

# VOTE FROM ABROAD BASIC TRAINING

Saturday, July 11, 2020

**Democrats Abroad China** 



# 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	Wrap Up & Final Questions



# Who is eligible to vote from abroad?

- ✓ U.S. citizens living abroad
- ✓ At least 18 years old by the date of the election
- ✓ Eligible to register to vote in your state\*
- \* You retain the right to vote in the state where you last lived, no matter how long it has been since you lived there
- \*\* For US citizens who have never resided in the US, you may be able to vote according to where your US citizen parent last lived this varies by state.



#### Overseas absentee voters need to:

# Request Ballot



Receive Ballot



Return Ballot

PHASE 1:

"Get Registered & Ready to Vote" From Jan 1, 2020

PHASE 2: Did you get your ballot? Sept 19, 2020 PHASE 3:
Bank those ballots
From Oct 1, 2020 until Nov. 3



#### Vote from abroad

Request a ballot now!







- Military and Civilian Overseas Voters use a one page form to request a ballot every year
   the FPCA (Federal Post Card Application)
- Serves to register voters (if needed)
- Serves as a request for ballots for all elections for that calendar year (primaries, special elections, general elections.)
- Grants you status as a UOCAVA Voter
- UOCAVA Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (1986); HAVA – Help America Vote Act (2002); MOVE – Military Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (2010)

#### Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

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.

. Who are you? Pick						
request an absentee allot for all elections which I am eligible o vote AND:	☐ I am an activated Nation☐ I am a U.S. citizen living☐ I am a U.S. citizen living☐ I am a U.S. citizen living	ne Uniformed Services or Merchant Mari nal Guard member on State orders. outside the country, and I intend to ret outside the country, and I have never be	urn. ıncertain.		spouse or	dependent.
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Middle name		Birth date (MM/DD/		/	/	
Social Security Number		Driver's license or S		/	,	
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City, town, village			State			
County			ZIP			
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Your mailing address. (D		Your mail forwarding		icable)		
4. What is your conta	ct information? This is so	o election officials can reach you ab	out your reque:	st.		
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#### Federal Protections for UOCAVA Voters

- Right to vote in federal elections (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)
- May also be allowed to vote state and local elections varies by state
- Ballot sent by 45 days in advance of the election
- Ballot sent by email or online if voter requests
- Overseas absentee ballots are counted
- Can use FWAB "Back up Ballot"

Source: www.fvap.gov



## Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP.gov)

- Support UOCAVA voters military and civilian
- Official forms including the FPCA and printable envelope templates
- Free email-to-fax service
- Additional Voter Assistance Officer training

Source: www.fvap.gov





AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

WAS MY FPCA PROCESSED?

WAS MY BALLOT SENT TO ME?

WAS MY VOTED BALLOT RECEIVED?



# 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



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# Can I submit my ballot request online? Maybe!

Email or online FPCA request varies by state, some allow fax return. All states allow mail return. Conditions and deadlines vary by state.

# Request Ballot



Receive Ballot



Return Ballot

PHASE 1: "Get Registered & Ready to Vote"
From Jan 1, 2020

PHASE 2: Did you get your ballot? Sept 19, 2020 PHASE 3:
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From Oct 1, 2020 until Nov. 3





### Easiest Way to Request Ballot!



#### Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

	istration and Ballot Request Application (FPCA)	This form is for absent Unit their families, and citizens States. It is used to registe absentee ballot, and updat	residing outsid er to vote, requi e your contact i	e the United est an
Print clearly in blue or black ink.		See your State's instructions at FVAP.gov.		
1. Who are you? Pick o	ne.			
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Middle name		Birth date (MN/DD/YYYY)	,	1
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	to the sent to this accress, see instructs			
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City, town, village				
County		ZIP		
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# Complete in 5 steps!



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



#### 1. Your Info

Current address in China should be typed with alpha characters. Do not write with Chinese characters.

Postal codes in China can be looked up here: www.ip138.com/post/ (scroll down)

Your full China address is for informational purposes and **required** even though it (probably) cannot be used in this format to send a ballot to you in China.





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:

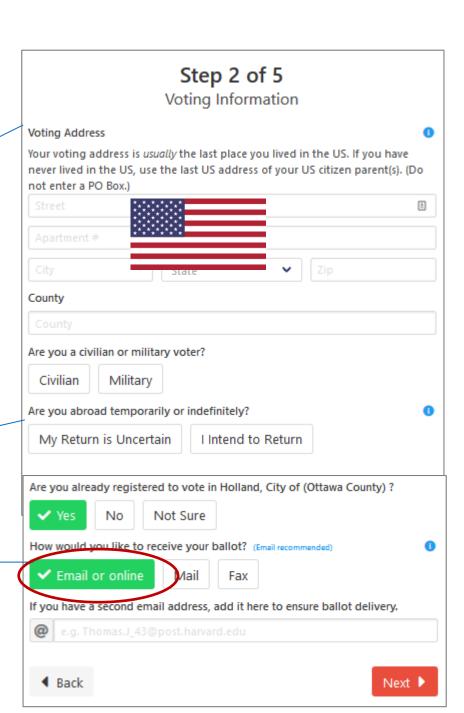
- × who owns the property now
- × even if it no longer exists as a residence
- × whether you were registered to vote before you left
- × whether you intend to return to that state
- × how long you have lived abroad

Source: www.votefromabroad.org/faqs/13/



# 2. Voting Info

- Your voting address, including country and voting jurisdiction (drop-down)
   – can cause the most problems for voters. (see next slide)
- Are you abroad temporarily or indefinitely?
- Recommend: Email or online

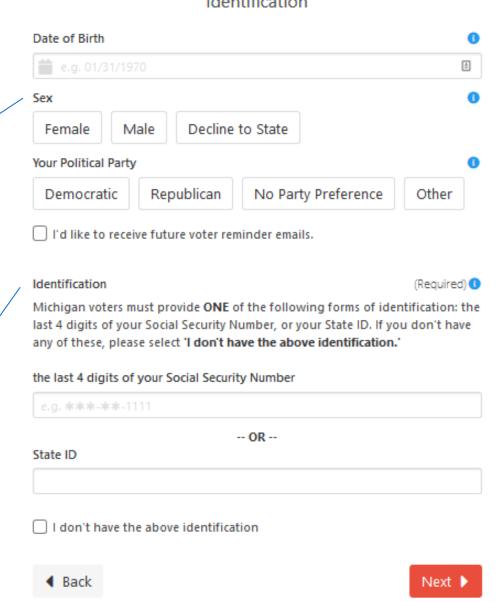




#### Step 3 of 5

#### 3. Identification

- Sex Most states do not require gender information, but a few, like ID and SC, still do. If you decline to state a gender and your state requires it, your state must let you know that you need to fill in the missing information.
- Last 4 digits of SSN (a few states ask for full SSN) or State ID, if you have them. Otherwise, select 'I don't have the above identification





#### 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)

Print diear vin blue or black ink.

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.

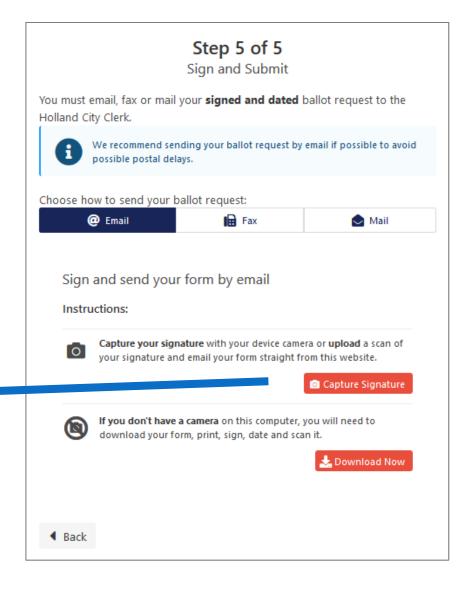
1. Who are you? Pick one.				
I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:	an all elections h I am eligible AND:  If I am a U.S. citizen living cuts de the country, and I intend to return.  If I am a U.S. citizen living cuts de the country, and my return is uncertain.  If I am a U.S. citizen living cuts de the country, and I have never lived in the United States.			
Last name	Jensins	Suffix (lu, II)	Sex     Female	
First name	Flizapeth	Previous names (frapplicable)		



# 5. Sign and Submit

Capture Signature

# 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



#### 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 vill not work] to upload your signature from a file.
- You'll be able to adjust the picture after you take it.

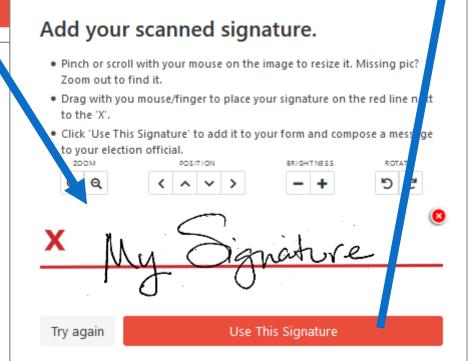
Click to Start



Click start to scan with device.

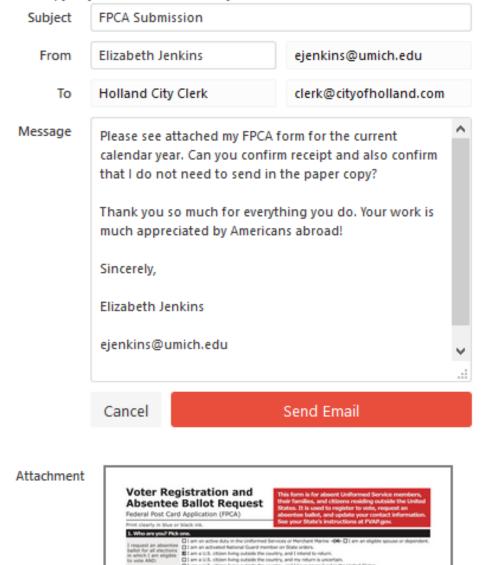
OR

Take a photo and upload.



#### 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.





# Sign, Submit, & Verify Receipt

- Most states let you sign and submit on VFA website. Or 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
- Verify with your LEO that your application was received and ask if it has been processed. They may need additional information or ask you to resubmit.



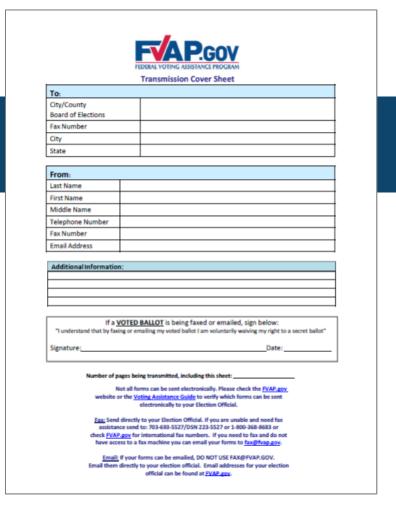
# Follow Up with Your LEO

- Find LEO contact information on votefromabroad.org/states
- Email or call your LEO.
- May be able to confirm online for status of voter registration, absentee ballot application received, and voted ballot received.
- If you have problems, please alert help@votefromabroad.org so we can mobilize our voter protection team.



#### Free 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.
- Not guaranteed to be faxed immediately.
- Not guaranteed to be faxed by the deadline.
- Recommend you verify receipt with your LEO.





#### **Postal Mail**

- Regular Mail China Post
- Express Mail DHL
- Diplomatic Pouch from U.S. Consulate or Embassy
  - Free
  - No guarantee for mailing time
  - Can request a tracking number
  - Must conform to USPS rules, including <u>U.S. postage</u> and any size restrictions:
    - Postage paid template is available at: <u>www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca\_envelope.pdf</u> (US #10 size) <u>www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca\_envelopeC4.pdf</u> (C4)



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START TIME	TIME ALLOCATED	ITEM
10:05	3 minutes	Welcome & Housekeeping
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# Can I receive my ballot by email or 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. Mark your calendar and check your spam folder and secondary inboxes!

# Request Ballot



# Receive Ballot



# Return Ballot

PHASE 1: "Get Registered & Ready to Vote"
From Jan 1, 2020

PHASE 2: Did you get your ballot? Sept 19, 2020 PHASE 3:
Bank those ballots
From Oct 1, 2020 until Nov. 3



#### Can I return my voted ballot by email or online? MAYBE!

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





# Receive Ballot



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#### Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

- For UOCAVA voters who submitted FPCA only
- If you have not received your official ballot by 45 days before the election, this is your back-up ballot.
- If you receive your state ballot afterwards, you are supposed to vote that too – they will only count the state ballot
- Same state rules for sending in your official ballot (deadline and method – email/fax/mail)

#### **Voter Information** Federal Write-In Absentee Print clearly in blue or black ink, please s 1. Who are you? Pick one. For absent Uniformed ☐ I am on activ Service members, their ☐ I am a U.S. c families and citizens ☐ I am a U.S. o residing outside the ☐ I am a U.S. c First name Middle name 2. What is your U.S. voting residen 3. Where are you now? You MUST gi Your mailing address. (Different from ab 4. What is your contact information Provide the country code and area code you are eligible to yote in?

 I am not disqualified to vote due to havi incompetent; or if so, my voting rights ha I am not registering, requesting a ballot, In voting, I have marked and sealed this authorized to assist voters under State

Have you already registered and	
Official Backup Ballot Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)	Vote by writing the NAME or PARTY of the candidates you choose. To find out abou specific federal candidates and races go
Print clearly in blue or black ink.	FVAP.gov.
Instructions	
This ballot can be used to vote for federal offices.  DO NOT write your name or any identifying number (SSN, driventor)  Photocopy this page if you require additional room for candida  If you are voting in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, or to Resident Commissioner, and in presidential primaries.  State laws vary about using the FWAB for other offices like Go	ates or ballot initiatives. the U.S. Virgin Islands, you may vote for Delegat
Endovel offices	

U.S. Senator		
U. S. Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to Congres	s	
Non-federal offices Office	Candidate name	Political party
Office	Calitidate flaffle	Political party
Ballot initiatives or other items		



# 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	Wrap Up & Final Questions



# Voter Help

# WeChat: VoteFromAbroad

**General DA China information and Voter Assistance** 

Email: help@votefromabroad.org

**Global VFA Help Desk** 



#### Join the Great American Turnout 2020!

**Voting Champion Toolkit** 

bit.ly/voting-champion

✓ Your Friends

✓ VFA Social Media

✓ Step-by-Step Guides







#### Volunteer with Vote From Abroad

- Events around China.
- U.S. citizens only.
- Mostly organized by Democrats Abroad members.
- Events are non-partisan.

**Contact WeChat:** 

VoteFromAbroad

Ask for WeChat Group:

DA China Vote From Abroad



#### Volunteer with Democrats Abroad China

- Democrats Abroad members only.
- Call and texts to members with info about voting.
- Software is CallHub

WeChat ID:

DemocratsAbroad

Ask for WeChat Group:

DA China Call & SMS Team

democratsabroad.org/gotv\_phonebanking info-china@democratsabroad.org



#### Volunteer with Democrats Abroad

#### 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.



#### Volunteer with Democrats Abroad

#### 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



# Thank you! More Questions?



#### **VOTER HELP**

China - WeChat: VoteFromAbroad

Global - help@votefromabroad.org

#### **VOLUNTEER**

**China** - WeChat: DemocratsAbroad or info-china@democratsabroad.org

**Global** - gotv@democratsabroad.org or voterprotection@democratsabroad.org