

ABSENTEE VOTING FOR MILITARY—OVERSEAS CITIZENS

Persons serving in the military and their dependents, who are away from their permanent home on Election Day, and U.S. citizens who are living abroad, have special voter registration and voting rights. They may apply to register and/or vote under a special law for military and overseas citizens. The **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)** is a federal law that requires states to allow certain voters who are **absent** from their county of residence to have special rights that provide an expedited means to register and vote. In order to qualify under the provisions of UOCAVA in this state, a voter must be a legal resident of North Carolina.

Voters covered by UOCAVA include:

- A member of the active or reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States who is on active duty.
- A member of the Merchant Marine, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, or the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States.
- A member of the National Guard or state militia unit who is on activated status.
- A spouse or dependent of a uniformed services member.
- U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

Covered voters may use the **Federal Postcard Application (FPCA)** to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot. They may also use the **State Absentee Request Form**.

In addition, covered voters may use a **Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** to register to vote, request a ballot, and vote an official military-overseas ballot.

Military-overseas voters need to only apply for an absentee ballot by one of the methods mentioned.

UOCAVA DEADLINES

The deadline for military-overseas voters to register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot is **5:00 p.m.** on the day before **Election Day**. The military-overseas voter may return his or her voted ballot, via mail, fax or email. The deadline to return military-overseas ballots is by the close of polls on **Election Day (7:30 p.m. EST)**.



For more information about Absentee Voting for **Civilians or Military-Overseas Citizens**, please visit our website at www.ncsbe.gov or call us at (866) 522-4723.



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Elections

August 2014

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MY NORTH CAROLINA. MY VOTE.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Quick Guide

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Visit our website:
www.ncsbe.gov

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ABSENTEE VOTING FOR CIVILIANS

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL

Any registered North Carolina voter may request a mail-in absentee ballot. This type of absentee voting allows a voter, near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepchild, or legal guardian), of a voter to request an absentee ballot by mail without an excuse.

HOW TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

To receive a mail-in absentee ballot for an election, a voter or the voter's near relative or legal guardian must use the **State Absentee Ballot Request Form** to request the ballot. Request forms are available on the State Board of Elections website and at county boards of elections offices. A signed and completed **State Absentee Ballot Request Form** must be received by the county board of elections office no later than **5:00 p.m.** on the last Tuesday prior to the date of the election for which the ballot is being requested. The form may be mailed, faxed, e-mailed or delivered in person to your county board of elections office.

COMPLETING THE STATE ABSENTEE REQUEST FORM

The following information for the voter is **required** when completing the form:

1. Name and legal residential address
2. Date of birth
3. ID number (NCDMV driver license or identification card; last four digits of Social Security number)
4. Address where the ballot should be mailed
5. Signature

If a voter's near relative or legal guardian makes the request, the person must provide his or her:

1. Full name
2. Address
3. Signature

If an identification number is not provided on the form, the requestor must submit one of the following documents:

- A copy of a current and valid photo ID **or**
- A copy of one of the following documents that shows the name and address of the voter: a current utility bill; bank statement; government check, paycheck, or other government document.

If the ballot being requested is for a **partisan primary**, and the voter is registered *Unaffiliated*, the voter or requestor must indicate the ballot preference (the party primary in which the voter wishes to participate).

Example: State Absentee Ballot Request Form

REQUIRED

State Absentee Ballot Request Form
North Carolina

NC STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
P. O. BOX 27255
RALEIGH, NC 27611-7255
PHONE: 919-866-5222-8723 FAX: 919-715-0135
elections@ncsbe.gov

FRAUDULENTLY OR FALSELY COMPLETING THIS FORM IS A CLASS 1 FELONY UNDER CHAPTER 163 OF THE N.C. STATUTES.

I am requesting an absentee ballot for the: _____ ON _____

Voter Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Home Address (NC Residential Address) _____ Calling Address (if different than home) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County of Residence _____ Previous Name (if applicable) _____

Have you lived at this address for more than 30 days? Yes No

If "Yes," what is the name and address of the hospital or facility? _____

If "No," indicate the date of your move: _____

You must provide at least one identification number below. (or see instructions)

NC License or ID Number _____ SSN _____

XXXX - XX - _____

For Military/Overseas Citizens Only (may only be signed by the voter; may not be signed by a near relative/guardian)

Select one of the options below to qualify as a military or overseas voter:

Member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty and currently stationed from county of residence or an eligible spouse/dependent.

U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. temporarily or indefinitely.

Current Address (address where you are currently stationed or living overseas.) _____

Transmit my ballot by: In-person (Military/Overseas Voters Only) Mail Fax Email

Signature of Voter (voter only) _____ Signature of Near Relative/Guardian (if applicable) _____

X _____ X _____

Date _____ Date _____

Visit www.NCSBE.gov to check your voter registration or absentee voting status.

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BALLOT AVAILABILITY

Once a ballot request is received, the county board of elections will mail the absentee voting materials to the voter. Ballots will be available:

- **50 days** in advance of the date of a primary or second primary election
- **60 days** in advance of a statewide general election
- **30 days** in advance of a municipal (city or town) election

VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

In the presence of **two witnesses** (or one witness if the witness is a **notary-public**), the voter should mark the ballot according to instructions. Once the ballot is marked, the voter or a person assisting the voter must **seal** the ballot in the container-return envelope and must then **complete** the *Absentee Application and Certificate* on the back of the ballot container-return envelope. The voter's witnesses must **complete** and **sign** the envelope in the space designated as *Witnesses' Certification*. If someone assists the voter, the assister must sign and date the certificate as well.

RETURNING THE BALLOT

The voted ballot (inside of the signed and completed *Absentee Ballot Container Return-Envelope*) must be returned either by the voter or the voter's near relative, no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **Election Day**. Voted ballots may be returned by mail or in-person to the county board of elections office or to any one-stop "early voting" site in the county.

ALERT

Ballots received after 5:00 p.m. on Election Day will be timely **ONLY** if they are received at the county board of elections by mail bearing a postmark dated on or before the date of the election and are received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the election.