

Time running out to get your absentee ballot

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Oct. 2, 2008 – With the November 4, 2008 General Election almost upon us, and registration deadlines even sooner, time is running out for citizens who want to participate in the elections this year.

To become a registered voter in Pa., you need to be over 18 years of age, and have resided in the state for over 30 days. Those interested can go to <http://www.ccpa.net/index.asp?NID=1891>



for more information, or visit the Bureau of Elections at 37 East High Street.

If you are not a Pa., resident and need an absentee ballot make sure you move quickly. The turn-around time varies by state. You can find the request for an absentee ballot [here](#)

Military members deploying before the general election

The following guidelines are provided to military members who are about to deploy to a combat zone before the general elections.

If you do not know when you are deploying (relocating) or you do not know your mailing address at your new location, follow these instructions being careful not to provide sensitive or classified information:

- Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF 76) or the online FPCA (OFPCA) and explain to the local election official that you will be on a military commitment and provide an estimation of the dates you will be outside the county or parish. Do not provide geographical location (country or installation name)!
- Generally the Unit provides an APO/FPO address to its deploying service members. Ask your chain of command. As a minimum you should be able to obtain a Unit address where you are

deploying. Enter this address on item 4 of the FPCA.

When you find out your new address (before deploying or at the new location):

- Send another FPCA to use as a Change of Address form. Provide a proper APO/FPO address. Do not write country or installation name. Include the dates you will be outside of the county or parish.
- Enter your old address in the Remarks section (item 7) of the FPCA and write in block letters OLD ADDRESS. In the addressee section (under Applicant name and complete address) write in block letters NEW ADDRESS. Provide a proper APO/FPO address only. Again, do not write country or installation name.

Important notes when completing an FPCA:

- Send an FPCA or OFPCA now to inform your local election official of your status.
- Use State-By-State Instructions as found in [Chapter 3](#) of the Voting Assistance Guide (also at www.fvap.gov)
- Item 3 (Voting Residence) and Item 4 (Mail Absentee Ballot To) of the FPCA must be different.
- Enter a current phone and fax number (with country codes for access from the U.S.) and current email address on the FPCA. This is important in case the local election official needs to contact you for clarification or questions.
- Sign and date the FPCA.
- If there is not enough room on the FPCA, use a separate sheet of paper.
- Place the sheet inside the FPCA. Tape all sides of the FPCA. DO NOT STAPLE!
- If using the OFPCA, place it in an envelope with proper postage.
- Send the FPCA to your local election official using the address found in [Chapter 3](#), Section III (Where To Send It) of the Guide.
- Be certain that your FPCA (or OFPCA envelope) is hand-stamped by the Postal Clerk.
- Your state may allow electronic transmission of your FPCA. See State-by-State Instructions in Chapter 3 of the 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide or the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov
- Send an FPCA as a Change of Address Form whenever you have a change of address that affects where your ballot should be mailed.

Sending the FPCA will help ensure that all information is current at the local election office, including where the ballot should be sent, in order to expedite the absentee voting process.

For more information contact your voting assistance officer or visit <http://www.fvap.gov>

Carlisle Barracks Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) are:

- Installation VAO: Mr. Elton Manske, DHR, Room 111 Upton Hall, 245-4898
- TRADOC/AWC VAO: Maj. Steven Toth, Collins Hall Room B010, 242-3265
- Dunham VAO: Capt. Jane Hicks, Dunham USAHC Suite #1, 245-3658

For more information for Pa. voters check <http://www.dos.state.pa.us>

Voting Assistance Program FAQs - General Questions

Q. I am assigned overseas and I ordered my Absentee Ballot but I have not received it. What do I have to do to vot

A. You should contact your unit Voting Assistance Officer and ask for assistance in using the [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#).

Q. How can I find out when the primary elections are in my home state?

A. There is a listing of the election dates, [by State](#).

Q. Where can I find information on issues and positions taken by the candidates?

A. In addition to reading U.S. news magazines and newspapers, both Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad maintain overseas offices and have information pertaining to candidates and issues. These party organizations can be contacted by writing:

Republicans Abroad
310 First St., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Executive Director Democrats Abroad
430 S. Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Q. My spouse is with me overseas and wants to vote, where can he/she get information on absentee voting?

A. Your spouse or other eligible family members can receive voting assistance through the Unit Voting Assistance Officer. Overseas DA Civilians and their family members are also eligible to receive this assistance.

Q. Do I have to pay postage when I mail in my absentee ballot?

A. Generally, all election-related materials are mailed postage paid from any APO or FPO mail facility, all U.S. Embassies and Consulates and any post office in the U.S. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility. At present, there are no provisions to allow for submission of the FPCA through the Internet.

Q. I have moved around a lot, how can I figure out which State I should claim for voting purposes?

A. For voting purposes, your "legal State of residence" can be the State or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service or the State or territory which you have since claimed as your legal residence. To claim a new legal residence you must have simultaneous physical presence and the intent to reside at that location as your primary residence. Military and family members may change their legal residence every time they change permanent duty stations or they may retain their legal residence without change. A legal officer should be consulted before legal residence is changed because there are usually other factors which should be considered besides voting. Be sure to enter the complete address of your legal residence, including street or rural route and number, when completing the residence section of the FPCA. Even though you may no longer maintain formal ties such as property ownership to that residence, the address is needed to place you in a proper voting district, ward, precinct or parish.

Q. If I am stationed in my state of legal residence, can I use an absentee ballot to vote? If not, where do I go/how do I vote?

A. You should be able to vote absentee (since you are probably not physically in their precinct where you vote) but you must contact the Local Election Officials (LEO). The LEO must understand that you are eligible to use the SF-76 to request the absentee ballot. If you have difficulty, please contact your Unit Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). If the VAO cannot solve the problem, please contact the [Army Voting Action Officer](#). If you elect to vote in-person, you will need to register with the local election officials and they will provide voting instructions.