



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Voting Residence

Uniformed Service Members and
Their Eligible Family Members

FACT SHEET

**Wherever U.S. citizens go,
FVAP ensures their voice is heard.**

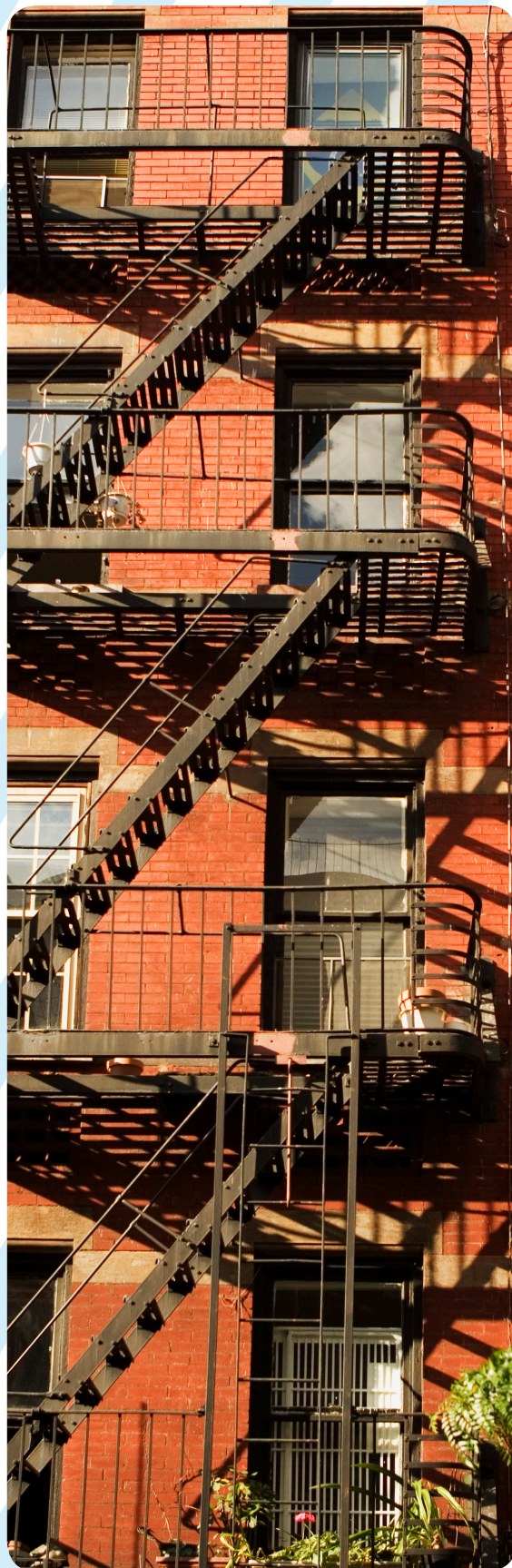
The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

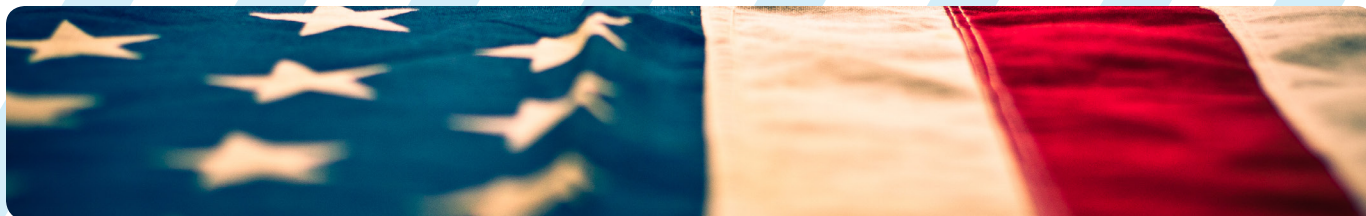
»»» What is a voting residence and why is it important?

Your voting residence is within your State of legal residence or domicile. It is the true, fixed address that you consider your permanent home and where you had a physical presence. Your State of legal residence is used for State income tax purposes, and determines eligibility to vote for Federal and State elections and qualification for in-state tuition rates.

State of legal residence and voting residence is sometimes mistaken for home of record. While your voting residence may be the same as your home of record at the beginning of your military career, if you change your legal residence or domicile at any point you also need to update your voting residence.

To claim a new legal residence or domicile, consult your legal counsel or military legal assistance office, as there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.





★ Military Service members

You may only have **one legal voting residence at a time**.

Service members, **your voting residence should be within the State listed on your Leave and Earnings Statement** which defines your State for withholding State taxes.

Don't confuse voting residence with home of record. Your home of record is the place you lived when you entered the military. It does not change while you are on active duty. Your voting residence may be the same as your home of record but needs to be updated if and when you decide to establish a new State of legal residence.

Your State of legal residence is not automatically changed when you are assigned to a new duty location.

It may be changed with your approval by submitting the appropriate paperwork to your finance officer. However, **you should first consult legal counsel**.

You have the option to **establish residency or domicile each time you are transferred** to a new location. Once you change your residence or domicile, you may not revert to a previous residence without re-establishing a new physical presence according to residency laws of that State.

You can't vote in person at embassies, consulates or military installations. The online assistant at FVAP.gov or your Voting Assistance Officer can help you complete the necessary absentee voting forms found at FVAP.gov and provide additional information.



★ Spouses and eligible family members

Your State of legal residence or domicile — and accompanying voting residence — may differ from your sponsor's, as it isn't assumed upon marriage. The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) allows you to retain the same residence or domicile that your Service member has established so long as you also established residency or domicile in the same State.

MSRRA does not permit you to choose any State; you must establish residency or domicile. Ways to do this may include voting, paying taxes, owning property, holding a driver's license and registering a vehicle. Requirements vary by State; 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
- 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.

★ Maintain current contact info

Your local election official needs your current contact information to reach you come election time. The most efficient way is to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) annually, with every change of address and at least 90 days prior to the election you want to vote in. That way your election official knows you want to register in that State, how to reach you, and most importantly where to send your ballot!

Installation Voting Assistance Office:
Airman & Family Readiness Center, Bldg 535
Mon-Thur 0800-1600 & Fri 0900-1600
DSN: 315-225-8725 (A&FRC) 225-8683 (VOTE)

374AW.Voter.Yokota@us.af.mil
vote@FVAP.gov
www.FVAP.gov
Commercial: 011-08-042-507-6548 (A&FRC)



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Voting Residence

Overseas Citizens

FACT SHEET

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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 local election official needs your exact voting residence address to determine which offices and candidates you are eligible to vote for, and to send you the appropriate ballot for your voting precinct.**

Your voting residence is your address in the State in which you were last domiciled, immediately prior to leaving the United States.

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.

Voting in an election for Federal offices 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.



Voting residence and the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

It is important to remember that your voting residence address listed on the FPCA must be an address in the United States. Placing an overseas address in block 7 of the form may automatically disqualify you.

Children born outside the U.S.

Voting rights vary by State for U.S. citizens born overseas who have never established residence in the United States. In some States, U.S. citizens 18 years or older who were born abroad but have never resided in the U.S. are eligible to vote absentee. A listing can be found at FVAP.gov.

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 U.S. to vote in the State in which their parents are eligible. Visit FVAP.gov for State information.

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 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.



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374AW.Voter.Yokota@us.af.mil
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www.FVAP.gov
Commercial: 011-08-042-507-6548 (A&FRC)

AMERICANS CAN VOTE. WHEREVER THEY ARE.

Did you know that Service members,
their families, and overseas citizens can vote
when away from their voting residence?



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HOW TO VOTE FROM ANYWHERE

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MILITARY OR LIVING OVERSEAS

STEP

1

Register
and request
your absentee
ballot at
FVAP.gov

STEP

2

Fill out and
send in your
ballot when
it arrives

Get everything you need to vote absentee at **FVAP.gov**

How to Vote from Anywhere in **2 Simple Steps...**

WHEN YOU'RE AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS



ACROSS THE POND?
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN VOTE.

If you're an American living abroad, you can have your absentee ballot sent to you.

HERE'S HOW:

STEP 1

FILL OUT THE *FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)* AT FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT

WHEN?

Send in your FPCA by your State's specific deadline. Find it at FVAP.gov.

STEP 2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN?

By the recommended deadline of **October 15, 2016.**

DIDN'T GET YOUR BALLOT IN TIME?

No worries. Get a *Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)* from FVAP.gov.

WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?

Check the status at FVAP.gov.

THAT'S IT. YOU'RE AN OVERSEAS VOTER
GET MORE INFO AND ASSISTANCE AT FVAP.GOV



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Americans can vote. Wherever they are.