

Ohio

Hi Tricia,

Below is the follow-up response I received from Ohio. Based on the answer she gave, it sounds like the answer to all 4 questions is 'yes'. Is this sufficient, or should I press for more clarity?

~Heather

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kuruc, Carolyn** <[CKuruc@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:CKuruc@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)>

Date: Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 11:31 PM

Subject: RE: Question/Comment From Website: Military and Overseas Voters

To: "[hventresco@gmail.com](mailto:hventresco@gmail.com)" <[hventresco@gmail.com](mailto:hventresco@gmail.com)>

Cc: "Tlachac, Matthew" <[mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)>

Ms. Ventresco,

[Chapter 5 of the Ohio Election Official Manual](#), to which Matthew provided a link (below), addresses each of your questions. The discussion of UOCAVA voters begins on page 5-23 and defines a eligible overseas voter as:

- A person who is considered by Ohio law to be a resident of the state, but currently is living outside the U.S. Before leaving the U.S., the voter was last eligible to vote in Ohio or would have been eligible to vote in

Ohio had the voter been 18 years of age or older; or

- A person who was born outside the U.S., but who has a parent or guardian who last resided and was last eligible to vote in Ohio before leaving the U.S.

Ohio law makes no distinctions like the ones you note. Please refer to page 5-18 and in footnote 48:

**All uniformed services and overseas voters may vote a complete ballot—all federal, state, and local candidate and issue contests— of the Ohio precinct in which the voter resided immediately before leaving Ohio for military service or to reside overseas. A person who moves from Ohio to a location outside the United States without becoming**

a resident of another state does not lose Ohio residency, and is therefore eligible to vote on all candidate and issue contests.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>48</sup> \*\*\*In the Classification portion of the FPCA, there are separate checkboxes. Under Ohio law, all UOCAVA voters are treated similarly and are issued a complete ballot, regardless of which box they check.

All of the relevant Ohio statutes are also referenced in that same Chapter. I hope these resources help you with your research.

*Carrie Kuruc*

Senior Elections Counsel

*Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted*

[\(614\) 466-2585](tel:6144662585)

[ckuruc@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:ckuruc@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)



**From:** heather ventresco [<mailto:hventresco@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 05, 2017 10:40 AM

**To:** Tlachac, Matthew

**Subject:** Re: FW: Question/Comment From Website: Military and Overseas Voters

Dear Mr. Tlachac,

Thanks so much for your response. The link was a bit difficult for me to understand; I didn't actually see answers to the questions I asked. Would it be possible for you to answer?

1. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and they intend to return, are they allowed to vote in state elections?
2. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and their return is uncertain, are they allowed to vote in state elections?
3. If a U.S. citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in state elections?
4. If a US citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in federal elections?

Thanks again for your help,

Heather Ventresco

On Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 6:56 PM, Tlachac, Matthew <[mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)> wrote:

Heather,

For the answers to your questions, please visit this link which contains information pertinent to absentee voting in Ohio – for both UOCAVA and non-UOCAVA voters.

[https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/directives/2017/dir2017-02\\_eom-ch-05.pdf](https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/directives/2017/dir2017-02_eom-ch-05.pdf)

Thanks for the inquiry – please let me know if you require more information.

**MATTHEW TLACHAC | DEPUTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR**

*Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted*

**Phone:** [614.466.7709](tel:614.466.7709)

**Email:** [mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:mtlachac@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)

**Web:** [www.ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](http://www.ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)



**From:** [info@sos.state.oh.us](mailto:info@sos.state.oh.us) [<mailto:info@sos.state.oh.us>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 2:31 PM

**To:** OVP

**Subject:** Question/Comment From Website: Military and Overseas Voters

A user submitted the following information on <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/>:

Name : Heather Ventresco

E-Mail : [hventresco@gmail.com](mailto:hventresco@gmail.com)

Comment/Question : Hello, I'm a volunteer helping US citizens, living overseas, vote in US elections. We want to make sure that [votefromabroad.org](http://votefromabroad.org) provides accurate and up-to-date voting information. Would you please answer the following questions: 1. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and they intend to return, are they allowed to vote in state elections? 2. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and their return is uncertain, are they allowed to vote in state elections? 3. If a U.S. citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in state elections? 4. If a US citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in federal elections? Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We appreciate you helping Americans execute one of their most important rights! Take Care, Heather Ventresco

Heather Ventresco

[hventresco@gmail.com](mailto:hventresco@gmail.com)

Hello, I'm a volunteer helping US citizens, living overseas, vote in US elections. We want to make sure that [votefromabroad.org](http://votefromabroad.org) provides accurate and up-to-date voting information. Would you please answer the following questions: 1. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and they intend to return, are they allowed to vote in state elections? 2. If a U.S. citizen is residing abroad and their return is uncertain, are they allowed to vote in state elections? 3. If a U.S. citizen has never resided in the United States, are

they eligible to vote in state elections? 4. If a US citizen has never resided in the United States, are they eligible to vote in federal elections? Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We appreciate you helping Americans execute one of their most important rights! Take Care, Heather Ventresco