

# DELAWARE

## Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Website: [http://electionsncc.delaware.gov/absentee\\_de/](http://electionsncc.delaware.gov/absentee_de/)

Link to state election website is also available through FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

**Presidential Primary Date: February 5, 2008**

**State Primary Date: September 9, 2008**

**General Election Date: November 4, 2008**

<b>DEADLINES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES*</b>	<b>Presidential Primary (or preference)</b>	<b>State Primary</b>	<b>General Election</b>
<b>Registration</b>	January 21, 2008	August 25, 2008	October 20, 2008
<b>Ballot Request</b>	February 1, 2008	September 5, 2008	October 31, 2008
<b>Ballot Return</b>	February 5, 2008	September 9, 2008	November 4, 2008

<b>DEADLINES FOR CIVILIANS OUTSIDE THE U.S.*</b>	<b>Presidential Primary (or preference)</b>	<b>State Primary</b>	<b>General Election</b>
<b>Registration</b>	January 21, 2008	August 25, 2008	October 20, 2008
<b>Ballot Request</b>	February 1, 2008	September 5, 2008	October 31, 2008
<b>Ballot Return</b>	February 5, 2008	September 9, 2008	November 4, 2008

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

State information is current as of June 2008. Check the state election website above, the FVAP Website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for updates.

# DELAWARE

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.)

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**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:** Your Delaware Driver's License number is required. If you do not have a Delaware Driver's License then the last four digits of your Social Security number is required for voter registration. 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 2.h and 2.i:** Provide an email address that you can access and/or a phone number at which you can be reached in the event that there are questions regarding your application
- C** **Block 3.a through 3.e:** Provide the complete street address of your Delaware voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. For example: "on Highway \_\_\_\_\_, 2 miles past Highway \_\_\_\_\_, across the street from the \_\_\_\_\_ gas station." This address should be different from the one provided in Block 4 and must in be the county where you claim legal voting residence.
- D** **Block 4.a:** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. It must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.
- E** **Block 4.c:** Delaware does not allow you to return the absentee ballot electronically. See Section II.D. or III.D.
- F** **Block 5:** Specify your political party affiliation, e.g. Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Green Party, Independent, decline to state, etc. Delaware conducts Primary Elections for the Democratic and Republican parties. You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic Primary and as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary. You may not change your political party affiliation between March 31st in the year of a General Election and day of the Primary Election. If you are currently registered to vote and want to change your political party affiliation, submit an FPCA that shows your new political party affiliation. There are two periods during which a person is prohibited from changing their political party affiliation prior to a Presidential Election. The first period begins November 1st in the year before a Presidential Election and runs through the day of the Presidential Primary. The second period begins on March 31st in the year of the election and runs through the day of the Primary Election.
- G** **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.

See special instructions in Sections II.E. and III.E.

- H** **Block 7:** You must sign and date the FPCA. Election Officials cannot process the FPCA unless it is signed. You are swearing or affirming under penalty of perjury that the information on the FPCA is true and correct when you sign the FPCA.

## II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Delaware 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

Send a completed FPCA to the appropriate Department of Elections **as soon as practical in the year of a general election.** If you move or are deployed during the year, send an FPCA with your new information to the Department of Elections as soon as practical. The deadline for a *UOCAVA* voter to register to vote is the third Monday prior to the date of a primary or general election. Late submission of FPCAs and/or failure to return ballots promptly are the major reasons that ballots are received too late to be counted.

Send an FPCA to the appropriate Department of Elections every year and whenever you change your mailing address in order to keep your voter registration and your absentee ballot information up to date.

**If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot,** send a completed FPCA requesting an absentee ballot to the Department of Elections as soon as practical in the year of a general election but not later than 4 days before the day of the election. For Presidential Elections, the Departments of Elections will accept applications for absentee ballots beginning August 15 in the year prior to a Presidential Election.

### B. Casting Your Vote

Vote and return your ballot as soon as you receive it. Ballots received after the deadline will not be counted.

**Ballot Return Deadline:** Voted ballot must be returned to the Department of Elections that issued them no later than 8 p.m. on election day in order to be counted.

The Departments of Elections for the counties will mail ballots as soon as they are available. Ballots for primary elections will be mailed approximately 30 days prior to the

election. Ballots for general elections will be mailed approximately 45 days prior to the election.

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

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

### D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Delaware allows you to send the FPCA for registration and absentee ballot by fax. After faxing, submit the FPCA by mail.
- Delaware allows you to receive the blank ballot by fax or email.
- Delaware does not allow you to return the voted ballot by fax or email.

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. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Delaware provides a state special write-in absentee ballot available 90 days before the election if you will be unable to vote by regular absentee ballot or in person due to requirements of military service or due to living in isolated or extremely remote areas of the world.

The FPCA may be used to request the state special write-in ballot. In **Block 6 of the FPCA** write “I am unable to vote by regular absentee ballot or in person due to requirements of military service. I request a special write-in ballot.”

The special write-in ballot may be requested at any time before the election.

The regular ballot that you are eligible to vote will be sent if the request for the special write-in ballot is received after the standard ballots are available.

Vote the special write-in ballot by writing in the name of person for whom you wish to vote or by writing in the party preference for each office.

### F. Bars to Registration and Voting

Persons who have been convicted of a felony (unless pardoned or whose voting rights have been restored) or found mentally incompetent may not register to vote or vote. Persons convicted of a felony may have their voting rights restored 5 years after completion of their sentence to include payment of all fines and court ordered restitution. This applies to all felons except those convicted of murder or manslaughter; offenses against public administration including bribery, improper influence or abuse of office; or sexual offenses. See Delaware’s Constitution, Article V, § 2, and Delaware Code, Title 15, Chapter 61 for complete information.

### G. Action on Registration Requests

You are notified when your application is accepted. If your application is rejected, you are so notified with the reason(s) for rejection.

### H. Action If Registration Is Denied

Denial of registration may be appealed to the board of elections for your county and/or superior court. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel. Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Delaware shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection.

### I. Late Registration

Military and overseas citizens who return to the United States within 60 days of an election and establish residence in Delaware can register to vote after the normal deadline. Contact the Department of Elections for the county in which you live for further information.

### J. Voting By Citizens Who Have Never Lived in the U.S.

A U.S. citizen who was born abroad and who is eligible to vote and who has never lived in the U.S. may register and vote in the county where a parent would be eligible to register and vote.

## III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Delaware 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 Delaware.

- Delaware residents temporarily residing outside the U.S. (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- overseas citizens (for Federal office ballots only)

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**IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.**

**Where To Send It**

Mail the FPCA to the **Department of Elections**, county of voting residence, as listed below:

County	Mailing Address
New Castle	Department of Elections for New Castle County 820 N. FRENCH ST STE 400 WILMINGTON DE 19801-3531
Kent	Department of Elections for Kent County 100 ENTERPRISE PL STE 5 DOVER DE 19904- 8202
Sussex	Department of Elections for Sussex County PO Box 457 GEORGETOWN DE 19947-0457

*The Stars and Stripes are the spirit of hope,  
so go out and VOTE!*

by Sterling D. Tilley, Jr, Ft. Washington, MD