

2013 Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) Quick Reference Guide

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is 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 the voting residence, has applied for a regular State ballot through the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76) and has not received the requested State ballot in time to vote by the election deadline.

The FWAB was redesigned in 2013, and while previous versions of this form are marked obsolete per DoD rules, older forms that contain the required information will be accepted by the election officials. Current forms can be found at FVAP.gov.

BLOCK 1

- Many States require applicants to have previously registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot
- 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 as an application for voter registration and request for an absentee ballot

BLOCK 3

- Applicants should provide their full, legal name

BLOCK 5

- Encourage applicants to provide telephone and fax numbers and email as contact information for follow-up questions from election officials

BLOCK 7

- Each applicant must have a legal residence address in a State or territory to vote in U.S. elections.
- For a uniformed service member, the State on the Leave and Earnings statement is often the State of the applicant's legal residence address

BLOCK 9

- The applicant's State may require additional information in this box—consult the State directions in the VAG

Voter's Declaration/Affirmation

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

Voter's Declaration/Affirmation
Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

For absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the U.S. Please print in black ink.

Qualification & Voter Registration <small>Many States require that you be registered and request an absentee ballot before using this form.</small>	1	Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> I also want to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote.
Classification <small>Make only 1 selection.</small>	2	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty 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 residing outside the United States, and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and my return is not certain. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <small>Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small>	4	State Driver's License or I.D. _____ OR Social Security Number _____ Birth date _____ Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Race _____ <small>See Instructions</small>
Contact information <small>Include international prefixes. No DSN numbers.</small>	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 <small>Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.</small>	7	Street Address (not P.O. Box) _____ Apt. # _____ City/Town/Village _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Where to send my voting materials <small>This is your current mailing address and should be different from above. If required, place a forwarding address in Box 9.</small>	8	_____ _____ _____
Additional requirements for your State <small>Such as: future ballot receipt preference, mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small>	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, 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.

Signature _____
 Today's date _____
You must sign and send in.
 Witness signature / date if required by your State.
 Signature _____
 Date _____

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE. Standard Form 186 (Rev. 08-2013), CMB No. 0704-0302

BLOCK 2

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

BLOCK 4

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

BLOCK 6

- Political party preference is required in most States to participate in partisan primary elections
- Check the State requirements in the Voting Assistance Guide to properly enter a political party preference
- Applicants who do not want to be affiliated with a political party should enter, "no party"

BLOCK 8

- Applicants should enter a current mailing address

AFFIRMATION

- After reading the affirmation, have the applicant sign and date the form
- Remind applicants that by signing the FWAB, they are verifying their information under the penalty of perjury

The FWAB can also be completed using the online assistant at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3>

