

Message for U.S. Citizens: Reminder - Virtual Absentee Voting Info Session

September 20, 2024

As previously messaged, the Federal Voting Assistance Program is holding town hall meetings to answer questions and provide guidance on the absentee voting process. No registration is required – simply join using the links below.

September 23rd – 6 PM (PHT, +08)

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600295420...>

September 26th – 8 AM (PHT, +08)

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1617041468...>

Absentee Voting Basics:

1. Request your ballot. Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Submitting the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives) including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. All local election officials in all U.S. states and territories accept the FPCA.
 - a. You can complete the FPCA online at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov). The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to request your ballots be delivered electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your application to be presented with electronic ballot delivery options. Return the FPCA per the website instructions. The online voting assistant will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original ink signature. If you must return a paper version, please follow the same instructions below for returning your ballot.
 - b. Please note that registration deadlines are typically 1-2 weeks before the day of the election.
2. Receive and complete your ballot. States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office. If you have not received your ballot 30 days before primary elections, please contact your U.S.-based election office. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. Return your completed ballot. While some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically, others do not. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Place your ballot in a postage-paid return envelope OR in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage and address them to the relevant local election officials. The U.S. Embassy does not sell stamps or U.S. postage and we do not accept unsealed envelopes. Anything of irregular size or bulk may be denied for acceptance into the diplomatic postal service.
 - a. A U.S. citizen may submit a sealed ballot or other voting-related letter for return to local election offices in the United States anytime during Embassy regular business hours. No appointment is necessary. Only federal election materials may be submitted for return to the United States. Accepted materials are placed into the diplomatic postal service at the earliest opportunity. Expect a 3-to-4-week delivery time for your materials to reach their destination. You can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.
 - b. Research candidates and issues. Please see the FVAP links page for resources to research candidates and issues. FVAP regularly sends information about election dates and deadlines through their Voting Alerts. Email vote@fvap.gov to subscribe or follow FVAP on Facebook or Twitter.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the Voting Assistance Officer at U.S. Embassy Manila VoteManila@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!