



UMOVA Quick Reference Guide

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Version: 1.0

ARCHIVED – Refer to Department of State website for current information

This UMOVA Quick Reference Guide is meant to be used in combination with the Department of State's UMOVA Overview. Please consult the UMOVA Overview for definitions and more detailed information.

UMOVA Key Provisions:

- UMOVA essentially applies the benefits provided to military and overseas voters in federal elections under UOCAVA and MOVE to all elections—federal, state, and local.
- An application for an absentee ballot in a primary will count as a request for a ballot in all subsequent elections and special elections in the same calendar year. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3507(b).
- Spouses and dependents are included in the definition of a uniformed-service voter under UMOVA. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3502.
- Hospitalized or bedridden veterans of a uniformed service are covered under UMOVA. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3502.
- A covered voter under UMOVA may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot at the same time. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3505(b)(1).
- While UMOVA permits all covered voters to use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to vote, uniformed-service voters may use the FWAB to register to vote, apply for an absentee ballot, and vote at the same time. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3505(b)(2).
- UMOVA allows covered voters to make use of electronic transmission methods for applications and receipt of balloting materials. 25 Pa.C.S. §§ 3505(c) and 3508(c).
- Preparation and posting of 90-day notice:
 - County boards of elections must prepare an election notice at least 90 days before an election to be used in conjunction with the FWAB. The election notice must contain a list of all ballot measures and offices, and specific instructions for how voters can make their choices. 25 P.S. § 3514(a).
 - County boards of elections must post the 90-day notices on their websites. 25 P.S. § 3514(d).
 - County boards must update the 90-day notice as soon as the county obtains the list of candidates from the Secretary of the Commonwealth and should continue to update the notice if changes to the ballot occur. 25 P.S. § 3514(c).

How may a covered voter REGISTER to vote?

| | FPCA | FWAB | VRMA | Online |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|--------|
| Uniformed-Service Voter | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Overseas Voter | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |

NOTE: Neither an active uniformed-service voter nor a bedridden or hospitalized veteran are required to register to vote. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3505(a).

How may a covered voter APPLY for an absentee ballot?

| | FPCA | FWAB | Absentee Ballot Application |
|-------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|
| Uniformed-Service Voter | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Overseas Voter | ✓ | | ✓ |

How may a covered voter VOTE an absentee ballot?

| | Special Write-in Absentee Ballot | Official Absentee Ballot | FWAB |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Uniformed-Service Voter | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Overseas Voter | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

What to look for on the FPCA?

If any of the boxes highlighted below are checked on the [FPCA](#), then the voter qualifies and is covered under UMOVA.

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Print clearly in blue or black ink, please see back for instructions.

This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your state's guidelines at [FVAP.gov](#).

1. Who are you? Pick one.

- I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:
- I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my intent to return is uncertain.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.

What to look for on the FWAB?

If any of the boxes highlighted below are checked on the [FWAB](#), then the voter qualifies and is covered under UMOVA.

Voter Information

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Print clearly in blue or black ink, please see back for instructions.

Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?

Some states allow you to use this form to register and request ballots for future elections. Visit [FVAP.gov](#) for more details.

1. Who are you? Pick one.

- For absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States.
- I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my intent to return is uncertain.
 - I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.

Delivery of Ballots and Balloting Materials:

- County boards of elections must begin to transmit ballots and balloting materials to all covered voters who have applied no later than 45 days prior to the election. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3508(a).
- For covered voters in extremely remote and isolated areas, the counties must begin to transmit a ballot and balloting materials not later than 50 days before a primary election and not later than 70 days before a general or municipal election. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3508(b).

Deadline for Return of Voted Ballots:

- To be valid, the voter must submit the ballot for mailing or other authorized means of delivery *not later than 11:59 P.M.* the day before the election. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3509(2).
- A valid military-overseas ballot must be delivered to the appropriate county board of elections by 5 p.m. on the seventh (7th) day following the election, to be counted. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3511(a). If the voter has declared under penalty of perjury on the affirmation that the ballot was timely submitted, the ballot may not be rejected because of a late, unreadable, or missing postmark. 25 P.S. § 3511(b).
- UMOVA requires a system for covered voters to track the status of applications and ballots. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3512. See <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/>

Other Important Points:

- UMOVA does not cover federal voters. Federal voters are covered by UOCAVA alone and can only vote for federal offices (President, Vice President, U.S. Senator, and Representative in Congress). Please refer to the Department of State's *Guidance on Federal Voters Under UOCAVA* for more detailed information on the rules that apply to federal voters.
- Neither UMOVA nor UOCAVA extend coverage to U.S. citizens born abroad who have *never* resided in the United States. These individuals are not qualified to vote in federal, state, or local elections in Pennsylvania.

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| Version | Date | Description |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1.0 | 9.26.2022 | Conversion to standard template |
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