



**FVAP.gov**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Military Spouses and Eligible Family Members

## Wherever U.S. citizens go, FVAP ensures their voices are heard.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so – from anywhere in the world.



## Transitioning or Relocating?

As a military spouse, we understand you are extremely mobile. It is important to provide your election office with your new address after every move. The address you provide is their only way to contact you at your new home. You can use the FPCA at FVAP.gov to update your address with your election official.

## Share this information!

As a military spouse, you have access to a close network of other military members and spouses. Help us make sure that everyone has the opportunity to vote! Tell them about FVAP.gov and the steps to take in order to vote absentee.

## Absentee Voting Eligibility for **You** and Your Family

As the family member of a Uniformed Service member, your absentee voting rights are covered. This means if you live outside your voting jurisdiction, you can vote absentee in all federal elections. Rules are different for spouses and eligible family members; the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) covers spouses, but voting-age dependents should check with the state in which they plan to register, as state rules vary.

FVAP encourages military voters and their eligible family members to submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) every year, with every change of address and at least 90 days before the election you want to vote in. Steps for submitting an FPCA and requesting your ballot can be found on the back of this sheet.

FVAP.gov provides additional resources to make voting absentee easy.

## How to vote from wherever you are.



- 1 Fill out and send in the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and request your ballot.



- 2 Fill out and send in your ballot when it arrives.

If your ballot doesn't make it to you on time, you can fill out the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). Print, sign, and send it to your election office.

After you send your ballot, you can check if it was received by your election office. Get started at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov).



## Determining Your Voting Residence

The amendment made on Dec. 31, 2018 to the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) allows you to retain the same residence or domicile that your Service member has established, even if you have not physically been present at that address. If you choose, you may instead elect to retain your established residency or domicile (if different from your sponsor). MSRRA still does not permit you to choose any state; you or your Service member must have established residency in a state. Ways to do this may include voting, paying taxes, owning property, holding a driver's license, and registering a vehicle. Residency requirements vary by state. Please consult legal counsel to discuss tax implications and other effects of MSRRA. As a military spouse, you can:

- 1) Retain your sponsor's or Service member's residency or domicile;
- 2) Keep your current, established residency or domicile (separate from your sponsor); or
- 3) Take the appropriate steps to establish a new residency or domicile.

Some children turn 18 while their family is stationed overseas. To vote, they should use the last U.S. address they had before departing to the current duty station.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET | Go to [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov) and click on "contact" to find where to send your election materials. Media inquiries: [media@fvap.gov](mailto:media@fvap.gov)



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