



# BLUE HEN VOTER

News for Delaware's Uniformed Service and Overseas Citizen Voters

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**IVOTE.DE.gov** Delaware's full service voter portal

## A message from the State Election Commissioner

This is Delaware's first effort to give you information for the 2016 elections.

The first thing that you, as a military or overseas citizen voter, should do is send a Federal Post Card Application with your most current information to the Department's office for your county. Do this even if you are registered as a "Permanent Absentee" voter.

Go to the "Uniformed services or overseas citizen voter" option under "Absentee Services" at <https://ivote.de.gov> to complete your FPCA. Once you complete the FPCA email, FAX or mail it to the Department of Elections office for your county.

Please contact me at [elaine.manlove@state.de.us](mailto:elaine.manlove@state.de.us), Delaware's Single Point of Contact [howard.sholl@state.de.us](mailto:howard.sholl@state.de.us) or the Department of Election office for your county if you need help.

Sincerely,

State Election Commissioner

## Lessons from the 2014 Elections

1. Some email addresses that were good in 2012 were not good in 2014 for various reasons. **Please keep your email and other contact information up-to-date.**
2. A few voters who used Delaware's Ballot Marking tool thought that once they marked their ballot that it was automatically emailed to the Department. This is not true. **The voter must save the ballot to his/her computer and then email, FAX or mail it to the Department's office for their county.** We are revising the prompts and instructions to remind voters of this requirement. This issue caused a lot of frustration both our voters and staff.

## Data from the 2014 General Election

The data is for Uniformed Service & Overseas Citizen voters.

Ballots sent: **636**

Voted ballots returned: **265\***

Ballots counted: **262**

Ballots not counted because they were received late: **3**

**\*The low number returned was expected because many people do not vote in non-Presidential year elections.**

## Our Standard of Service

Once absentee ballots are available, the Department usually 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. Register as a "Permanent Absentee" voter by writing that in item 9 on the FPCA.
3. If you live overseas, **ALWAYS** include your overseas address even if you receive your mail through a U.S. address.
4. Keep the Department's office for your county informed if you change your name, address, mailing address and/or email address by sending in a new FPCA.
3. If you don't get your ballot when expected, contact the Department's office for your county immediately. **Don't wait until Election Day.** The important dates on the back 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/unblock-doe>. Ballots sent by email are at times "lost" because they end up in a "junk mail" folder or are deleted by the recipient.
5. Return your voted ballot as soon as you get it.
6. Follow the instructions for returning your ballot!
7. Check on the status of your ballot at <http://ivote.de.gov> and contact the Department's office for your county if you have any questions or concerns.
8. Follow Delaware's Elections offices that are on Facebook or Twitter - the links are listed in the "Contact" section on the back page.
9. Follow the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dodfvap>.

## Who has to send a new FPCA

Everyone should, even "Permanent Absentee" voters.

Whenever your voter registration information changes. This includes: address, mailing address, email address, and/or name change.

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

## Important dates

**Mar 11:** - UOCAVA ballots for the Presidential Primary requested by this day must be sent by close of business.

**Apr 22** - Last day the Department can mail absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary Election.

**Apr 26 at 8 p.m. (EDT)** - Deadline for the Department's office for your county to receive voted Presidential Primary absentee ballots.

**Jul 29:** - UOCAVA ballots for the Primary Election requested by this day must be sent by close of business.

**Sept 9** - Last day the Department can mail absentee ballots for the Primary Election.

**Sept 13 at 8 p.m. (EDT)** - Deadline for Department's office for your county to receive voted Primary Election absentee ballots.

**Sep 23** - UOCAVA ballots for the General Election requested by this day must be sent by close of business.

**Nov 4** - Last day the Department can mail absentee ballots for the General Election.

**Nov 8 at 8 p.m. (EST)** - Deadline for Department's office for your county to receive voted General Election absentee ballots.

## Urban legend debunked!

Delaware counts all absentee ballots received on-time unless prohibited by the Delaware Code. Ballots received on-time can't be counted if there is more than one ballot in the envelope, 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:

- 2016 Presidential Primary is February 26, 2016.
- 2016 Primary Election is May 28, 2016.



## Department of Elections 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/DOE-UOCAVA>

**UOCAVA single point of contact:**

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

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

### Kent County Office

**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

### New Castle County Office

**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/NCCElectionsDE>

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

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

### Sussex County Office

**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.