

Vote from Abroad org

Absentee ballots for Americans

Special Delivery: How to Get Your Ballot to your Local Elections Official

How do you make sure your ballot will be delivered on time? First, contact your Local Elections Official (LEO) to ensure your voting method is acceptable. Then, avail of one of the following services to return your ballot. Expect further delays due to National Holiday (October 1 - 7), Columbus Day holiday, COVID-19 and other unforeseen circumstances. Please note that prices and policies may change. Vote from Abroad bears no responsibility for the successful delivery of your ballot.

1. Fax (No need for a fax machine!)

If your state allows faxed ballots (please check with your LEO). Fill out a cover sheet (<https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/coversheet.pdf>) and email both this and your voting materials to your LEO at <fax@fvap.gov>. This service will fax your ballot to your LEO, but please confirm receipt.

2. China Post (China's main postal service)

Tel.: 11185

<http://english.chinapost.com.cn/>

How to use it: Go to a China Post office in person.

Operating Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 11 AM and 2 to 4 PM

Estimated Delivery Time: 14 to 30 days delivery minimum and, in some cases, several months. Please double check with the postal clerk on estimated delivery time to the U.S.

Approximate Cost: 23 rmb

3. EMS (Express Mail Service; Subsidiary of China Post)

Tel.: 11183 (press 8 for English service)

<http://www.ems.com.cn/english.html>

How to use it: Contact above and arrange for pick up

Operating Hours: Vary by location

Estimated Delivery Time: 3 to 12 days

Approximate cost: 180 rmb, for package under 0.5kg, plus 75 rmb for additional 0.5kg

4. FedEx (U.S.-owned delivery company)

Tel: 400-866-1888 (press "2" for English),

<https://www.fedex.com/en-cn/home.html>

How to use: Call 400-866-1888 and arrange for pick up

Estimated Delivery Time: 1 to 2 weeks

Approximate cost: up to 0.5 kg, 387 rmb

Hours/Days: Monday to Saturday. Hours vary by location.

Note: You will likely have to fill out several forms.

5. SF Express (Shunfeng Express)

Tel. 9533883

<https://www.sf-express.com/us/en>

WeChat Mini program available.

How to use: Call 9533883, press # for English. Delivery person will pick it up.

Estimated Delivery Time: 3 to 5 days

Operating hours/days: Monday to Sunday, 8 AM to 10 PM

Approximate cost: Up to 0.5 kg, 222 rmb, plus COVID surcharge of 9 rmb per 0.5 kg. Extra 50 rmb per 0.5 rmb for remote area and other extra charges for other circumstances.

6. DHL

Tel. 400 810 8000

<http://www.cn.dhl.com/>

How to use: Go to <https://www.5idhl.com/> to register, fill out Customs form and make an appointment. In some cities, a delivery person will come. In others, go to their office.

Operating Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM

Estimated Delivery Time: 7 to 14 days

Approximate price: Visit <https://www.5idhl.com/express/expressPriceAction2.action> to get an estimate

Note: You will likely have to fill out several forms.

7. Diplomatic Pouch, U.S. Embassy and Consulates (sends your ballot through their mailing delivery program).

<https://china.usembassy-china.org.cn/u-s-citizen-services/voting/>

How to use: You or another person can drop off your ballot request (FPCA) or completed ballot at the nearest [U.S. embassy or consulate](#) for return to the United States. It must be addressed to your local election officials and have sufficient U.S. postage, or be in a postage-paid envelope. A postage-paid envelope is available on the [FVAP website](#). Contact the U.S. embassy voting assistance officer (VAO) or visit the [embassy's website](#) for specific instructions. Please contact the Embassy/Consulate on mailing instructions.

Operating Hours: Monday to Friday (varies at each location; [call ahead](#) to confirm)

Estimated delivery time: 4 to 7 weeks to reach the Washington, DC processing center, PLUS, additional time to forward to your LEO.

Approximate price: Cost-free if you use the postage-paid mailing template.

Have more questions?

Please contact info-china@democratsabroad.org. We hold regular trainings and voter registration events across China.

Please note that we assist any American looking to vote in the elections regardless of party affiliation. If you do not want to email Democrats Abroad please email help@votefromabroad.org.