



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

VOTE FROM ABROAD TRAINING

Saturday, June 13, 2020

Elizabeth Jenkins, Volunteer

ejenkins@umich.edu | WeChat: elizaj



Agenda

| START TIME | TIME ALLOCATED | ITEM |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10:05 | 3 minutes | Welcome & Housekeeping |
| 10:08 | 5 minutes | Overview |
| 10:13 | 15 minutes | Request Ballot |
| 10:28 | 5 minutes | Receive & Return Ballot |
| 10:33 | 5 minutes | Volunteer Opportunities |
| 10:38 | 2 minutes | Resources & Wrap |



Agenda

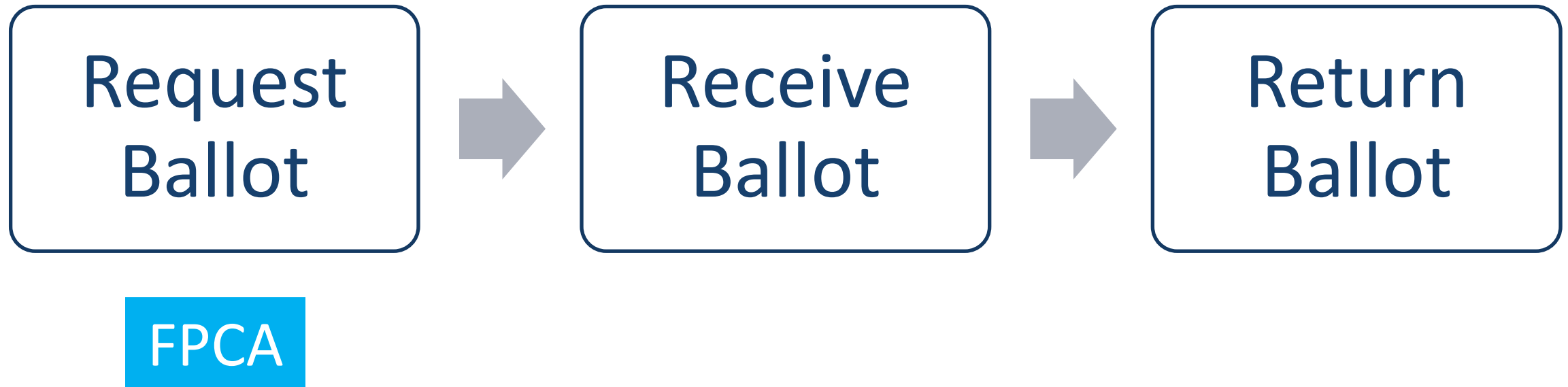
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VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Overview





VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans



YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS OFFICIAL

AM I REGISTERED
TO VOTE?

WAS MY FPCA
PROCESSED?

WAS MY BALLOT
SENT TO ME?

WAS MY VOTED
BALLOT RECEIVED?

Find your LEO at link by state abbreviation: votefromabroad.org/states/MI



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Local Elections Officials (LEOs)



An election worker verified signatures on mail-in ballots in Utah in November 2018. George Frey/Getty Images

- Responsible for all voters in their district
- Increased burden as demand for absentee and mail-in ballots increases with COVID-19
- Work with election administration and poll workers
- Often small offices
- Often very responsive



Your Right to Vote *Overseas*

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

- Federal law guarantees your right to vote in federal elections – i.e., for President, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.
- Official forms and instructions for overseas voters including the FPCA.
- Train military Voter Assistance Officers (VAO)
- Train diplomatic staff.
- Educational and promotional materials.

Source: www.fvap.gov



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Eligible Overseas Voters

- ✓ U.S. citizen living abroad
- ✓ At least 18 years old on the date of the election
- ✓ Eligible to register to vote in your state



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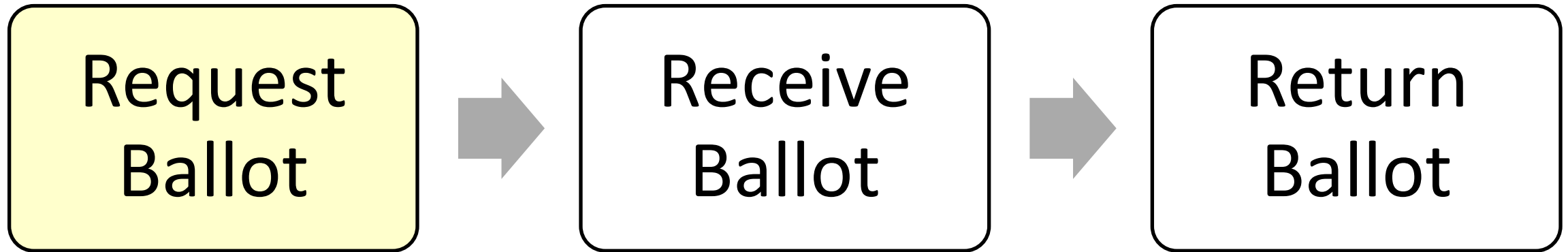
VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Can I do my ballot request online? **MAYBE!**

Can be completed online votefromabroad.org every calendar year.

Some states allow you to also submit your FPCA online, others require fax or mail.



FPCA



Vote from Abroad.org
Absentee Ballots for Americans



How to Request Ballot

Vote from Abroad.org
Absentee Ballots for US Citizens

Request a ballot now!

Start

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your State's instructions at FVAP.gov.

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

1. Who are you? Pick one.

I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:

I am an active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent.

I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.

I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.

I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain.

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: Female 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 address in the U.S. State or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?
Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on other side of form.

Street address _____ Apt # _____

City, town, village _____ State _____

Country _____ ZIP _____

3. Where are you now? You must give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.

Your mailing address. (Different from above) _____ Your mail forwarding address. (If applicable) _____

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.
Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Alternate email: _____ Fax: _____

5. What is your voting preference? Select One.

How do you want to receive voting materials from your election official? Mail Email or online Fax

What is your political party for primary elections? _____

6. What additional information must you provide?
The following need more information: Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Vermont, and Virginia. (Cv. Proof of residency, employer, etc.) You may also use this space to clarify your voter information. See the Voting Assistance Guide at FVAP.gov.

7. You must read and sign this statement.

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.

Sign here X _____ Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY) ____/____/____

This information is for official use only. Any confidential release may be prohibited by law. Precedence address and abilities. Standard Form 76 (Rev. 05-01), OMB No. 2520-0002



What is the FPCA?

- FPCA = Federal Post Card Application
- FPCA = ballot request form for Americans living overseas

AND...

- Voter registration application
- Extra protection from being challenged in a close election
- Good for all elections in that calendar year
- Receive (and maybe return) your ballot electronically
- Receive your ballot at least 45 days before the election
- Special back-up ballot (FWAB)

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

1. Who are you? Pick one.

I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:
 I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.
 I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.
 I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain.
 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: Female 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 address in the U.S. State or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?
Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on other side of form.

Street address _____ Apt. # _____
 City, town, village _____ State _____
 County _____ ZIP _____

3. Where are you now? You must give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.
Your mailing address. (Different from above) _____
 Your mail forwarding address. (If applicable) _____

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.
Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Alternate email: _____ Fax: _____

5. What is your voting preference? Select One.
 How do you want to receive voting materials from your election official? Mail Email or online Fax
 What is your political party for primary elections? _____

6. What additional information must you provide?
The following need more information: Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Vermont, and Virginia. (E.g., Proof of residency, employer, etc.)
 You may also use the space to clarify your voter information. See the Voting Assistance Guide at FVAP.gov.

7. You must read and sign this statement.
 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.

Sign here X _____ Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY) ____/____/____

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 76 (Rev. 03-17), OMB No. 3203-0102



Complete FPCA on VFA



1. Your Information
2. Voting Information
3. Identification
4. Review
5. Sign and Submit



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

1. Your Info

- Your China address in pinyin (alpha-only, no characters)
- Postal Code required.

Look up China postal codes here (scroll down to the map):
www.ip138.com/post/

(ok to approximate, since will not be used to mail your ballot)

Step 1 of 5
Your Information

First Name Required

Middle Name(s) Optional

Last Name Required

Suffix Optional

Have you previously registered to vote under a different name? ⓘ

Yes No

Your current phone number e.g. +1 201 555 0123

Your current email address e.g. Abraham.L_09@yahoo

Your current address abroad ⓘ

China

Street Address 1

Street Address 2

District

Beijing

Province

Postal

I need to use a different format for my address.

Change Format



2. Voting Info

- Your voting address, including country and voting jurisdiction (drop-down) – can cause the most problems for voters. (see next slide)
- Recommend: Intend to return
- Recommend: Receive ballot by email or online

Step 2 of 5 Voting Information

Voting Address ⓘ
Your voting address is *usually* the last place you lived in the US. If you have never lived in the US, use the last US address of your US citizen parent(s). (Do not enter a PO Box.)

Street ⓘ

Apartment #

City State Zip

County

County

Are you a civilian or military voter?

Civilian Military

Are you abroad temporarily or indefinitely? ⓘ

My Return is Uncertain **I Intend to Return**

Are you already registered to vote in Holland, City of (Ottawa County) ?

Yes No Not Sure

How would you like to receive your ballot? (Email recommended) ⓘ

Email or online Mail Fax

If you have a second email address, add it here to ensure ballot delivery.

@ e.g. Thomas.J_43@post.harvard.edu

◀ Back Next ▶



FAQ #13

WHAT STATE DO I VOTE IN?

Your voting address is the last place you lived in the U.S.

It doesn't matter if you have any existing relationship to this address. It doesn't matter:

- × who owns the property now
- × whether you were registered to vote before you left
- × whether you intend to return to that state
- × how long you have lived abroad





3. Identification

- Last 4 digits of SSN or State ID

Step 3 of 5

Identification

Date of Birth ?

Sex ?

Your Political Party ?

I'd like to receive future voter reminder emails.

Identification ?

(Required)

Michigan voters must provide **ONE** of the following forms of identification: the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number, or your State ID. If you don't have any of these, please select 'I don't have the above identification.'

the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

-- OR --

State ID

I don't have the above identification

[◀ Back](#)

[Next ▶](#)



4. Review

Step 4 of 5

Review your form

Confirm that the following information is correct. If you need to correct anything click 'Back.' When everything is correct click 'Next' for instructions on how to sign and send your form to your election official.

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your State's instructions at FVAP.gov.

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

1. Who are you? Pick one.

- I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:
- I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 - I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Last name | John Doe | Suffix (Jr, III) | Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male |
| First name | Elizabeth | Previous names (if applicable) | |



5. Sign and Submit

- Capture Signature

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.

Disagree

Agree

Step 5 of 5 Sign and Submit

You must email, fax or mail your **signed and dated** ballot request to the Holland City Clerk.



We recommend sending your ballot request by email if possible to avoid possible postal delays.

Choose how to send your ballot request:

@ Email

Fax

Mail

Sign and send your form by email

Instructions:



Capture your signature with your device camera or **upload** a scan of your signature and email your form straight from this website.

Capture Signature



If you don't have a camera on this computer, you will need to download your form, print, sign, date and scan it.

Download Now

Back

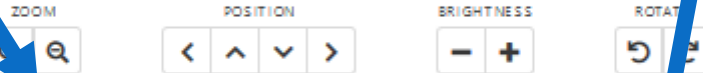
Add your scanned signature.

- Sign your name with a dark pen in large letters on a blank sheet of white paper.
- **Click start** to scan your signature now with your device camera. Or **Or upload an image file, such as jpeg or png, to upload your signature. [pdf files will not work]** to upload your signature from a file.
- You'll be able to adjust the picture after you take it.

Click to Start

Add your scanned signature.

- Pinch or scroll with your mouse on the image to resize it. Missing pic? Zoom out to find it.
- Drag with you mouse/finger to place your signature on the red line next to the 'X'.
- Click 'Use This Signature' to add it to your form and compose a message to your election official.



Try again

Use This Signature

Send to your Local Election Official

Type a message to include with your email to your local election official. We will attach your completed, signed and dated form. Click 'Send'. We will also send a copy to your email address for your records.

Subject

From

To

Message

Thank you so much for everything you do. Your work is much appreciated by Americans abroad!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jenkins

ejenkins@umich.edu

Cancel

Send Email

Attachment

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

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Print clearly in blue or black ink.

I. Who are you? Pick one.

I am an active duty in the uniformed Services or Merchant Marine - I am an eligible spouse or dependent.

I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND: I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.

I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return. I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain.

I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.

Click start to scan with device.

OR

Take a photo and upload.



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Absentee Ballots for Americans

Sign & Submit FPCA

- Most states can complete on VFA website.
- If not, you may be directed to...
 - print and sign, then scan and email to your LEO (California)
 - print and sign, then scan and use an email-to-fax service to FAX to your LEO
 - print and sign, then mail by postal mail to your LEO



Vote from Abroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

DoD Fax Service

- Free to use for overseas citizens.
- Email your FPCA or ballot with the required coversheet to **fax@fvap.gov** and it will be faxed to your your LEO.
- Recommend you verify receipt with your LEO.

FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Transmission Cover Sheet

| To: | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| City/County Board of Elections | |
| Fax Number | |
| City | |
| State | |

| From: | |
|------------------|--|
| Last Name | |
| First Name | |
| Middle Name | |
| Telephone Number | |
| Fax Number | |
| Email Address | |

| Additional Information: | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

If a **VOTED BALLOT** is being faxed or emailed, sign below:
"I understand that by faxing or emailing my voted ballot I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot"

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Number of pages being transmitted, including this sheet: _____

Not all forms can be sent electronically. Please check the fvap.gov website or the [Voting Assistance Guide](#) to verify which forms can be sent electronically to your Election Official.

Fax: Send directly to your Election Official. If you are unable and need fax assistance send to: 703-693-5527/DSN 223-5527 or 1-800-368-8683 or check fvap.gov for international fax numbers. If you need to fax and do not have access to a fax machine you can email your forms to fax@fvap.gov.

Email: If your forms can be emailed, DO NOT USE FAX@FVAP.GOV. Email them directly to your election official. Email addresses for your election official can be found at fvap.gov.

Coversheet required: www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/TransmissionCoversheet.pdf



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Postal Mail

- Regular Mail - China Post
- Express Mail – DHL
- Diplomatic Pouch – Consulate or Embassy (requires postage)



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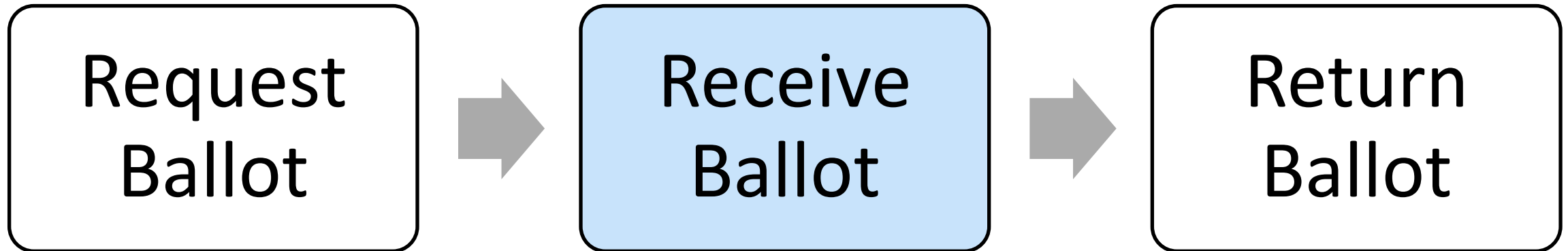
VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Can I receive my ballot online? YES!

Receive ballot by email or online at least 45 days before the election.

For November 3, 2020 General Election, receive yours by September 19, 2020

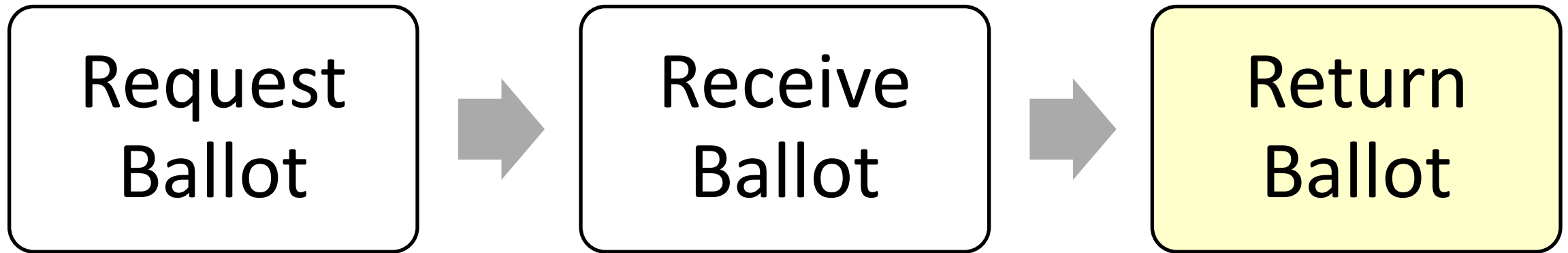


FPCA



Can I return my voted ballot online? MAYBE!

Some states allow you to return your ballot electronically, others require fax or mail.



FPCA



Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

- For voters who submitted FPCA
- If you have not received your official ballot by 45 days before the election, this is your back-up ballot.
- If you receive your official ballot afterwards, you can also return it to your LEO without penalty.
- Same state rules for sending in your official ballot (deadline and method – email/fax/mail)

FWAB



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Challenges for Voters 2020

- Americans abroad don't know they can vote
- They don't know how to vote
- They don't think their vote counts
- The process involves several steps and can be difficult
- Voters wait until November
- They don't want to pay for postage
- Their ballots arrive too late to be counted
- Votes are suppressed by local and state election processes
- Postal delivery is suspended or massively delayed



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Your People

- Immediate family and friends
- Coworkers
- Professional organizations
- Alumni networks
- School (parents, students and teachers)
- Religious communities



VoteFromAbroad.org
Absentee Ballots for Americans

Voter Help Desk





VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

DA Global GOTV Team

- Answer questions submitted to help@votefromabroad.org
- Ticket system with volunteers all over the world.
- Templates for common issues.
- Helps identify voter protection issues.

Heidi Burch & Eileen Weinberg: gotv@democratsabroad.org



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

DA Global Voter Protection Team

- Helping to protect the USPS.
- Expanding unrestricted ballot return options via email attachment and web portal for Americans overseas.
- Advocating for vote by mail and safe, early in-person voting for Americans at home.
- Keeping our members aware of changing issues impacting their rights and voting access.

Maya Buchanan: voterprotection@democratsabroad.org



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

DA China Call & SMS Team

- Call and texts to members with info about voting
- Software is Call Hub
- WeChat group (DACN Call & SMS Team)
- Learn more: democratsabroad.org/gotv_phonebanking



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VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Getting Help

- FAQ: votefromabroad.org/faqs
- Email: help@votefromabroad.org
- Live online chat: votefromabroad.org
- WeChat ID: elizaj
- WeChat Group: DA Vote from Abroad

Election info beyond your FPCA: ballotpedia.org



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

2016 Statewide Win in North Carolina



Roy Cooper
Governor

10,281

vote margin

27,571 abroad ballots
returned



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

2018 Statewide Win in Florida

Democrats Abroad brought home the ONLY Florida D statewide win in 2018



Nikki Fried
FL Agriculture
Commissioner

6,753

vote margin

48,068 abroad ballots
returned



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Overview

NOW! votefromabroad.org

**Request
Ballot**

FPCA



SAT SEP 19

**Receive
Ballot**

If you don't receive your ballot:

FWAB

votefromabroad.org/FWAB



ASAP!

**Return
Ballot**



VoteFromAbroad.org

Absentee Ballots for Americans

Thank you!



votefromabroad.org/faqs
help@votefromabroad.org

Heidi & Eileen – Global GOTV
gotv@democratsabroad.org

Maya – Global Voter Protection Team
voterprotection@democratsabroad.org

Sam – China Phone/SMS Team

Devika – China GOTV

Elizabeth – Presenter, WeChat: elizaj
dacn-secretary@democratsabroad.org