

# US CITIZENS ABROAD

## How to vote using the Back-Up Ballot (FWAB)

If you vote in one of the following states, **you must send your voted ballot back by postal mail:** Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont\*, Virginia, Wisconsin. (\*if functioning postal service in your country.)

Because of potential potential postal delays, you can use the Back-Up Ballot (**Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**) to vote **NOW**. For up-to-date changes, check your state's requirements at [www.votefromabroad.org/states](http://www.votefromabroad.org/states). If you have already requested an absentee ballot from your state, you should receive your ballot around **September 19** and return it right away—but postal delivery times are very delayed. **Overseas citizens who vote in the above mail-only states SHOULD VOTE NOW using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)**. This backup ballot is specifically for overseas voters.

### How do I vote now with a back up ballot (FWAB) if I must mail in my ballot?

#### ★ STEP 1.

##### Send in your ballot request form--Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Overseas voters need to submit a ballot request form every calendar year.

If you haven't done it this year, click [here](#) to fill out and submit your ballot request form. In every state, you can email a scanned or photographed copy of the FPCA today to meet registration deadlines. After you send it in, verify with your Local Election Official (LEO) that they received your form and will send out your official ballot. You can find the contact information on the State Voting Guide: [www.votefromabroad.org/states](http://www.votefromabroad.org/states)

#### ★ STEP 2.

##### Fill out your Back-up Ballot (the FWAB)

1. Go to this website and follow the prompts to [www.FVAP.gov/FWAB](http://www.FVAP.gov/FWAB)

2. The website may fill in the candidates for you to choose from. But if it does not, you can type in the candidate's name or the political party. To find the candidates and races on your ballot, use the Sample Ballot Lookup: [https://ballotpedia.org/Sample\\_Ballot\\_Lookup](https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup)

3. Follow the instructions to download the PDF Package containing your completed FWAB and Instructions.

4. Print out the completed FWAB and the other documents you downloaded. Then read and carefully follow the instructions to **SUBMIT** the required materials to your LEO.

#### ★ STEP 3.

##### Send back your Back-up Ballot (the FWAB) by Mail

If your state requires you to return your FWAB by postal mail, follow the instructions carefully.

Two envelopes are required:

> a "Ballot Security Envelope" -- to hold your completed FWAB ballot

> a "Mailing Envelope" -- to send in your sealed Ballot Security Envelope as well as the supporting materials with your identifying information

When the Mailing Envelope reaches the Election Office, they will separate the Ballot Security Envelope from the supporting materials to maintain ballot secrecy. If you wish, you can follow the instructions to download envelope templates to paste to blank envelopes (no tape or staples), or you can neatly print the required information on each envelope. If you have your original signed Ballot Request form, include it in the outer "Mailing Envelope".

## How to vote using the Back-Up Ballot (FWAB)

Overseas citizens who vote in states where **ballot return is allowed by fax or email** (all other states not listed in the above box) you should vote the FWAB if you do not have your official state ballot **by the end of September**.

### How do I vote with a back up ballot (FWAB) if I can return my ballot by fax or email?

Complete **STEPS 1 & 2** (on previous page) then...

#### ★ STEP 3.

##### Return your FWAB by Fax or Email

The Instructions will indicate if your state will accept the FWAB by email or fax. We recommend you do so to ensure it will be received by the deadline.

- > If your state only allows return by Fax (not Email) and you don't have access to a fax machine, there are apps that will convert an email attachment to a fax. Scan in your FWAB and any required materials as an email attachment, then search for "fax app for Android/iPhone." Follow the instructions to convert your email attachment to a fax transmission.
- > You can use the Fax service through the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP.gov). You will need to email your FWAB and any required supporting materials (see your state's instructions) to [fax@fvap.gov](mailto:fax@fvap.gov) using the FVAP fax transmission coversheet at [www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms](http://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms) (scroll to the bottom of the page). FVAP will then fax your election materials to your Local Election Office. But don't wait until the last minute to use this service! It can get overloaded close to the election.

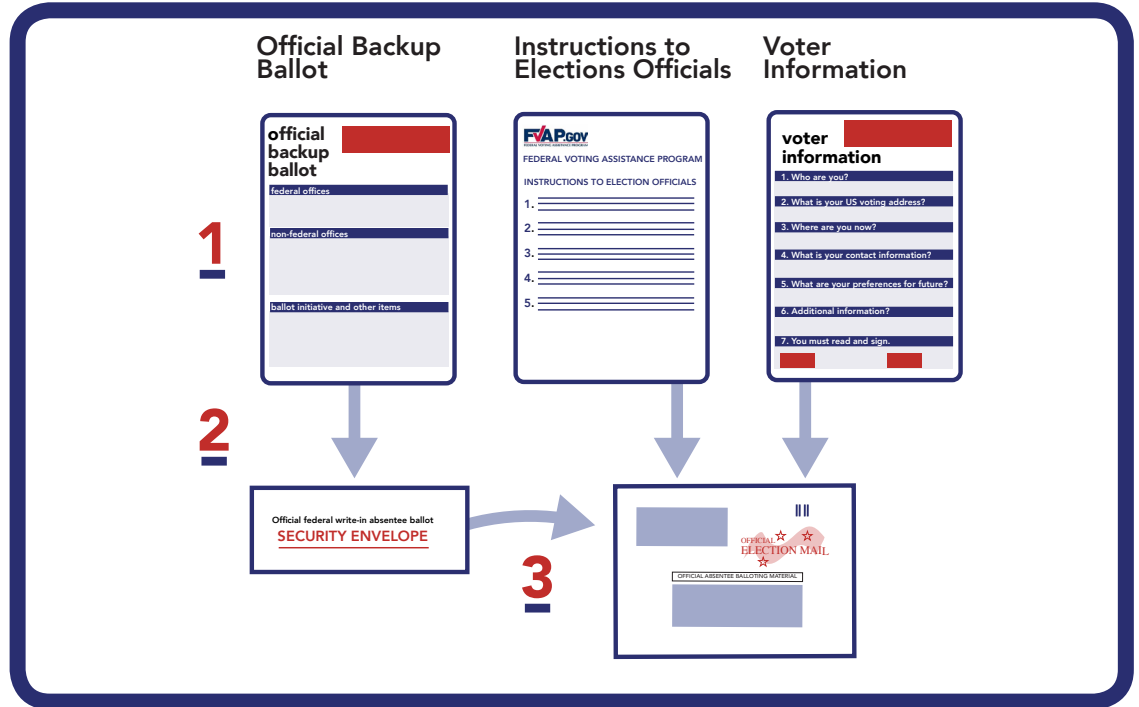
#### **IMPORTANT:**

**If you receive your official ballot after submitting your FWAB, you should complete and return your official ballot as well.** This is legal and it is NOT voting twice--**only one ballot per person will be counted.** If both your FWAB and your official ballot arrive before the deadline, your FWAB will be discarded and only your official ballot will be counted.

# APPENDIX

## Back Up Ballot (FWAB) – which documents go in which envelope?

If you have already registered to vote



If you still need to register to vote

