

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
30 Trinity Street, Hartford CT 06106

FACT SHEET CONCERNING FEDERAL POSTCARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

A. Uses of Mailed Form

1. Used as an Application for an Absentee Ballot

The FPCA may be used to apply for an absentee ballot. The categories of people eligible to use it as an application for absentee ballot are listed in §§9-153a (1) through (5) of the General Statutes. All of the people in §§9-153a (1) through (5) are registered electors, i.e., persons currently on your registry list. They may apply for a full ballot on the FPCA. They are as follows:

"(1) members of the armed forces, (2) the spouses and dependents of such members, (3) members of religious groups or welfare agencies assisting members of the armed forces, who are officially attached to and serving with the armed forces, and their spouses and dependents, (4) civilian employees of the United States in all categories serving outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States and the District of Columbia and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them, whether or not the employee is subject to the civil service laws and the Federal Classification Act of 1949, and whether or not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, (5) citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the several states of the United States and the District of Columbia. . . ."

2. Used as an Application for Admission as an Elector - Armed Forces  
and Citizens Temporarily Residing Outside U.S.

Members of the armed forces or merchant marine, members of religious or welfare groups attached to and serving with the armed forces, civilian employees of the U.S. government, and their spouses or dependents, and citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. can apply for absentee admission and enrollment on the FPCA (§9-26). (They also have the option to use Form ED-20 provided for in §9-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes or a regular mail-in application under §9-23g.) The Town Clerk should file the FPCA for 60 days after the election or primary under §9-140(i) and §9-150b(h), and if it is an application for admission, the Town Clerk should immediately act on the voter application and then deliver it to the Registrars of Voters under §9-20(b) and §9-31. (Suggestion: when the FPCA is an application for Admission, the town clerk should immediately admit the voter, keep a copy, and forward the original FPCA to the registrars of voters.) Of course, all other law concerning absentee admission applies. Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on last weekday before election (reading §9-25 and §9-26 together).

3. Used as an Application for a Partial Ballot  
for Federal Offices - Citizens Permanently Overseas

Overseas citizens are defined in §9-158b(b). This section conforms to Federal law. An overseas citizen is a person who is not on your registry list and is permanently overseas. If, however, he was a bona fide resident of a Connecticut town immediately prior to going overseas (all areas not included in the "United States" as defined in §9-158a), he is entitled to vote for Federal offices - Presidential electors, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress - on an Overseas Ballot. Under Connecticut law, Overseas Citizens are not registered, rather, they apply for an Overseas Ballot prior to each election or primary in which they are eligible to vote. The application form (Form ED-70) is provided for in §9-158d(b). Section 9-153a(6) also permits the Overseas Citizens to apply for an Overseas Ballot on the FPCA. They will be checking Box 6(e), 8(d) or Box 1(c) or the last two selections of Box 1 on newer versions of the FPCA.

## B. Uses of Faxed/E-mailed Form

### FAXED/E-mailed FPCA

#### 1. Used as an Application for an Absentee Ballot

If you receive a faxed/e-mailed FPCA from a voter in your town who is a serviceman, spouse or dependent or temporarily living outside the U.S., you have a duty to fill out an ED-12 Direction by Registrar form and issue an absentee ballot as soon as it is available. Under §9-153d there is no requirement that you ever receive the original FPCA.

### FAXED/E-mailed FPCA

#### 2. Used as an Application for Admission as an Elector

Present law requires an application for admission as an elector and does not authorize an electronic application for admission. If you receive a faxed or e-mailed FPCA from a servicemen, spouse or dependent or a resident of your town temporarily living outside the U.S. who is not presently a registered elector in your town, you have a duty to fill out an ED-12 Direction by Registrar form and issue an absentee ballot as soon as it is available to this "Applicant for Admission as an Elector" under §9-153d. You should notify the applicant separately that under §9-25 and §9-26, if the original FPCA is not returned to you separately by 5:00 p.m. on the last weekday before the election, such ballot will not be counted. If the original FPCA is returned by 5:00 p.m. on the last weekday before the election, the applicant is immediately registered as an elector and his absentee ballot will be counted.

### FAXED/E-mailed FPCA

#### 3. Used as an Application for a Partial Ballot for Federal Offices by Citizens Permanently Overseas

If you receive a faxed or e-mailed FPCA from a person permanently overseas, you should issue an overseas ballot as soon as it is available and notify the applicant separately that under §9-140(a), if the original FPCA is not returned to you separately or with the overseas ballot by the close of the polls on election or primary day, such ballot will not be counted. (The provisions of §9-140 and §9-158m are more liberal than the provisions of §9-153d(b).)

## C. Specific Use of FPCA

The FPCA was designed by the Department of Defense for use in all 50 states, and thus is not directly geared to Connecticut law as are our own forms. Therefore, you must look at it closely to be sure each citizen is receiving his maximum rights under Connecticut and federal law. We will review the card (a copy of which is attached) as to the various sections about which there could be confusion. These instructions apply to the new version of the FPCA (Rev. 2013). For instructions regarding an older version of the FPCA, please refer to our previous mailings to you. We have also tried to note revision changes where possible.

**Heading:** This is a request for an absentee ballot for all elections in which the applicant is eligible to vote. Consequently, in subsequent elections and primaries you should fill out an ED-12 (Direction by Registrar) form until such time as you are made aware of a change of address through a new application. (§9-153d).

Under a new federal law when you receive a FPCA, you **must send** "an absentee **ballot** to the voter **for each** subsequent **election for Federal office** held in the State during **that year.**" (emphasis added)