

DELAWARE

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.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

SAMPLE FORM

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)			
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF _____		COUNTY OF _____	
		CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF _____ §	
I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.			
1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (See instruction 1.)		6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See instructions.) E	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		b. SEX c. RACE	
d. DATE OF BIRTH		f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card)	
e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		A	
2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)		7. REMARKS (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See instructions.) F	
a. YEAR b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP		c. STATE d. VOTER REGISTRATION NO. (if known)	
3. VOTING RESIDENCE (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)		a. LAST DAY OF RESIDENCY	
b. NUMBER AND STREET (do not use Post Office Box)		B	
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		d. STATE	
e. COUNTY OR PARISH		f. ZIP CODE (9-digit, if known)	
4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO: (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)		8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT G	
D		X only one: a, b, c or d	
		I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See instructions)	
		a. a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent.	
		b. a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.	
		c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent.	
		d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.	
		e. I am a U.S. Citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribe to any required state/local oath or statement.	
		f. 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.	
		g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.	
		h. The information on this form is true and complete.	
5. YOUR FAX NUMBER (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See Instructions.)		i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT H	
		j. DATE	
		DATE SIGNED	
		(If required by state law)	
		M M D D Y Y	
		M M D D Y Y	

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

Application Instructions

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions below. You must complete all shaded areas.

- A** 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** Do not leave blank. Enter "N/A" if not applicable or if you are a first time voter.
- C** 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 Item 7. 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 Item 4 and must in be the county where you claim legal voting residence.
- D** 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 Item 3.
- E** If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections. You must indicate your political party affiliation when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat, Republican) or write "none" in Item 6 of the FPCA.

- Political party affiliation is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections. If you are currently registered and want to change your political party affiliation or if you declined to indicate a party affiliation upon registering and now wish to vote in a primary election, you must submit a completed FPCA which includes your new political party affiliation to the local election official not later than March 1st before the primary election. The period for changing political party affiliation ends beginning the 4th Friday in September in the year before a Presidential Election and ends the Sunday following the Presidential Primary. The period then reopens until March 1 or 30 days following the Monday following the Presidential Primary whichever is later. The FPCA must be signed and dated for it to be processed by the local election official.
- F** Provide an e-mail address that you can access and/or a phone number at which you can be reached for use in contacting you in a timely manner in the event that there is a question regarding your application
- G** Check ONE box.
- H** You must sign and date the FPCA. When signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

I. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

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.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To register and request an absentee ballot, submit a completed FPCA to the Department of Elections so that it arrives not later than 21 days prior to a Primary Election or 20 days prior to a General Election.

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 so that it arrives during the year of the election and not later than 3 days before the election. In years when a Presidential primary election is held, the Departments of Elections for the counties will accept request for the Presidential Primary ballot beginning August 15 of the year prior to the year of the Presidential election.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must be returned to the Department of Elections in the county of your voting residence so that it arrives not later than **12:00 noon on the day before the election**. Voted ballots for Federal offices received after **12:00 noon on the day before the election but prior to the close of polls on election day** will 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 are outside the U.S. and have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions in Chapter 2, page 12.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

E. 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 does not allow you to receive the blank ballot by fax.
- Delaware does not allow you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix C for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. Use the following numbers:

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527
1-800-368-8683

Additional international toll-free fax numbers are listed on the inside back cover.

F. 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 Item 7 of the FPCA, place one of the state special write-in labels from Section III.E. If no labels are available, write in Item 7: "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 special write-in ballot only includes the offices of President and Vice President, U.S. Senator and Representative in Congress.

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.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

Notify Your Local Election Official About Your Current Mailing Address

II. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

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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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 2, page 12.

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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.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

III. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. 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 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.

B. 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.

C. Action If Registration Is Denied

Denial of registration may be appealed to the county board of elections 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.

D. 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.

E. 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 (for Federal offices only).

F. Where To Send It

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

County	Address	City & Zip Code
New Castle	820 North French St. 4th Floor	Wilmington 19801-3531
Kent	455 Court St.	Dover 19901-3729
Sussex	119 N Race St.	Georgetown 19947-9985

Make The Right Choice By Choosing To Vote

by MSgt James H. Conrad, USAF, Felton, Delaware

