

2017 Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) Quick Reference Guide

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a backup ballot for use by Service members, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing overseas. This write-in absentee ballot can be used as a backup when the voter is living outside their voting residence, has applied for a regular State ballot through the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76), and has not received their requested State ballot in time to vote and return it by the election deadline.

If the applicant has not previously registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot, check the Voting Assistance Guide to see if the applicant's State allows the FWAB to be used for voter registration and an absentee ballot request.

The FWAB was redesigned in 2017, and while previous versions of this form are marked obsolete per Federal printing requirements, older forms that contain the required information will be accepted by election officials. Current forms can be found at FVAP.gov.

SECTION 1

Applicants should check the box that best describes their current situation.

Applicants should provide their full, legal name.

Check the Voting Assistance Guide to see what identification is required by the applicant's State.

SECTION 2

Applicants should provide the address where they are eligible to vote. For military voters, it is usually the last address of their State of legal residence. For overseas citizens, it is usually the last place they lived before moving overseas. They do not need to have any current ties with this address.

SECTION 3

Applicants should provide the address where they are currently located to receive voting materials.

Voter Information		Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?
Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<small>Print clearly in blue or black ink.</small>		
1. Who are you? Pick one.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- <input type="checkbox"/> I am an eligible spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am an activated National Guard member on State orders. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.		
Last name	Suffix (Jr., II)	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
First name	Previous names (if applicable)	
Middle name	Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY) / /	
Social Security Number	Driver's license or State ID #	
2. What is your U.S. voting residence address?		
<small>Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on other side of form.</small>		
Street address	Apt #	State
City, town, village	ZIP	
Country		
3. Where are you now? You must give your CURRENT contact information.		
<small>Your mailing address. (Different from above)</small>		<small>Your mail forwarding address. (If applicable)</small>
4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.		
<small>Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.</small>		
Email:	Phone:	
Alternate email:	Fax:	
5. What is your voting preference for future elections?		
Do you want to register and request a ballot for all elections you are eligible to vote in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email or online <input type="checkbox"/> Fax
What is your political party for primary elections?		
6. What additional information must you provide?		
<small>The following need more information: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Virginia, and Wisconsin. (Ex. Witness signature, etc.) You may also use this space to clarify your voter information. See the Voting Assistance Guide online at FVAP.gov.</small>		
7. You must read and sign this statement.		
<small>I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: • The information on this form is true, accurate, 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. • I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and • I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and • I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form. • In voting, I have marked and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except those authorized to assist voters under State and Federal law.</small>		
Sign here X	Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY)	/ /
<small>This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 186 (Rev.09-2017), OMB No. 0704-0202</small>		

SECTION 4

Applicants should provide their contact information in case the election office has follow-up questions. Providing a personal email address will avoid security measures that might block attachments sent to .mil email addresses.

SECTION 5

Applicants should select their preferred method to receive voting materials.

Most States require applicants to specify a political party to participate in primary elections.

SECTION 6

The applicant's State may require additional information in Section 6. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for specific State instructions.

SECTION 7

After reading the affirmation, the applicant should sign and date the form.

By signing the FPCA, applicants are verifying their information under the penalty of perjury.

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TOP OF THE BALLOT

The FWAB is used for federal elections, so the applicant can write in his or her preferred candidates for the Offices of President and Vice President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.

Official Backup Ballot
Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Vote by writing the NAME and Political Party of candidates you choose. To find out about specific candidates and races in the upcoming election, go to www.fvap.gov.

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

Instructions

- Use this *Official Backup Ballot* if you do not receive an absentee ballot from your State before the election. The Backup Ballot can be used to vote for federal offices. If you are voting in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands you may vote for Delegate or Resident Commissioner and in presidential primary elections. State laws vary about using the FWAB for other offices like Governor or Mayor. Learn more online at FVAP.gov.
- DO NOT write your name or identifying number (SSN, driver's license) on the ballot.
- Ballot initiatives

Federal offices	
President and Vice President	
U.S. Senator	
U. S. Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to Congress	

Non-federal offices		
Office	Candidate name	Political party

Ballot initiatives

Standard Form 186 (Rev. 08-2017), OMB No. 0704-0103

BOTTOM OF THE BALLOT

Some States have expanded the use of the FWAB for State and local elections, so applicants should check the Voting Assistance Guide to see if their State allows the FWAB to be used in other elections.

FWAB Submission Checklist:

- Look in the Voting Assistance Guide to determine if the applicant’s State allows the FWAB to be submitted by email or fax.
- If submitting by mail, the applicant should insert the voted ballot into the security envelope. The sealed security envelope and the Voter Information page should be inserted into the mailing envelope.
- If mailing the FWAB using a foreign country’s postal service, it requires postage and should have “USA” in the address line of the mailing envelope.
- If mailing the FWAB through the U.S. Postal Service (including APO/FPO) or diplomatic pouch, it can be sent postage paid using the envelope template available at https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Foms/fpca_envelope.pdf.

If an applicant’s State absentee ballot arrives after returning the FWAB, the applicant should vote and return the State ballot immediately. If the State ballot arrives by the State’s deadline for ballot receipt, the State absentee ballot will be counted instead of the FWAB.