



H Burch <heidilburch@gmail.com>

RE: Questions re: deadline for overseas voters to request their Primary Ballot be sent by Mail

1 message

Sholl, Howard G (Elect_NC) <Howard.Sholl@state.de.us>
To: H Burch <heidilburch@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 27, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Ms Burch:

Please ask whatever you need. You, and folks like you, are doing important work. I appreciate your efforts. As we get closer to an election, I might be slower to respond.

In response to your questions:

1. Yes, they can return it any way that they choose. If you click on the link "follow the mail instructions" you will see it provides information about returning it by mail, fax or email. We did it this way to make sure the instructions apply to the situation.
2. All UOCAVA voters can use the ivote FPCA process. They do not have to have a Delaware ID. The best signature option is for the applicant to sign a white piece of paper, take a picture of their signature, and save it as a JPEG or PNG image. They can upload that signature. They should keep it so they can use it for future submissions.

v/r

HOWARD G. SHOLL, JR.
Deputy County Director
Dept of Elections, New Castle County Office
[820 N FRENCH ST STE 400](#)
[WILMINGTON DE 19801](#)

Phone: 302.577.3464**FAX:** 302.577.6545**email | [Web Page](#) | [Face Book](#) | [Twitter](#)**

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From: H Burch [mailto:heidilburch@gmail.com]**Sent:** 25 August, 2018 3:25 PM**To:** Sholl, Howard G (Elect_NC) <Howard.Sholl@state.de.us>**Subject:** Re: Questions re: deadline for overseas voters to request their Primary Ballot be sent by Mail

Thanks so much for clarifying the situation, I really appreciate it. We strongly recommend to overseas voters that they request their ballots be sent electronically so they don't have to worry about mail delay (or loss), but I wanted to track down this information in case a voter asked us about it.

And I hope I'm not taxing your patience, but I have two more questions,:

1. For the Nov 6th General Election, if a voter requests a ballot by Mail, will they be able to chose to return their voted ballot by Email or Fax?

The website currently indicates that voters need to return a voted ballot by the same method with which the voter received it. (<https://elections.delaware.gov/services/voter/absentee/uocava.shtml> under "How do I vote and send back my ballot?")

2. I'm not a Delaware voter so I wasn't able to see what the signature options are for the <https://ivote.de.gov> system. Can any overseas DE voter use the site to submit their FPCA online or do they need to have a current DE state identification to do so?

Thank you,

Heidi

On Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 8:13 AM, Sholl, Howard G (Elect_NC) <Howard.Sholl@state.de.us> wrote:

Ms Burch:

The temporary change of the State's Primary to the Thursday after Labor Day created a serious problem regarding mail ballots when you consider the USPS changes in Delivery Standards. Mailing a ballot in response to a request received on Sept 4th is in reality non-sensical. Unfortunately, the Delaware Code forced us to use that date because of the Labor Day Weekend. The August 31st date was originally suggested, but changed after discussion with out AG. Some folks missed that change. Given the realities of mail processing, August 31 doesn't make a lot of sense either. You may not be aware that the USPS recommends that people who mail their voted ballots do so at least 7 days before the day of an election. This refers to domestic voters, overseas voters returning ballots by mail should probably do so earlier than the 7 days depending on their location and experience in corresponding with folks in the continental US.

Also, the mail deadline only applies to mail ballots. We can issue ballots until 12 Noon the day before an election. In the case of the Primary that would be Wednesday, 12 Noon (EST).

All registered voters can submit their absentee application or their FPCA on-line through our <https://ivote.de.gov> system if they can use one of the signature options. Otherwise, they have to print it, sign it and return it. They can return an image (scan, or photo) of the signed application or FPCA via email to their county office.

From a practical point of view, citizens outside the United States should not ask for a ballot by mail starting now. If they request a ballot sent by mail after today and plan to return it by mail, the probability for failure is very high. I suggest that you counsel folks requesting an absentee ballot to request it via email as soon as possible. Once they get the ballot, they have the option of returning the voted ballot by email, mail, fax or an express delivery service. They should consider the method of return depending of their experience. For your information, Delaware now provides those requesting a ballot by email or fax the option of returning the voted ballot via the State's secure email service. In the future we will include instructions for those who request their ballot by mail the same option. We rolled this out after we mailed ballots to our overseas clients who had requested them by mail.

v/r

HOWARD G. SHOLL, JR.
Deputy County Director
Dept of Elections, New Castle County Office
[820 N FRENCH ST STE 400](#)
[WILMINGTON DE 19801](#)

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email | [Web Page](#) | [Face Book](#) | [Twitter](#)

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From: H Burch [mailto:heidilburch@gmail.com]

Sent: 21 August, 2018 9:25 AM

To: Sholl, Howard G (Elect_NC) <Howard.Sholl@state.de.us>

Subject: Questions re: deadline for overseas voters to request their Primary Ballot be sent by Mail

Hi Mr Sholl,

I'm a volunteer with VoteFromAbroad--we help US citizens and military personnel living overseas when they have questions about voting from abroad. I wanted to verify the deadline for a registered DE voter to request their overseas ballot for the September 6th Primary be sent to them by Mail as we are seeing conflicting information:

- According to FVAP.gov, the deadline to request a ballot be sent by Mail is **August 31st** (www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/delaware).
- The Overseas Vote Foundation lists **September 4th** as the deadline to request a Postal Ballot (www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/state-elections/state-election-dates-deadlines.htm?uocava=true&stateName=DE)
- The DE elections website for overseas voters doesn't list a date for requesting a ballot by mail, but the Key Dates Calendar lists **September 4th** as the "last day that Department of Elections' Offices must mail Primary Election absentee ballots" <https://elections.delaware.gov/services/voter/absentee/uocava.shtml>

Thank you for your help!

Heidi Burch

Volunteer

8/27/2018

Gmail - RE: Questions re: deadline for overseas voters to request their Primary Ballot be sent by Mail