



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Voting Residence

Overseas Citizens

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.

Citizens Born Outside the United States

A growing number of states now allow U.S. citizens who were born abroad but never resided in the United States to vote using the address where a parent or other relative is eligible to vote. Visit FVAP.gov to see a current list of states that allow these U.S. citizens to vote.

If neither of your parents is from one of these states, it is possible that you do not currently have voting rights. However, additional states are working on passing legislation to allow citizens born overseas who have never established residency in the United States to vote in the state in which their parents are eligible. Visit FVAP.gov for state information.

What is a voting residence and why is it important?

You need a voting residence to vote via absentee ballot—even if you are only voting for federal offices. **Your election office needs your exact voting residence address to send you the correct ballot for your voting precinct.**

Your residence is in the state or territory where you last resided, immediately before leaving the United States. It is the address that you considered your permanent home and where you had a physical presence. It's important to note that the voting residence address you use must be an address in the United States. Forms that list a P.O. box may be automatically disqualified.

This residence may remain valid even if:

- You no longer own property or have other ties to that state.
- Your intent to return to that state is uncertain.
- Your previous address is no longer a recognized residential address.





Students Studying Abroad

If you are living overseas for an extended period during an election season and will need to vote absentee, complete an FPCA at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov) to request your absentee ballot. Your voting residency will continue to be your last legal residence prior to leaving the United States to study abroad.

Voting in an election for federal office often may not be used as the sole basis of determining residency for the purpose of imposing state and local taxes. When claiming a new legal residence or domicile, legal counsel should be consulted because there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.

If you cannot remember the address where you last physically resided, then FVAP recommends checking old tax records, passports, or family correspondence. Sometimes local election officials can help identify your address if you were previously registered. To claim a new legal residence or domicile, consult legal counsel as there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.

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



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