

Puerto Rico

www.ceepur.org

No Federal Elections Scheduled for the 2010 Election Cycle

Information is current as of July 2009. Check www.fvap.gov for updates.

Registering and Requesting Your Absentee Ballot

Puerto Rico only accepts the FPCA as a temporary registration and absentee ballot request for elections for Federal office. If you temporarily register using the FPCA, you will only be able to vote absentee, not in person. To register permanently, you must register in person.

Complete the Following Blocks of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA):

Block 1: Select the category that describes you.

Block 2.a: Both your paternal and your maternal surnames are required. Otherwise, provide your full name as it appears on file at the Puerto Rico's Elections Commission.

Block 2.e: Date of Birth

Blocks 2.f and 2.g: Your Puerto Rico Driver's License number is required. If you do not have a Puerto Rico Driver's License number, the last four digits of your Social Security number OR your voter registration number is required.

Blocks 2.h through 2.j: Recommended but not required. Provide your contact information to allow your local election official to follow up if more information is required.

Blocks 3.a through 3.e: Complete street address of your Puerto Rico voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. This address must be within the county where you claim legal voting residence.

Block 4.a: Complete address where you want your ballot sent, usually where you live now.

Block 4.c: Puerto Rico does not allow you to receive your blank ballot by fax or email.

Block 5: To vote in primary elections, you must enter your political party affiliation. If you want to change your political party affiliation, submit a completed FPCA indicating your new party preference to the Absentee

Voting Administrative Board. Political party affiliation is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections.

Block 6: Provide your father's and mother's first names. The certifying officer who signs Block 7 must State here - "I certify that [voter] is a [member of the U.S. Army, student at XX University, etc., whichever is applicable]."

Submission of this form serves as a request to receive ballots for all Federal elections held through the next regularly scheduled general election. (Puerto Rico holds Federal elections only during general elections every four years). 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. Provide any information that may assist the local election official in accepting this application.

Block 7: Sign and date in the presence of an oath taking official. Witness/notary requirements vary: Military members and their families must obtain the signature of a commissioned officer. Merchant marine members must obtain the signature of the highest officer on board. Students must obtain the signature of an official in the school registrar's office. Dependents of Uniformed Service members, agricultural workers, and airline crew members must swear an oath before a notary public or person authorized by law to administer the oath. Overseas electors must obtain the signature of a consular officer.

How and Where to Submit Your FPCA:

Puerto Rico allows you to submit the FPCA by mail, fax, or email if you are already registered. If you are not already registered and choose to fax or email, you must also submit your FPCA by mail so that it arrives by the ballot return deadline.

If you choose to mail your FPCA, mail the form directly to:

Absentee Voting Administrative Board (JAVA)
Puerto Rico Elections Commission
PO Box 195552
San Juan, PR 00919-5552

If you choose to fax your FPCA, fax the form directly to the Absentee Voting Administrative Board. Fax numbers can be found at www.ceepur.org. You may also use the DoD Electronic Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll-free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in Chapter 1 or at www.fvap.gov, and fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found on the inside back cover or at www.fvap.gov.

If you choose to email your FPCA, you should send the form as an attachment. Email directly to the Absentee Voting Administrative Board at java@cee.gobierno.pr.

Follow-Up on Your FPCA

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office or refer to Puerto Rico's voter registration verification website at: <http://cee.ceepur.org/consulta/default.aspx>.

Your jurisdiction will contact you regarding the status of your application.

Ballot Request Using Petition for Absentee Ballot

If you are already permanently registered, you may request a ballot using the Petition for Absentee Ballot which is available by mail from the Elections Commission or at www.ceepur.org.

Voting Your Ballot

The Puerto Rico Elections Commission sends absentee ballots approximately 45 days before elections.

Voted ballots must be postmarked no later than election day and be received by the Puerto Rico Elections Commission by 3 pm on election day.

Voted ballot envelope must be signed and dated in the presence of an oath taking official. Witness/ notary requirements vary: Military members and their families must obtain the signature of a commissioned officer. Merchant marine members must obtain the signature of the highest officer on board. Students must obtain the signature of an official in the school registrar's office. Dependents of Uniformed Service members, agricultural workers, and airline crew members must swear an oath before a notary public or person authorized by law to administer the oath. Overseas electors must obtain the signature of a consular officer.

Voted ballots must be returned by mail.

Haven't Received Your Ballot? Don't Wait Until It's Too Late. . . Use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot!

Puerto Rico allows you to use Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for voting in general elections for Federal office. If you are registered and have requested your absentee ballot, feel free to use the FWAB to vote anytime before an election.

Complete the Following Blocks of the FWAB's Voter Declaration/ Affirmation:

Block 1.a: Select the category that describes you.

Block 1.b: Puerto Rico does not allow you to use this form for registration. Do not check this box.

Block 2.a: Both your paternal and your maternal surnames are required. Otherwise, provide your full name as it appears on file at the State Elections Commission.

Block 2.e: Date of Birth

Blocks 2.f and 2.g: Enter your valid Puerto Rico Driver's License number, the last four digits of your Social Security number, OR your voter registration number.

Blocks 2.h through 2.j: It is highly recommended that you provide your contact information to allow your local election official to follow up if more information is required.

Blocks 3.a through 3.e: Complete street address of your Puerto Rico voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. This address must be within the town where you claim legal voting residence.

Block 4.a: Enter your current mailing address.

Block 6: Provide your father's and mother's first names. The certifying officer who signs Block 7 must State here - "I certify that [voter] is a [member of the U.S. Army, student at XX University, etc., whichever is applicable]." Provide any information that may assist the Absentee Voting Administrative Board in accepting this ballot or application.

Block 7: Sign and date in the presence of an oath taking official. Witness/notary requirements vary: Military members, their spouses and their dependents must obtain the signature of a commissioned officer. Merchant marine members must obtain the signature of the highest officer on board. Students must obtain the signature of an official in

the school registrar's office. Dependents of Uniformed Service members, agricultural workers, and airline crew members must swear an oath before a notary public or person authorized by law to administer the oath. Overseas electors must obtain the signature of a consular officer.

Vote Your FWAB:

Vote for any Federal office in a general election. To find out the races and candidates for which you can vote, go to www.ceepur.org. For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or a political party designation. Puerto Rico does not elect members to the U.S. Senate or directly participate in the election of the President and Vice President of the U.S. At the Federal level, only a Resident Commissioner to the House of Representatives is elected.

Once the ballot is complete, fold and place it in the security envelope and seal. Place only the voted ballot in the security envelope and do not write on the security envelope.

How and Where to Submit Your FWAB:

The deadlines for submitting the FWAB are the same as for regular State absentee ballots. If you receive the regular ballot after submitting the voted FWAB, you may also vote and return the regular ballot. If both ballots are received by the deadline, only the regular ballot will be counted.

Insert the sealed security envelope and the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation into the mailing envelope and mail your FWAB directly to:

Absentee Voting Administrative Board (JAVA)
Puerto Rico Elections Commission
PO Box 195552
San Juan, PR 00919-5552

Don't Lose Your Voice, Vote!
by Kathleen Lillibridge, US Army

