

Military/Overseas FAQs

Who Can Register To Vote as a Military/Overseas Voter?

In order to register to vote as a military/overseas voter, a person must:

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be a California resident;
- Be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next election;
- Not in prison, on parole, serving a state prison sentence in county jail, serving a sentence for a felony pursuant to subdivision (h) of Penal Code section 1170, or on post release community supervision;
- Not found mentally incompetent by a court of law;
- Be in the military or a spouse or dependent of someone in the military or armed services;
- Reside outside the U.S.

How Do I Register to Vote If I am in the Military or Overseas?

To register to vote, you should complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA can be accessed using the FPCA link. You may also use the California Secretary of State's website to fill out a Voter Registration Form and request a Vote By Mail ballot.

How Do I Return My FPCA?

You can return your FPCA by mail, fax, or scan to email.

What is the Deadline to Register to Vote?

You must be registered to vote at least 15 days prior to any election.

What Address Do I Use as My Residential Address on the FPCA?

You must use your last known U.S. residential address. You do not need to own the residence, live at the address, nor have mail sent to it.

Do I Need to Have a Witness or a Notary Public Sign My FPCA?

No. California does not require either to sign the form.

Do I Need to Re-Register to Vote Every Year?

No. You do not need to re-register to vote every year. Your registration will remain active until you cancel it, unless your Ventura County address, political party, or name changes.

For What Reasons Does a Person Need to Re-Register to Vote?

When a person changes his/her Ventura County residence address, mailing address, political party, or has a name change.

Can an Ex-Felon Register to Vote and Be Eligible to Vote?

Yes, an ex-felon may register to vote and is eligible to vote in elections if he/she is not in prison, on parole, serving a state prison sentence in county jail, serving a sentence for a felony pursuant to subdivision (h) of Penal Code section 1170, or on post release community supervision.

My Family Member is not Available to Register to Vote. Am I Allowed to Register for Him/Her?

No. He/she must sign the voter registration affidavit in his/her own handwriting under penalty of perjury. He/she can complete the voter registration affidavit and mail it from wherever he/she is located.

I Did Not Vote in the Last Election. Do I Need To Re-Register?

Under California law, the FPCA is valid unless the voter fails to return an executed Vote By Mail ballot in four consecutive statewide general elections.

What Should I Do When I Return to the U.S.?

You will need to complete a Voter Registration affidavit. You may pick-up one at the Ventura County Elections Division, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA or at any local post office, library, or city hall. You may also use the California Secretary of State On-Line Voter Registration Form, or have one mailed to you by calling (805) 654-2664.

When Will My Vote By Mail Ballot be Sent to Me?

If you are in the military or overseas, your ballot will be mailed approximately 60 days prior to the election.

Which Candidates and Local Measures am I Eligible to Vote On?

All military and overseas voters are entitled to receive and vote a full ballot for which you are qualified to vote.

By What Methods Can I Receive My Vote By Mail Ballot (VBM)?

You may receive your ballot by mail, email, or fax.

By What Methods Can I Return My Ballot?

Your ballot can be returned either by mail or fax.

I Did Not Receive My Ballot; What Can I Do?

If you requested a Vote By Mail ballot but have not received one close to Election Day, you can still vote by using the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

Can I Check the Status of My Returned Vote By Mail Ballot?

Yes. You may track your Vote By Mail ballot using our online tool.

When Must I Return My Vote By Mail Ballot?

All ballots MUST be received by the Ventura County Elections Division no later than Election Day, 8:00 p.m. Postmarks do not count.