



# BLUE HEN VOTER

Information for Uniformed Service and Overseas Citizen Voters

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Published by the Department of Elections for New Castle County, Delaware on behalf of the State Election Commissioner

## A message from the State Election Commissioner

Delaware recently integrated all voter registration and absentee voting services into the user friendly *Vote Delaware* system at <http://ivote.de.gov>.

You, as a military or overseas citizen voter should use the “Uniformed services or overseas citizen voter” option under “Absentee Services” to register to vote, update your registration and request an absentee ballot by filling out and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

*Vote Delaware* gives you several options to apply your signature to the FPCA and to the oath that accompanies your voted ballot. You still have the option to return the FPCA and voted ballot by mail, email or FAX.

*Vote Delaware* also includes the capability for you to find the status of your FPCA and ballot.

Please contact me at [elaine.manlove@state.de.us](mailto:elaine.manlove@state.de.us) or the Department of Election for your county if you need help.

Remember, for fast service use **iVOTE.DE.gov**

Sincerely,

State Election Commissioner

## Important dates

**Now** - Send a completed FPCA to your county Department

**Jul 25** - All UOCAVA ballots for the Primary Election requested by this day must be sent by close of business

**Aug 25** - Last day a UOCAVA voter can register to vote before the Primary Election

**Sept 5** - Last day absentee ballots for the Primary Election can be mailed

**Sept 9 @ 8 p.m. (EDT)** - deadline for voted absentee ballots to be received by your county Department for the Primary Election

**Sept 19** - All UOCAVA ballots for the General Election requested by this day must be sent by close of business

**Oct 20**—Last day a UOCAVA voter can register to vote before the General Election

**Oct 31** - Last day absentee ballots for the General Election can be mailed

**Nov 4 @ 8 p.m. (EST)** - deadline for voted absentee ballots to be received by your county Department for the General Election

## Our Standard of Service

Once absentee ballots are available, the Departments try to send ballots the same day that a request is received.

### Things you should do

1. Send in an FPCA before every General Election. The earlier the better.
2. Let the Department of Elections for your county know if you change your name, address, mailing address and/or email address by sending in a new FPCA with the updated information.
3. If you don't get your ballot, contact the Department of Elections for your county immediately. Don't wait until Election Day. The important dates listed in the adjacent column should give you an idea when you should receive your ballot.
4. Make sure that your spam and junk mail filters let emails get to you from the addresses listed on our UOCAVA page at <http://tinyurl.com/uocavaemail>. Ballots sent by email are at times “lost” because they end up in a “junk mail” folder or are deleted by the recipient.
5. Mark and return your ballot as soon as possible after you get it.
6. Follow the instructions for returning your ballot!
7. Check on the status of your ballot by checking *Vote Delaware* at <http://ivote.de.gov>.
8. Follow the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dodfvap>.
9. Follow Delaware's Elections offices that are on Facebook or Twitter - the links are listed in the “Contact” info on the back of this document.

### Who has to send a new FPCA

Everyone who is not a Permanent Absentee voter. You can find if you are a Permanent Absentee voter at <http://elections.delaware.gov/reports/absperm.shtml>.

Anyone who needs to update their voter registration information such as address, mailing address, email address, name.

If you are not sure, send one. You can send a completed FPCA to the Department of Elections for your county by mail, email or FAX.

## Observations

Delaware began Electronic Delivery of absentee ballots to Uniformed Service and Overseas Citizen (UOCAVA) voters in 2008. Delaware went a step further in 2010 when it also authorized the Electronic Return of UOCAVA absentee ballots starting with the 2010 elections. These two initiatives have dramatically reduced the percentage of absentee ballots returned late.

### **Percent of UOCAVA absentee ballots returned late**

2006	2008	2010	2012
9.7%	5.0%	2.5%	1.8%

The Departments continue to have some issues with the UOCAVA absentee ballots:

A small number of bad email addresses because people change them and don't notify the Department of Elections for their county.

Ballot information emails are at times blocked by spam filters or go into junk mail queues.

Some voters deleted their ballots as junk mail and had to have them resent.

Some voters did not follow instructions when mailing their ballots back.

### **Urban legend debunked!**

Delaware counts all absentee ballots received on time unless otherwise prohibited by the Delaware Code. Ballots received on-time can't be counted if the ballot envelope is not sealed or the Oath is not signed.

### **Links to UOCAVA Forms and Resources**

#### **Vote Delaware**

<http://ivote.de.gov>

#### **Federal Post Card Application\***

<http://tinyurl.com/fpca2013>

#### **Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot\***

<http://tinyurl.com/fwab2013>

#### **Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)\***

<http://www.fvap.gov/>

#### **FVAP Voting Assistance Guide\***

<http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag>

#### **Overseas Vote Foundation\***

<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/>

### **Important Primary Election information**

Delaware is a "closed primary" state. You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic Primary or as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary.

The last day to change political party affiliation before the 2014 Primary Election was June 2, 2014.

**iVOTE.DE.gov**

## Contacts

### **State Election Commissioner**

**Phone:** (302) 739-4277

**email:** [coe\\_vote@state.de.us](mailto:coe_vote@state.de.us)

**FAX:** (302) 739-6794

**WEB Page:** <http://elections.delaware.gov>

**Mail:** State Election Commissioner  
905 S GOVERNOR'S AVE STE 170  
DOVER DE 19904

**UOCAVA WEB Page:** <http://tinyurl.com/de-uocava>

**UOCAVA single point of contact:**

**email:** [howard.sholl@state.de.us](mailto:howard.sholl@state.de.us)

**Phone:** (302) 577-5066

### **Department of Elections for Kent County**

**Absentee Manager:** Betty Greco

**Phone:** (302) 739-4498

**email:** [absenteekc@state.de.us](mailto:absenteekc@state.de.us)

**FAX:** (302) 739-4515

**WEB Page:** <http://electionskc.delaware.gov>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/KentElectionsDE>

**Facebook:** <http://tinyurl.com/KentElectionsDE>

**Mail:** Dept of Elections for Kent County  
PO Box 699  
DOVER DE 19903-0699

### **Department of Elections for New Castle County**

**Absentee Manager:** Sarah Denzmore

**Phone:** (302) 577-3464

**email:** [absentee@state.de.us](mailto:absentee@state.de.us)

**FAX:** (302) 577-6545

**WEB Page:** <http://electionsncc.delaware.gov>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NCCCElectionsDE>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/doencc>

**Mail:** Dept of Elections for New Castle County  
PO Box 7079  
WILMINGTON DE 19803-0079

### **Department of Elections for Sussex County**

**Absentee Manager:** Lisa H. Briggs

**Phone:** (302) 856-5367

**email:** [absenteesc@state.de.us](mailto:absenteesc@state.de.us)

**FAX:** (302) 856-5082

**WEB Page:** <http://electionssc.delaware.gov>

**Facebook:** <http://tinyurl.com/doesussex>

**Mail:** Dept of Elections for Sussex County  
PO BOX 457  
GEORGETOWN DE 19947-0457

**Note:** Very long URLs were shortened so that they do not wrap.