

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Website: www.dchoee.org

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

Presidential Primary Date: February 12, 2008

State Primary Date: September 9, 2008

General Election Date: November 4, 2008

DEADLINES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES*	Presidential Primary (or preference)	State Primary	General Election
Registration	January 14, 2007	August 11, 2008	October 6, 2008
Ballot Request	February 5, 2007	September 2, 2008	October 27, 2008
Ballot Return	February 22, 2008	September 19, 2008	November 14, 2008

DEADLINES FOR CIVILIANS OUTSIDE THE U.S.*	Presidential Primary (or preference)	State Primary	General Election
Registration	January 14, 2007	August 11, 2008	October 6, 2008
Ballot Request	February 5, 2007	September 2, 2008	October 27, 2008
Ballot Return	February 22, 2008	September 19, 2008	November 14, 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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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		
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)				i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			
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.)	
c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY:		<input type="checkbox"/> MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____
M M D D Y Y Y Y (Witness/Notary and address (if required)) Date: _____
M M D D Y Y Y Y

SAMPLE FORM

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:** The last four digits of your Social Security number OR your District of Columbia Driver's License number is required for voter registration. If you do not possess either of these identifications, the District of Columbia 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 of your District of Columbia voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient.
- C Block 4.a:** Print the complete address where you want your ballot to be sent — usually your current mailing address. It must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.
- 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, 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 or you 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 Board of Elections and Ethics which includes your new political party affiliation.
- F Block 6:** 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.
- G Block 7:** You must 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 the District of Columbia 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 the Board of Elections and Ethics as early as 12 months preceding any election and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

To register and request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the Board of Elections and Ethics postmarked not later than 30 days before the election. If your FPCA is not postmarked, your FPCA must arrive at the Board of Elections and Ethics not later than 23 days before the election.

If you are already registered and only wish to apply for an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the Board of Elections and Ethics so that it arrives not later than 7 days before the election.

B. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must be postmarked not later than **the day of the election and must arrive not later than 10 days after the election.**

District of Columbia election officials mail absentee ballots not later than 35 days before the election.

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

Due to its Federal status, the District of Columbia does not send representatives to the U.S. Senate, however, it does participate in the election of the President and Vice President of the U.S. Additionally, a Delegate to the House of Representatives is elected.

C. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- The District of Columbia allows you to send the FPCA application for registration and absentee ballot by fax. After faxing, submit the FPCA by mail.
- The District of Columbia permits faxing of the absentee ballot only when military service prevents the applicant from receiving the absentee ballot and returning the voted ballot within 45 days. An application shall contain the reason that the applicant's

military service prevents the applicant from receiving and returning the voted ballot through the mail process. Upon approval of an application, the voter is assigned a fax authorization number and required to sign an affidavit to waive his/her right to a secret ballot.

- Except in the special circumstances outlined above, the District of Columbia does not allow you to receive and 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. Bars to Registration and Voting

Persons currently imprisoned for a felony or found mentally incompetent by a court may not register or vote.

F. Action on Registration Requests

A voter registration card is sent.

G. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, the District of Columbia shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Persons denied registration may appeal to the Board. 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 the District of Columbia 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 the District of Columbia.

- District of Columbia residents temporarily outside the U.S. (for local and Federal office ballots)
- overseas citizens (for Federal office ballots only)

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whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

To register and request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the Board of Elections and Ethics postmarked not later than 30 days before the election. If your FPCA is not postmarked, your FPCA must arrive at the Board of Elections and Ethics not later than 23 days before the election.

If you are already registered and only wish to apply for an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the Board of Elections and Ethics so that it arrives not later than 7 days before the election.

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No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- The District of Columbia allows you to send the FPCA application for registration and absentee ballot by fax. After faxing, submit the FPCA by mail.
- The District of Columbia allows you to receive the blank ballot by fax.
- The District of Columbia allows you to return the voted ballot by fax, with a statement that you relinquish your right to a secret ballot.

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

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IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to:

The District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics
441 4th Street, N.W. Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001-2745

From sea to shining sea, We need your absentee vote!

by Sharon Walker, Decatur, GA

