

# APPENDIX G

## THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)

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### Specific Conditions for Using the FWAB

Under the provisions of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, the FVAP also provides a "back-up" ballot, called the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot, or FWAB, available if an absent uniformed services member or citizen outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses) does not receive the regular absentee ballot from the state after having made a timely application for the ballot. The FWAB is used to vote for Federal offices (President/Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Delegate or Resident Commissioner) in general elections. Some states now allow military and overseas citizens to use the FWAB in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Again, the absent uniformed services member or citizen should consult Chapter Three for specific state or territorial requirements.

Generally, an absent uniformed services member or citizen outside the United States can only use the FWAB under very specific conditions.

To be eligible for this ballot, a citizen must:

- Be a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine (or eligible family member), or a U.S. citizen overseas (includes APO/FPO addresses) who is absent from the place of residence where he or she is otherwise qualified to vote during the general election,
- Apply for a regular ballot, using the FPCA or other application allowed by state law, early enough so that the appropriate local election official receives the request at least 30 days before the election or before the ballot request deadline established by the state, whichever is later.
- Not have received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

In summary, the FWAB is only valid when a regular ballot from the state or territory has already been requested, in a timely manner, and has not been received. Chapter Two provides additional information on the FWAB.

Following is an item-by-item breakdown of instructions for completing and submitting the Voter Declaration/Affirmation and the official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot:

#### 1. Instructions for Completing the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation

Please read Specific Conditions for Using the FWAB in this appendix and instructions below before completing the form. If you have any questions, consult your Unit Voting Assistance Officer or Embassy/Consulate Voting Assistance Officer, the

*Voting Assistance Guide*, or [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Type or print legibly.

The FWAB is subject to the following privacy act:

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT AUTHORITY:** 42 USC 1973ff, "Title 1 - Registration and Voting By Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters in Elections for Federal Office."

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** Serves as a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for general elections or other elections provided by law or special provisions for all persons covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary; however, failure to provide the necessary information may result in the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot not being recognized and therefore not counted.

**Block 1.b:** Some states may accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a registration form if you have not registered previously in that jurisdiction. Refer to your state pages in Chapter Three. For those states that do not accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a request form and you have not previously submitted a Federal Post Card Application, your ballot may not be counted.

**Block 2. MY INFORMATION. Block 2.d. RACE:** This information is requested from some states for statistical purposes by the Department of Justice in its enforcement of the *Voting Rights Act* and the *National Voter Registration Act*.

**Block 3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS:** Enter the complete legal voting residence address where you ACTUALLY LIVED in the state or territory. The right to vote in your state and the determination of your voting precinct depend on the physical location of your residence while you were in the state. DO NOT USE A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER. In an area with no street names, indicate route name and number and box number. Also provide any additional information necessary to physically describe your residence location. This voting residence address must be the same as the voting residence entered on the application for your regular absentee ballot previously submitted.

**Block 4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS.**

**Block 4.a:** Enter the complete mailing address where you are now living.

**Block 4.b:** If you have an alternate address or an address of a mail forwarding service that delivers your mail more quickly, enter that address here.

**Block 5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE:** This is an optional entry; however, this information is required by most states in order to vote in primary elections. Consult Chapter Three of this *Guide* for any specific state information required.

**Block 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Provide any information that may assist the local election official in accepting this ballot.

**Block 7. AFFIRMATION:** Ensure that you read the oath, sign, and enter the date you completed the form in the spaces provided. Not all states require a witness or notary, and state laws vary regarding the voting of convicted felons. Consult your state section in Chapter Three of this *Guide* or your Voting Assistance Officer for your state's requirements.

## 2. Instructions for Completing and Submitting the Official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

- a. For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or political party designation. If your state permits, you may vote for other offices in the spaces provided under the "ADDENDUM" section.
- b. Once the ballot is complete, fold and place it in a blank envelope and seal--this will be the security envelope for the ballot.

PLACE ONLY THE VOTED BALLOT IN THE SECURITY ENVELOPE AND DO NOT WRITE ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON THE ENVELOPE.

For your convenience, the FVAP has created a security envelope template that you may print out. The template and instructions are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). If you prefer, you may print the words "SECURITY ENVELOPE" on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot.

**c. Insert the sealed Security Envelope and the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation into another envelope and seal.**

**d.** If mailed in U.S. Mail, APO/FPO or Diplomatic Pouch, affix proper postage. Alternatively, you may print the postage paid envelope form onto your mailing envelope. The form is in Adobe Acrobat format. You can get this form at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

If mailed in a foreign postal system, international airmail postage must be affixed.

In the return address section in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope, enter your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address. In the center of the

mailing envelope (the "TO" section), enter the name and mailing address of your city, township, village, county or state election official. Consult Chapter Three of this *Guide* for the correct address. This must be the same election official where you sent your application for an absentee ballot.

e. Some states allow the electronic transmission of FWABs. Consult Chapter Three of this *Guide* for your state or territory's procedures.

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## The OFWAB

An online (PDF) version of the FWAB (OFWAB) is available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). A hardcopy of the Online Version of the OFWAB is provided in the subsequent pages as a convenience and as a time-saving alternative when you cannot get the postage-paid multipart stocked Standard Form 186 FWAB through other means, or are unable to obtain the online version of the FWAB. The OFWAB can be completed online, printed out and completed, or a copy of the blank form provided here may be completed. After completing, sign and date the OFWAB (in the presence of a notary/witness if required by the state or territory) and send it to your local election official.

When completing this form, follow the instructions for completing and submitting the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and the official Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot provided in this appendix.

**BEFORE YOU SEAL THE MAILING ENVELOPE, CHECK THAT YOU HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Complete the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation.
2. Sign and date the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and put inside the mailing envelope.
3. Vote your Ballot.
4. Put your voted Ballot in the Security Envelope and seal.
5. Put the sealed Security Envelope in the mailing envelope.
6. Seal the mailing envelope.
7. Put your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address in the upper left hand corner of the envelope.
8. Put address of proper election official in the middle of the envelope. This address must be the same local election official address where you previously submitted your regular absentee ballot application.
9. Affix proper postage.

**VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)**

**1.a. I AM (Mark only one):**

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

1.b. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law)

**2. MY INFORMATION (Required)**

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)			SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., Ill, etc.)	b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)
c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH (MMDDYYYY)	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)	
j. EMAIL ADDRESS				

**3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required)** (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)

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 (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)
_____	_____
_____	_____

**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 future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested.)

**7. AFFIRMATION: (Required)**

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

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and
6. I have not received the requested ballot, and
7. I understand that if my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this write-in ballot will be voided, and
8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law and I have not been influenced, and
9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot inside the U.S., and
10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
11. 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (MMDDYYYY) Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness/Notary and Address (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ (MMDDYYYY)





