

As you may know 2020 is the year of another presidential election! Some have asked “How do I register to vote and request an absentee ballot?”

For U.S. Citizen missionaries residing in the U.S., you may be eligible to vote prior to the election as an early voter or absentee. You must first be registered to vote with your state or local election office. State laws vary on early and absentee voting, so you will want to pay attention to information provided by your election officials, or contact your local election office for help. Helpful information regarding voting early or absentee by state can be found on: <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/absentee-early-voting>

For U.S. Citizen missionaries residing overseas, you may be eligible to vote absentee. You can register to vote and request an absentee ballot simultaneously using the FPCA (directions given below). There are different sets of rules for absentee voting by overseas citizens based on state and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.) Helpful information regarding absentee voting for overseas citizens can be found on: <https://www.fvap.gov>.

Steps for absentee voting for overseas citizens: <https://www.fvap.gov/info/about-absentee-voting>

1. You register to vote and request an absentee ballot by filling out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), and sending it to your election office in your State of legal residence.
2. The election office approves the FPCA, disapproves the FPCA, or requests additional information.
3. Once the FPCA is approved, the election office sends an absentee ballot to you.
4. You then complete and return your voted absentee ballot to your election office by your State’s deadline.

FAQs: <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/appendix/faq>

FAQs found on the FVAP website that are important to know:

What is my U.S. voting residence address?

Your U.S. voting residence address is used to determine where you are eligible to vote. For overseas citizens, it is usually the last place you lived at in the U.S. before moving overseas. You do not need to have any current ties with this address.

How can I send my FPCA form?

All states will accept your form by mail, but they vary on email and fax. Check your state’s requirements/guidelines at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).

Does voter registration affect my tax status?

You can vote for federal offices without a change to your tax status, but voting for non-federal offices may result in state and local taxation. There may also be tax implications when changing your residence from one state to another. We recommend that you seek legal or tax advice when changing your voting residence.

Voter Registration and Ballots: <https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots>