in a larger mailing envelope with the signed voter information page and send to your local election office.

If your state accepts your FWAB by email, scan the signed and completed FWAB into your computer and send to your election office.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET | 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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