



**Board of
Elections**

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots

State Board of Elections

August 3, 2016

What's a FWAB?

What's a FWAB?

- Although primarily used as a backup ballot for voters who have timely applied for an absentee ballot but who have not yet received it, the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** can also be used to register a voter and/or act as a request for an absentee ballot.
- The concept of the FWAB was created as part of the **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)**.

Who Can Use a FWAB?

Who Can Use a FWAB?

- UOCAVA Voters
 - Military (both overseas and domestic)
 - Special Federal (U.S. Citizens residing overseas)

- Civilian Absentee Voters
 - Only if they are outside of the U.S.

Sections of the FWAB

Sections of the FWAB

- The FWAB contains three main parts:
 - Instructions

Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

For absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the U.S. For any questions about this form, consult the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAP.gov or your Voting Assistance Official.

Instructions for Voter's Declaration/Affirmation **Instructions for Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot**

The **[[#]]** numbers and instructions below correspond to the **[[#]]** numbered boxes on the face of the form.

- 1** In most States, you must have registered and requested an absentee ballot from your voting jurisdiction to use this form. If you have not done this, you cannot use this form unless your State allows voter registration via the FWAB. If your State does not allow you to register to vote using this form and you have not already submitted a Federal Post Card Application or registered/requested an absentee ballot by other means, your FWAB will not be counted.
- 2** The classification you choose may determine in which election(s) you will be allowed to vote. Choose the one that best represents your current situation.
- 3** The information you enter for your name should match the information you used to register to vote. The local election official who receives this form will match this to your voter registration information.
- 4** While most States allow you to enter either your Driver's License number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number, some will invalidate the form without your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov to see if your State requires the full SSN.
- 5** Also, many States ask that you provide your race or ethnic group in order to demonstrate that they are complying with the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act.
- 6** If there are questions about your form, local election officials will use this information to contact you. An email address is the simplest and fastest way for them to do so. Your voting materials will be sent to the email address(es) that you provide here if you request it and your State allows it. Include an alternate phone number in box 6 if necessary.
- 7** If you want to vote in primary elections, most States require you to specify a political party.
- 8** This determines the jurisdiction where you vote. For military voters the voting address is your legal U.S. residence. For overseas citizens this is usually the U.S. address where you last lived. You do not need to have any current physical ties to this address. Do not use a post office box number. If the area has no street name, enter the route number and box number. The address you enter here must match the address you used when you requested an absentee ballot.
- 9** Enter the address where you want voting materials to be sent. Voting materials will be sent to this address unless you enter a forwarding address in box 9.
- 10** Enter anything here that would help ensure your ballot is accepted, indicate your preferred method for receiving future ballots: email, online download, or fax if requested. You can always get your absentee ballot by mail. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov for anything your State may specifically require here.

Affirmation Read this carefully. It is what you are agreeing to under oath and penalty of perjury by filling out and sending in this form. Some States require that your form be witnessed. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide for your State's requirements.

To vote, write in either a candidate's name or a political party for each office. Your State may allow you to vote in State and local elections in the Addendum section of this ballot. If you submit the FWAB and later receive your State ballot you should make every reasonable effort to return your local election office and return your State ballot.

Some States allow you to send your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot electronically after printing, signing and scanning.

To return by mail, fold the ballot. Put it in a blank envelope, seal the envelope, and mark it "Security Envelope." This security envelope keeps your vote private.

Put the security envelope and the Declaration / Affirmation form into a larger envelope together. Seal the larger envelope.

To send your ballot:

- For non-U.S. mailing, put the correct amount of local postage in the top right corner on the front of the large envelope.
- In the upper left corner, enter your current complete military or overseas mailing address and the election date.
- Under "To," enter the name and mailing address of the local election office to whom you are sending the packet. It must be the same local election office where you sent your request for an absentee ballot.

Agency Disclosure Statement

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate, Information Management Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02009, Alexandria, VA 22304-3100. [OMB CONTROL #0704-0502]. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.


Privacy Act Statement

Authority: The authority to collect your personal information on this form comes from 42 USC 1973f, "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UCOVA)."

Principal Purpose: This form serves as a write-in absentee ballot for elections for Federal offices or other elections provided by State law or special provisions for all persons covered by UCOVA.

Routine Use(s): There is no retention of this information by the Federal government. Completed forms are sent by you to an appropriate State election official.

Disclosure: Your disclosure of personal information is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may result in the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot not being recognized and therefore not counted.



NEW YORK STATE

Sections of the FWAB

- The FWAB contains three main parts:
 - Instructions
 - Voter's Declaration/Affirmation

Voter's Declaration/Affirmation

Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

For absent Uniformed Services members, their families, and citizens residing outside the U.S.

For any questions about this form, consult the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FWA.gov or your Voting Assistance Officer.

Please print in black ink.

Qualification & Voter Registration
Why State Registration is required and how to obtain a ballot before voting.

1. Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?
 Yes No
If you answer No, you can do this via the Federal Post Card Application, or in a few States, by marking the box below. Check your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FWA.gov to see if your State allows registration via this form.
 I also want to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote.

2. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.
 I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return.
 I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain.
 I am a U.S. citizen and have never resided in the United States.

Classification
Make only 1 selection.

Legal name

3. Last name Suffix
 First name Middle name
 Previous name (if applicable)

Identification
Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FWA.gov.

4. State Driver's License or I.D.
 OR Social Security Number
 Birth date Sex M F Race

Contact information
Include international prefixes. No DDN numbers.

5. Telephone
 Fax
 Email
 Alternate Email

Political party

6. Your State may require you to specify a political party to vote in primary elections:

Voting residence address

7. Street Address (per FWA.gov) Apt. #
 City/Town/Village
 County State Zip Code

Where to send my voting materials
This is your current mailing address and should be different from above. If required, place a forwarding address in Box 9.

8.

Additional requirements for your State
Such as: future ballot receipt preference, mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FWA.gov.

9.

Affirmation (REQUIRED): 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 the 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, not have 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 signed 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.

The information in this office use only. Any unauthorized reuse may be punishable by law. PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE. Standard Form 100/Rev. 08-2015, OMB no. 0368-0046

Signature

Today's date

You must sign and seal this.

Witness signature date if required by your State.

Witness Date

Sections of the FWAB

- The FWAB contains three main parts:
 - Instructions
 - Voter's Declaration/Affirmation
 - Write-In Absentee Ballot

Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot	
<small>Vote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your State's policy.</small>	
President/Vice President:	<input type="text"/>
U.S. Senator:	<input type="text"/>
U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner**:	<input type="text"/>
<small>* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate. ** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.</small>	
Addendum	
<small>If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.</small>	
<small>Office / Ballot Initiative</small>	<small>Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote</small>
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Standard Form 188 (Rev. 08-2013)



A Closer Look...

A Closer Look...

➤ Voter's Declaration/Affirmation Section

- Looks an awful lot like a **Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)**
- Can be used (just like an FPCA) to register a new voter or to act as a request for an absentee ballot from an existing voter.
- One notable difference between this part of the FWAB and the FPCA is the omission of a spot for a voter to state their preference with regard to method of transmission of their voting materials (“mail” is therefore assumed).

For any questions about this form, consult the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAB.gov or your Voting Assistance Officer.

Voter's Declaration/Affirmation
Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
 For Absent Uniformed Services Members, Their Families, and Certain Residents Outside the U.S. Please print in black ink.

Qualification & Voter Registration
 Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot? Yes No
 If you answer No, you can do this via the Federal Post Card Application, or in a few States, by marking the box below. Check your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAB.gov to see if your State allows registration via the form.
 I also want to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote.

Classification
 Make only 1 selection.
 1 I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 2 I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.
 I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return.
 I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain.
 I am a U.S. citizen and have never resided in the United States.

Legal name
 3 Last name Suffix
 First name Middle name
 Previous name (if applicable)

Identification
 Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAB.gov.
 4 State Driver's License or I.D.
 OR Social Security Number
 Birth date Sex M F Race
See instructions

Contact information
 Include international prefix. No DDN numbers.
 5 Telephone
 Fax
 Email
 Alternate Email

Political party
 6 Your State may require you to specify a political party to vote in primary elections:

Voting residence address
 7 Street Address (per FPCA) Apt. #
 Usually your best U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.
 City/Town/Village
 County State Zip Code

Where to send my voting materials
 This is your current mailing address and should be different from above. If required, place a forwarding address in Box 9.
 8

Additional requirements for your State
 Such as: future ballot except preference, mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's page in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAB.gov.
 9

Affirmation (REQUIRED): 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 and 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 the 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, not have 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 registered and asked the ballot to be 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.

Signature
 You must sign and send it.
 Today's date
 Signature
 Witness signature (date if required by your State)
 Date

This information for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE. Standard Form 100/Rev. 08-2005, OMB no. 0560-0046

A Closer Look...

Qualification & Voter Registration

Many States require that you be registered and request an absentee ballot before using this form.

1

Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?

Yes

No

If you answer No, you can do this via the Federal Post Card Application, or in a few States, by marking the box below. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov to see if your State allows registration via this form.

I also want to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote.

- Another difference between this part of the FWAB and the FPCA is Section 1, which asks the voter to state their reason for using the FWAB:
 - To act as a backup ballot if they have already requested an absentee ballot; or
 - To register and/or request an absentee ballot

A Closer Look...

➤ Write-In Absentee Ballot Section

➤ The FWAB already contains spots for federal offices:

- President/Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative in Congress

Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

Vote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas voters in elections other than general elections or

President/Vice President: _____

U.S. Senator: _____

U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner**:

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

Addendum

If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.

Office / Ballot Initiative	Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote

Standard Form 186 (Rev 08-2013)

A Closer Look...

- Write-In Absentee Ballot Section
 - The FWAB also allows for a voter to state additional offices or ballot initiatives that they are eligible to vote for, along with a space for them to state their vote in the form of a Candidate Name, Party Affiliation or Initiative Vote for each enumerated contest.

Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot	
Vote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your State's policy.	
President/Vice President:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
U.S. Senator:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner**:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate. ** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.	
Addendum	
If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.	
Office / Ballot Initiative	Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote
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Standard Form 188 (Rev. 08-2013)

How Should a County Board Canvass a FWAB?

How Should a County Board Canvass a FWAB?

- If a FWAB contains the name of a person or persons in the space provided for a vote for any office, such ballot shall be counted as a vote for such person or persons.
- A vote for a person who is the candidate of a party or independent body either for president or vice president shall be deemed to be a vote for both the candidates of such party or independent body for such offices.
- If such a ballot contains the name of a party or independent body in the space provided for a vote for any office, such ballot shall be deemed to be a vote for the candidate or candidates, if any, of such party or independent body for such office.

How Should a County Board Canvass a FWAB?

- In the case of the offices of president and vice-president a vote cast for a candidate, either directly or by writing in the name of a party or independent body, shall also be deemed to be votes for the electors supporting such candidate.
- Any abbreviation, misspelling or other minor variation in the form of the name of a candidate or a party or independent body shall be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot, if the intention can be ascertained.

See §§ 9-209(2)(b)(iv) & 6210.13 for more information on canvassing FWABs

When Should a County Board NOT Canvass a FWAB?

When Should a County Board NOT Canvass a FWAB?

- If an individual returns a FWAB to a County Board with all sections completed, but is either not already registered or is a registered voter but has not submitted a request for an absentee ballot.
- In this scenario, a board should use the FWAB to register the individual as a voter and/or treat it as a request for an absentee ballot.
 - If possible, the board should attempt to transmit an official ballot to the voter.
 - If timely receipt of an official ballot is in doubt, the board should also attempt to advise the voter that their originally submitted FWAB cannot be canvassed, but that they would now be eligible to return a newly completed FWAB.

When Should a County Board NOT Canvass a FWAB?

- If a voter timely returns both a FWAB and an official absentee ballot to a County Board, the official ballot should always be the one ballot canvassed by the board, regardless of the order in which they were received.

Other Uses of the FWAB

Other Uses of the FWAB

- If a board of elections has been served with a court order restraining or enjoining the issuance of ballots, and is unable to transmit ballots to military and/or special federal voters by the applicable statutory deadline, they shall transmit, in the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter, a FWAB to all such voters eligible to vote in the election.

FWAB Resources

FWAB Resources



- The web site of the **Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)**, <https://www.fvap.gov>, is a great place for voters and election administrators alike to find useful information on the FWAB.
- The FVAP site also provides a FWAB Wizard which walks a voter through the process of completing a FWAB, including access to specific contest and candidate information based on the voter's address.

Questions?