

RHODE ISLAND

Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Website: www.sec.state.ri.us

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

Presidential Primary Date: March 4, 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	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Ballot Request	February 12, 2008	August 19, 2008	October 14, 2008**
Ballot Return	March 4, 2008	September 9, 2008	November 4, 2008

DEADLINES FOR CIVILIANS OUTSIDE THE U.S.*	Presidential Primary (or preference)	State Primary	General Election
Registration	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Ballot Request	February 12, 2008	August 19, 2008	October 14, 2008**
Ballot Return	March 4, 2008	September 9, 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.

**A voter may request a ballot allowing the citizen to vote only for President and Vice-President up until October 28, 2008.

RHODE ISLAND

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 checked="" 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: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Witness/Notary and address (if required))

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 current and valid Rhode Island driver's license number is required in 2.g. If you do not have a current and valid Rhode Island driver's license number, the last four digits of your Social Security number are required in 2.f. If you do not possess either of these identifications, Rhode Island shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voting purposes.
- B Block 3.a through 3.e:** Provide the complete address of your Rhode Island 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 must be different from the one provided in Block 4 and must be within the city or town where you claim legal voting residence.
- C Block 4.a:** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. Your current mailing address 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:** You must list a party affiliation to vote in primaries, e.g., Democrat, Republican or write "none" in Block 5 of the FPCA. Changes of party affiliation must be made on or before the 90th day before the election. Political party affiliation is not required to vote in general elections.
- 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 are swearing or affirming that the information provided is true and correct by signing the FPCA.

II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island, members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, and members of

religious groups or welfare agencies officially attached to the Armed Forces overseas and their spouses and dependents accompanying them outside the state. 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 Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

This single FPCA can be extended beyond one year to the length of the assignment at a duty station (if over one year) by completing an absentee ballot certificate. In **Block 6 of the FPCA** write: "I request an absentee ballot certificate (Section 17-20-9.2)." When you receive the certificate, complete the form (including your name, Rhode Island address, duty station address where you want your ballot mailed, length of time assigned to that duty station) and obtain the name and signature of the military commander.

Rhode Island waives registration.

To request an absentee ballot, the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence must receive your FPCA not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

B. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the State Board of Elections by **9:00 p.m. on election day**.

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. State elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and then will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you have not received your official state ballot or official blank state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below and in chapter two.

C. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA, Item 2.i. Use fax numbers below.

- Rhode Island will transmit the appropriate ballot by fax and by mail to the voter.
- Rhode Island allows 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. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island provides an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available.

F. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island has expanded the use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The instructions described in chapter two remain the same except that Rhode Island also allows the FWAB to be used to vote for offices in state and local elections.

G. Bars to Registration and Voting

No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction can vote until discharged from the facility. Upon such completion, the person's right to vote shall be restored. No person declared mentally incapable can vote.

H. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is canceled for failure to respond to confirmation mailings along with the failure to vote in the next two general (Federal office) elections.

I. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Rhode Island shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Denial of registration may be appealed to the State Board of Elections. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

J. Late Registration

Any member of the Armed Forces or of the merchant marine of the U.S. in active service, and any person absent from the state in the performance of "services intimately connected with military operations"; any person who is employed by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government and who by reason of such employment resides outside of the continental U.S.; and any person employed outside the territorial limits of the U.S. shall be exempt from registration during the period of his/her

service or employment for 2 years after their return to the U.S.

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

If the person is a U.S. citizen and has never lived in the U.S. but has a parent who is a qualified Rhode Island elector, then this person will be eligible to register and vote in Federal elections.

III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

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

- overseas citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. by reason of employment by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government, overseas citizens employed outside the U.S. and spouses and dependents of such persons (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- "other" overseas citizens are those persons who reside outside the territorial limits of the U.S. for reasons other than employment or military service for an indefinite period of time. These voters should check (c) in Block 1 on the FPCA and are entitled to a Federal ballot only.

A. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

To request an absentee ballot, send the FPCA to the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

Rhode Island waives registration for UOCAVA voters.

"Other" overseas citizens are those persons who reside outside the territorial limits of the U.S. for reasons other than employment or military service for an indefinite period of time. These voters should check (c) in box #1 on the FPCA are entitled to a Federal ballot only.

B. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the state board of elections **by 9:00 p.m. on election day.**

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. For overseas citizens employed outside the U.S., state elections officials will also issue an

official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

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

C. Notary/Witness Requirements

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J. Late Registration

Any member of the Armed Forces or of the merchant marine of the U.S. in active service, and any person absent from the state in the performance of "services intimately connected with military operations"; any person who is employed by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government and who by reason of such employment resides outside of the continental U.S.; and any person employed outside the territorial limits of the U.S. shall be exempt from registration during the period of his/her service or employment for 2 years after their return to the U.S.

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

If the person is a U.S. citizen and has never lived in the U.S. but has a parent who is a qualified Rhode Island elector, then this person will be eligible to register and vote in Federal elections.

IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the **Board of Canvassers**, city or town of voting residence listed below:

City or Town	Mailing Address
Barrington	Barrington Board of Canvassers Town Hall 283 County Road Barrington, RI 02806-2406
Bristol	Bristol Board of Canvassers Town Hall 10 Court Street Bristol, RI 02809-2208
Burrillville	Burrillville Board of Canvassers Town Hall 105 Harrisville Main Street Harrisville, RI 02830-1499
Central Falls	Central Falls Board of Canvassers City Hall 580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863-2835

City or Town	Mailing Address
Charlestown	Charlestown Board of Canvassers Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown, RI 02813-3454
Coventry	Coventry Board of Canvassers Town Hall 1670 Flat River Road Coventry, RI 02816-8909
Cranston	Cranston Board of Canvassers City Hall 869 Park Avenue Cranston, RI 02910-2738
Cumberland	Cumberland Board of Canvassers Town Hall 45 Broad Street Cumberland, RI 02864-8388
East Greenwich	East Greenwich Board of Canvassers Town Hall 125 Main Street East Greenwich, RI 02818-3808
East Providence	East Providence Board of Canvassers City Hall 145 Taunton Avenue East Providence, RI 02914-4530
Exeter	Exeter Board of Canvassers Town Hall 675 Ten Rod Road Exeter, RI 02822-2447
Foster	Foster Board of Canvassers Town Hall 181 Howard Hill Road Foster, RI 02825-1226
Glocester	Glocester Board of Canvassers Town Hall 1145 Putnam Pike Chepachet, RI 02814-1959
Hopkinton	Hopkinton Board of Canvassers Town Hall 1 Townhouse Road Hopkinton, RI 02833-1142
Jamestown	Jamestown Board of Canvassers Town Hall 93 Narragansett Avenue Jamestown, RI 02835-1149
Johnston	Johnston Board of Canvassers Town Hall 1385 Hartford Avenue Johnston, RI 02919-7191
Lincoln	Lincoln Board of Canvassers Town Hall, P.O. Box 100 100 Old River Road Lincoln, RI 02865-1332
Little Compton	Little Compton Board of Canvassers Town Hall 40 Commons Little Compton, RI 02837-1543
Middletown	Middletown Board of Canvassers Town Hall 350 East Main Road Middletown, RI 02842-5267
Narragansett	Narragansett Board of Canvassers Town Hall 25 Fifth Avenue Narragansett, RI 02882-3612
Newport	Newport Board of Canvassers City Hall 43 Broadway Newport, RI 02840-2798
New Shoreham	New Shoreham Board of Canvassers Town Hall Old Town Neck Road, PO Box 220 Block Island, RI 02807-0220

City or Town	Mailing Address
North Kingstown	North Kingstown Board of Canvassers Town Hall 80 Boston Neck Road North Kingstown, RI 02852-5767
North Providence	North Providence Board of Canvassers Town Hall 2000 Smith Street North Providence, RI 02911-1740
North Smithfield	North Smithfield Board of Canvassers Municipal Annex 575 Smithfield Road Slatersville, RI 02896-7227
Pawtucket	Pawtucket Board of Canvassers City Hall 137 Roosevelt Avenue Pawtucket, RI 02860-2191
Portsmouth	Portsmouth Board of Canvassers Town Hall 2200 East Main Road Portsmouth, RI 02871-1268
Providence	Providence Board of Canvassers City Hall 25 Dorrance Street Providence, RI 02903-1789
Richmond	Richmond Board of Canvassers Town Hall 5 Richmond Townhouse Road Wyoming, RI 02898-1247
Scituate	Scituate Board of Canvassers Town Hall 195 Danielson Pike North Scituate, RI 02857-1906
Smithfield	Smithfield Board of Canvassers Town Hall 64 Farnum Pike Esmond, RI 02917-3224
South Kingstown	South Kingstown Board of Canvassers Town Hall 180 High Street Wakefield, RI 02879-3140
Tiverton	Tiverton Board of Canvassers Town Hall 343 Highland Road Tiverton, RI 02878-4401
Warren	Warren Board of Canvassers Town Hall 514 Main Street Warren, RI 02885-4369
Warwick	Warwick Board of Canvassers City Hall 3275 Post Road Warwick, RI 02886-7145
Westerly	Westerly Board of Canvassers Town Hall 45 Broad Street Westerly, RI 02891-1888
West Greenwich	West Greenwich Board of Canvassers Town Hall 280 Victory Highway West Greenwich, RI 02817-2155
West Warwick	West Warwick Board of Canvassers Town Hall 1170 Main Street West Warwick, RI 02893-4829
Woonsocket	Woonsocket Board of Canvassers City Hall 160 Main Street Woonsocket, RI 02895-4330

***No matter what state, remember the date - Vote!
November 4, 2008!***

by Rob Rock, Providence, RI