



## Overseas & Military Voting FAQ

Question	Answer
<p><b>Who can apply to vote overseas?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Military members serving outside their home precinct.</li> <li>- Military members include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Army</li> <li>- Navy</li> <li>- Air Force</li> <li>- Marine Corps</li> <li>- Coast Guard</li> <li>- Merchant Marine</li> <li>- Commissioned corps of the Public Health Service</li> <li>- Commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Minnesotans enrolled as students at a U.S. Service Academy.</li> <li>- Citizens living abroad temporarily or indefinitely.</li> <li>- Spouses and dependents of military members are also eligible.</li> <li>- A spouse, parent, sibling, or child age 18 and over can apply on your behalf.</li> </ul> <p><b>Please note:</b> If you are abroad indefinitely with no plans to return to Minnesota, you can only vote for federal offices.</p>
<p><b>How can I apply for my ballot?</b></p>	<p><u>Apply online.</u>  <u>Download a paper application.</u></p> <p>Once you apply, You will automatically receive a ballot for any elections you can vote in through December 31 of the year you apply, or through the next election held in November of an even-number year, whichever is later.</p> <p><b>Re-apply annually</b> and after a change of mailing address to ensure your information is up-to-date.</p> <p>Your ballot application also serves as a voter registration application.</p>

**More Information:**

<https://dfl.org/voterprotection/> | <https://mnvotes.gov> | <https://iwillvote.com/>

<b>What is the application deadline?</b>	You can apply for a ballot at any time during the year. You are encouraged to apply for your ballot as soon as you are able so that you have enough time to mail it back by Election Day.
<b>What is the deadline to return my ballot?</b>	Your ballot will not count if it is received after Election Day. Return your materials early enough to account for delivery time via mail, a package delivery service (such as FedEx or UPS), or the diplomatic pouch at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. You cannot return your ballot by email or fax.
<b>Can I track my ballot?</b>	Yes! You can <u>track the status of your ballot</u> and confirm that it was received and counted.
<b>What do I do if I need to do an emergency write-in ballot?</b>	If you have not received voting materials in time, download and print an emergency ballot called the <u>Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, or FWAB</u> . The ballot will have blanks for you to write your choices. Your write-in ballot must be received by Election Day.
<b>Do I need a witness to certify my ballot?</b>	No. Minnesota allows military voters and voters living abroad to self-certify their absentee ballot.
<b>When will I get my ballot?</b>	Ballots are ready at least 45 days before the election. Election officials will send your ballot as quickly as possible after receiving your application.  Election officials will airmail your ballot if you are outside the the continental United States. If you provide a prepaid envelope, your <u>county election office</u> can send your ballot by express mail service.
<b>Do I have to register to vote separately from requesting my ballot?</b>	No. Your ballot application also serves as a voter registration application.
<b>Can I receive my ballot by email?</b>	Yes. You can choose to have voting materials sent by email, mail, or fax. If you receive your ballot by email, you must print them. You cannot return your ballot by email or fax.
<b>I'm studying abroad during the election, can I still vote?</b>	Yes! Voting absentee while studying abroad has the same process as outlined above. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-from-military-or-a-broad/">https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-from-military-or-a-broad/</a>

**More Information:**

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## Key dates for 2022:

Key dates for Military and Overseas Voters	Primary Election	General Election
Recommended you apply before	Friday, June 3rd	Friday, September 2nd
Ballots sent starting	Friday, June 24th	Friday, September 23rd
Recommended you mail your ballot back before	Friday, July 8th	Friday, October 7th
To be counted, your ballot must be received by	Election Day Tuesday, August 9th	Election Day Tuesday, November 8th

## The UOCAVA Program

### What is UOCAVA and who is eligible to participate?

Military and overseas voters have the option of using a special set of registration and voting procedures under a law called the Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). There are three main categories of UOCAVA voters:

1. Active members of the armed services or merchant marine who will be stationed away from their Minnesota voting residence on Election Day.
  - See “How does a UOCAVA voter determine their ‘voting residence?’” below.
2. Spouses and dependents of active military members stationed away from their Minnesota voting residence on Election Day.
3. U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States who were last eligible to vote in Minnesota before leaving the U.S.
  - This also includes U.S. citizens who have never resided in the U.S. and have a parent that was last eligible to vote in Montana.

### How does a UOCAVA voter determine their “voting residence”?

A voter can only have one legal voting residence at a time.

For military voters, their spouses, and dependents:

- A military voter’s voting residence is the place they consider to be their permanent residence, usually, the last place they had a physical presence before deployment.
- A military voter’s voting residence should be within the state listed on their Leave and Earnings Statement.
- Military voters seeking to change their state of voting residence should consult a finance officer or legal counsel before doing so.

For overseas voters:

- An overseas voter’s voting residence is their address in the state in which they last permanently resided, prior to leaving the United States.
- An overseas voter’s voting residence may remain valid even if they no longer have ties to the state, do not intend to return to the state, or their previous address is no longer recognized as a residential address.

### How does someone register and request a ballot under the UOCAVA process?

Voters seeking to register and vote under the UOCAVA process may do so in two main ways:

1. Fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA): Voters can access the FPCA on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, <https://www.fvap.gov/>.

### More Information:

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- The voter will provide the requested information and select whether they want to receive their absentee ballot by mail, email, or fax.
  - At the end of the process, the voter will print out and sign the prefilled form.
  - The signed form can then be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the county.
  - The county will send out the voter's absentee ballot on September
2. Electronic Absentee System (Sept. 24 - Nov 8): Starting 45 days before Election Day, Minnesota UOCAVA voters can register, access a ballot, and vote, all at the same time here: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/UocavaRegistration/UocavaStep1.aspx>

**What are the advantages of registering and voting under UOCAVA?**

- Registration: UOCAVA voters can register online, by fax, or by mail using the Federal Post Card Application or Minnesota's Electronic Absentee System.
- Receiving a ballot: UOCAVA voters can have their absentee ballot sent by email, fax, or mail.
- Ballot timing: Ballots are sent to UOCAVA voters 45 days before Election Day (which will be September 24 for the November 2022 election).
  - All other absentee and mail ballots will be sent on October 9.
- Electronic voting: UOCAVA voters can access and mark their absentee ballot online with Minnesota's Absentee Ballot Application for Minnesota Military And Overseas Voters (FPCA)
- Returning a ballot: UOCAVA voters can return their absentee ballot by email, fax, or regular mail.

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