

MAINE

Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Website: www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec

Link to state election website is also available through FVAP website at www.fvap.gov

Presidential Primary Date: Not Applicable

State Primary Date: June 10, 2008

General Election Date: November 4, 2008

DEADLINES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES*	Presidential Primary	State Primary	General Election
Registration	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008
Ballot Request	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008
Ballot Return	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008

DEADLINES FOR CIVILIANS OUTSIDE THE U.S.*	Presidential Primary	State Primary	General Election
Registration	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008
Ballot Request	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008
Ballot Return	Not Applicable	June 10, 2008	November 4, 2008

Note: Election dates and information are current as of July 2007. Check the state election website above, the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov, or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for updates.

*Special conditions may apply; check the following pages for details.

MAINE

Circled letters on the form below correspond to the instructions on the following page. You must complete all shaded areas.

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (mark only one):

- (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT
- (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY
- (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)				SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)		b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)		
c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH M M D D Y Y Y Y		f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER	

h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)				i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			
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j. EMAIL ADDRESS

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (For military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) (Required)

a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)				
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		c. COUNTY	d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)		b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (Complete 4.b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4.a.)	
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c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY: MAIL FAX EMAIL

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots — see instructions for Block 6 paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)

7. AFFIRMATION (required)

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

- I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
- I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
- I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
- My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
- The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Witness/Notary and address (if required))

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I. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FPCA

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.** Circled letters correspond to the circled letters on the sample form on the preceding page.

- A Block 2.f and 2.g:** Provide your Maine Driver's License number; or if you do not have a Maine Driver's License, the last four digits of your Social Security Number; or write "NONE" if you don't have either identification. If you do not possess either of these identifications, the State shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.
- B Block 3.a through 3.e:** Provide the complete street address (street name and number) of your Maine voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. This address must be within the city or township where you claim legal voting residence and (in most cases) will be different from the address you provide in Block 4.
- C Block 4.a:** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address.
- D Block 4.c:** See Section II.D. or III.D.
- E Block 5: If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections.** You must indicate your political party affiliation when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat, Green Independent, or Republican) or write "none" in Block 5 of the FPCA. Political party affiliation is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections. If you are currently registered and want to change your political party affiliation and have been enrolled in the political party for at least three months, the FPCA card must be received by your local election official no later than 15 days before the election. If you are currently registered and have previously declined to indicate a political party and you now want to vote in a primary election, you must submit a completed FPCA to the local election official any time before the election.
- F Block 6:** Provide the name of the municipality and state where you were registered to vote before you registered at your current Maine voting residence. This address must be different from the one in Block 3. If you have not registered to vote before, write "none".

Submission of this form serves as a request to receive ballots for all Federal elections held through the next two regularly scheduled general elections. If you do not wish to receive ballots for that length of time, you may request a ballot for each election for Federal office held in the next election year OR a ballot for only the next scheduled election for Federal office by noting your choice here.

Refer to Section II.G and III.G for additional instructions.

- G Block 7:** Sign and date the FPCA. When signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Maine and members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

To register and/or request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the local registration official any time before the election.

If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot, the municipal clerk must receive your FPCA or a written application requesting a ballot any time before the election.

If you send a written application, you must provide your name as registered, your voting residence address, and the address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. The written application must be signed. Registration applications by mail or by 3rd person must be received in the registrar's office by the close of business on the 21st day before election day.

An absentee voter who is not registered may submit a registration application after the 21st day, but if the municipal registrar is not satisfied as to the voter's qualifications, the registrar shall place the person's name on the voting list and challenge the absentee ballot. A challenged ballot is counted, unless there is a recount where the number of challenged ballots is sufficient to affect the election. In that event, each challenge is investigated and the corresponding ballot may not be counted.

Although the municipal registrar will accept a completed FPCA or written request at any time before the election, you should submit it to the registrar in time for you to receive, vote and return the absentee ballot by mail to the municipality.

B. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: The municipality must receive your absentee ballot by **8 p.m. on election day** in order for your ballot to be counted.

Local municipal clerks are provided with absentee ballots approximately 45 days before an election for Federal office, and approximately 30 days before a State election. Once the municipal clerks receive their supply of absentee ballots for an election, they must mail out the ballots immediately upon receipt of a ballot request.

A Member of the Armed Forces must seal his or her completed ballot in its return envelope and sign a certification as to its authenticity on the envelope

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions in Chapter Two.

C. Notary/Witness Requirements

FPCA: No notary or witness required.

Returning a Ballot: If the voter receives assistance in reading and/or marking the ballot, the voter must have the ballot return envelope signed by the aide and witnessed by one other individual. If no assistance is received, the ballot return envelope does not need to be notarized or witnessed.

If your ballot is received through a designated 3rd party, see II.E. for additional notary/witness requirements.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Maine allows you to send the FPCA for registration and/or absentee ballot request by fax. You may also send a written application requesting an absentee ballot by fax. **You must submit the original FPCA or written application by mail when requesting registration and a ballot.**
- In certain emergency situations, such as combat situations, Maine may allow you to receive the ballot by fax.
- In certain emergency situations, such as combat situations, Maine may allow you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix B for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. **Use the following numbers:**

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527

1-800-368-8683

(from U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands only)

International toll-free fax numbers

(See inside back cover)

E. Application for Ballot by Proxy

Your immediate family member (spouse or domestic partner, parent, child, sister, brother, stepparent, stepchild, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law,

brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, step-grandparent, step-grandchild, guardian or former guardian) may make a written request for an absentee ballot on your behalf. The request may be made to the municipal clerk either in person or by fax, but must be signed by the immediate family member and must indicate the family relationship. The clerk may either mail the ballot directly to you, or may issue the ballot to the immediate family member, who must either mail or deliver the ballot to you.

You may designate a third person (someone other than the municipal clerk or an immediate family member) to receive the ballot on your behalf by submitting a signed application or written request, by mail or by fax, to the municipal clerk. The clerk must issue the ballot only to the third person you have designated in your request, who must then deliver the ballot to you. The voter must have the ballot return envelope signed by a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or two other individuals (one of whom may be the ballot carrier).

F. Request for Ballot by Telephone

Maine allows registered voters to request an absentee ballot by telephone. The clerk shall ask the voter for information required on the application and fill in the application with that information. The clerk will then verify that it is the voter who is requesting the ballot by making the voter confirm the voter's residence and date of birth. (Only the voter may request an absentee ballot by telephone.) The clerk shall mail the ballot directly to the voter at the mailing address stated in the application. The voter returns the ballot by mail or in person directly to the clerk.

G. Blank Absentee Ballot

Maine provides a state "blank absentee ballot," listing all offices to be selected with a space after each office to write in the voter's preference. The blank absentee ballot is available 3 months before a candidate election and can be used by Uniformed Services voters who believe that 30 days will not be sufficient time to receive and return the regular absentee ballot. A blank absentee ballot is not available for referendum elections.

You may use the FPCA to request this state blank absentee ballot. In **Block 6 of the FPCA** write: "I will be unable to vote by regular absentee ballot. I request a blank absentee ballot."

The **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** may be used in all elections for Federal office where 3 months is not sufficient time to request and vote a state blank write-in absentee ballot.

H. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is permanent. However, you may have your name removed from the voter list by making a written

request to the registrar. In addition, moving from the municipality is grounds for removal from the list upon written confirmation of such a move by the registrant or by appropriate notification by the registrar of voters in the registrant's new voting jurisdiction.

I. Action on Registration Requests

All applicants are notified whether or not their registration applications were accepted, rejected, or incomplete.

J. Action If Registration Is Denied

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Maine shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Denial of registration can be appealed to the registration appeals board or the municipal officers (whichever is applicable for that municipality). The registration appeals board or municipal officers shall immediately fix a time and date for a prompt hearing. After such hearing, the registration appeals board or municipal officers may affirm, modify or reverse the decision of the registrar of voters. The aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Superior Court in accordance with Rule 80B of the Rules of Civil Procedure. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Maine and overseas citizens. The term "overseas citizen" means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Maine.

- residents of Maine temporarily residing outside the U.S.
- overseas citizens whose last residence immediately before leaving the U.S. was in Maine.

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You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

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If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot, the municipal clerk must receive your FPCA or a written application requesting a ballot any time before the election.

If you send a written application, you must provide your name as registered, your voting residence address, county, and the address to which the absentee ballot should be sent.

The written application must be signed. Registration applications by mail or by 3rd person must be received in the registrar's office by the close of business on the 21st business day before election day.

An absentee voter who is not registered may submit a registration application after the 21st business day, but if the municipal registrar is not satisfied as to the voter's qualifications, the registrar shall place the person's name on the voting list and challenge the absentee ballot. A challenged ballot is counted, unless there is a recount where the number of challenged ballots is sufficient to affect the election. In that event, each challenge is investigated and the corresponding ballot may not be counted.

Although the municipal registrar will accept a completed FPCA or written request at any time before the election, you should submit it to the registrar in time for you to receive, vote and return the absentee ballot by mail to the municipality.

B. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: The municipality must receive your absentee ballot by **8 p.m. on election day** in order for your ballot to be counted.

Local municipal clerks are provided with absentee ballots approximately 45 days before an election for Federal office, and approximately 30 days before a state election. Once the municipal clerks receive their supply of absentee ballots for an election, they must mail out the ballots immediately upon receipt of a ballot request.

Individuals voting as a civilian outside the U.S. must seal his or her completed ballot in its return envelope and sign a certification as to its authenticity on the envelope.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions in Chapter Two.

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If your ballot is received through a designated 3rd party, see Section III.E. for notary/witness requirements.

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IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Where To Send It

Maine conducts elections for Municipal, State and Federal offices at the municipal level (not at the county or state level as in many other states). To register and simultaneously request an absentee ballot, submit your

FPCA to the Registrar of Voters in your municipality of voting residence.

If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot, submit your FPCA to the Municipal Clerk in your municipality of voting residence.

Maine has 503 municipal jurisdictions. A partial list of major municipalities follows. A complete list of Municipal Clerks and Registrars, along with addresses and telephone numbers, may be found on the Maine Secretary of State's site on the World Wide Web. The website address for the Elections Division is <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/>. Or, you may contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program at (703) 588-1584, 1-800-438-8683 (VOTE), DSN 425-1584 (military) or by email at vote@fvap.ncr.gov.

City or Town	Mailing Address
Auburn	(Fill in appropriate official) 60 Court Street, Suite 150 Auburn, ME 04210-5965
Augusta	(Fill in appropriate official) City Center Plaza 16 Cony Street Augusta, ME 04330-5200
Bangor	(Fill in appropriate official) 73 Harlow Street Bangor, ME 04401-5118
Bath	(Fill in appropriate official) 55 Front Street Bath, ME 04530-2572
Belfast	(Fill in appropriate official) 131 Church Street Belfast, ME 04915
Biddeford	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005-0586
Boothbay Harbor	(Fill in appropriate official) 11 Howard Street Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0819
Brewer	(Fill in appropriate official) 80 North Main Street Brewer, ME 04412-2010
Brunswick	(Fill in appropriate official) 28 Federal Street, Suite 2 Brunswick, ME 04011-1510
Calais	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 413 Calais, ME 04169-0413
Cape Elizabeth	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 6260 Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-0060
Caribou	(Fill in appropriate official) 25 High Street Caribou, ME 04736-2710
Dover-Foxcroft	(Fill in appropriate official) 152 East Main Street Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426-1397
Ellsworth	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 586 Ellsworth, ME 04605-0586
Falmouth	(Fill in appropriate official) 271 Falmouth Road Falmouth, ME 04105-2005
Farmington	(Fill in appropriate official) 153 Farmington Falls Road Farmington, ME 04938-6403

City or Town	Mailing Address
Gorham	(Fill in appropriate official) 75 South Street, Suite 1 Gorham, ME 04038
Houlton	(Fill in appropriate official) 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730-2104
Jackman	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 269 Jackman, ME 04945-0269
Jay	(Fill in appropriate official) 99 Main Street Jay, ME 04239-1620
Lewiston	(Fill in appropriate official) 27 Pine Street Lewiston, ME 04240-7297
Limestone	(Fill in appropriate official) 93 Main Street Limestone, ME 04750-1114
Lubec	(Fill in appropriate official) 40 School Street Lubec, ME 04652-1152
Machias	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 418 Machias, ME 04654-0418
Millinocket	(Fill in appropriate official) 197 Penobscot Avenue Millinocket, ME 04462-1430
Old Orchard Beach	(Fill in appropriate official) 1 Portland Avenue Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064-2245
Old Town	(Fill in appropriate official) 150 Brunswick Street Old Town, ME 04468-1408
Portland	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 17796 Portland, ME 04112-7796
Presque Isle	(Fill in appropriate official) 12 Second Street Presque Isle, ME 04769-2459
Rockland	(Fill in appropriate official) 270 Pleasant Street Rockland, ME 04841-5305
Rumford	(Fill in appropriate official) 145 Congress Street Rumford, ME 04276-2071
Saco	(Fill in appropriate official) 300 Main Street Saco, ME 04072-1515
Sanford	(Fill in appropriate official) 919 Main Street Sanford, ME 04073-3587
Scarborough	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 360 Scarborough, ME 04073-3587
Skowhegan	(Fill in appropriate official) 225 Water Street Skowhegan, ME 04976-1711
South Portland	(Fill in appropriate official) PO Box 9422 South Portland, ME 041106-9412
Waterville	(Fill in appropriate official) 1 Common Street Waterville, ME 04901-6643
Westbrook	(Fill in appropriate official) 2 York Street Westbrook, ME 04092-4750
York	(Fill in appropriate official) 186 York Street York, ME 03909-1314

It matters. VOTE!

by Arthur J. Basa, USAF, Vandenberg AFB, CA

