

2018 State Submission Rules

The following lists identify states whose rules differ from the majority or create the need for more planning for voters. The list is provided as an overview for volunteers only; verify all details specific to a voting state. Rules can change during election season.

I. FPCA form submission

Most states accept FPCA submission by email, fax and mail.

The following states accept the signed FPCA by mail only:

1. Alabama

These states require that an FPCA used to *register to vote* must be mailed:

1. Florida
2. Idaho
3. Maryland
4. Oregon
5. South Dakota
6. West Virginia
7. Wisconsin
8. Wyoming (registration using the FPCA is considered *temporary*; only Wyoming voters who registered to vote using the WY state registration forms are considered currently registered and may send in the FPCA by email or fax to request a ballot)

The following states accept FPCA by fax or mail, but *not email*:

1. California (may use Email to Request a Ballot if already registered to vote)
2. Louisiana
3. Rhode Island

The following states accept FPCA by fax or email, but must also mail:

1. Arkansas (*some counties accept by Email/Fax without need to mail in original)
2. Connecticut
3. New Jersey
4. New York
5. *Texas (only if fax in; no need to mail in the original if submit FPCA by Email)

II. Identification

Most states required *either* a **State ID** (current Driver's license) *or* the last four digits of the **Social Security Number**, **FPCA Section 1. Who are you?**

The following states require the full Social Security Number (9 digits):

1. New Mexico
2. South Carolina
3. Tennessee
4. Virginia

Birth date is required for all applicants. Applicants who will be 18 by the date of the election may apply at age 17.

The following states have additional ID requirements:

1. Idaho: gender is required
2. South Carolina: must provide your race, must provide your previous location of registration, if in another state (indicate both in Section 6).

III. Party and Primary Elections

Party affiliation is not required if requesting an absentee ballot for general elections. To vote in primary elections, most states require the name of the party ballot you want to receive in the FPCA **Section 5. What is your voting preference?**

Political party not required to vote in primaries of the following states or territories:

1. California
2. Colorado
3. Guam
4. Minnesota
5. Montana
6. North Dakota
7. Washington
8. Wisconsin

IV. Additional Requirements

Information should be indicated in the FPCA **Section 6. What additional information must you provide?.**

1. Alaska: to register to vote, must provide copy of US Passport or other identification issued by US Secy of State (Proof of Alaska residency is not required).
2. Arizona: to register to vote, must provide proof of citizenship. You must include a photocopy, do not send original documents.
3. Puerto Rico: Provide your father's and mother's first names.
4. Vermont: If you have never registered before in Vermont, you must take a self-administered oath or it may be administered by anyone over the age of 18.... Once you have read the Voter's Oath, use the space provided in Section 6 to write the following: "I swear or affirm that I have taken the VT Voter's Oath."
5. Virginia: Overseas citizens whose return is not certain: Provide the name of your employer or the name of your spouse's or parent/guardian's employer. If you do not provide this, you will receive a ballot for federal offices only.

V. Witnessing Requirements

No states have witness requirements for the FPCA.

The following states have witnessing requirements for absentee ballots and the FWAB. Follow specific instructions on ballot. If using the FWAB: witnesses must sign the FWAB **Section 6. What additional information must you provide?**

1. Alabama (2 witnesses)
2. Alaska (1 witness)
3. Virginia (1 witness)

4. Wisconsin (1 witness)

VI. Voted Ballot Return

Many states offer voters options for returning signed and voted ballots to the election official, which include email, fax and mail.

The following states and territories accept voted ballots by mail only:

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|--|--|
| 1. Alabama | postmarked and received in 7 days |
| 2. American Samoa | received by |
| 3. Arkansas | postmarked and received in 10 days |
| 4. Connecticut | received by |
| 5. Georgia | postmarked and received in 3 days |
| 6. Guam | postmarked and received in 10 days |
| 7. Idaho | received by |
| 8. Illinois | postmarked and received in 14 days |
| 9. Iowa *email/fax in hostile fire area | postmarked by Mon Nov 5 and received in 6 days |
| 10. Kentucky | received by |
| 11. Maryland | postmarked and received in 10 days |
| 12. Michigan | received by |
| 13. Minnesota | received by |
| 14. Missouri * email/fax in hostile fire | postmarked and received in 3 days |
| 15. New Hampshire | received by |
| 16. New York | postmarked by Mon Nov 5 and received in 13 days |
| 17. Ohio | postmarked and received in 10 days |
| 18. Pennsylvania | postmarked by Mon Nov 5 and received in 7 days |
| 19. Puerto Rico | No federal elections in 2018 |
| 20. South Dakota | received by |
| 21. Tennessee | received by |
| 22. Texas * fax if in hostile fire area | postmarked and received in 7 days |
| 23. Vermont | received by Mon Nov 5 |
| 24. Virginia | received by |
| 25. Wisconsin | received by |
| 26. Wyoming | received by |

The following states accept voted ballots by email/fax conditionally, as well as mail:

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|-----------------|---|
| 1. Alaska | * fax only if you requested your absentee ballot by fax |
| 2. Nebraska | * email/fax requires prior approval, contact your local election office |
| 3. New Jersey | * if sent by email/fax, must immediately mail ballot to the Board of Election |
| 4. Rhode Island | * fax only if you requested your absentee ballot by fax |

The following states accept voted ballots by fax or mail, but *not email*:

1. California
2. Florida
3. Louisiana
4. Oklahoma

The following state require that the ballot is received the day **before** Election Day:

1. Vermont **received by Mon Nov 5** (must mail)

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The following states require the ballot be sent by Monday, November 5:

2. Iowa (must mail)
3. New York (must mail)
4. North Dakota (email, fax or mail)
5. Pennsylvania (must mail)

VII. Using the FWAB

The Federal Write-In Ballot is intended as an emergency backup ballot if the state ballot does not arrive in time to return it before the state deadline.

The following states require a voter be registered and have requested a ballot in order to use the FWAB. Submit the FPCA along with the FWAB.

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|-------------------|---|
| 1. Alabama | 12. New Jersey |
| 2. Arkansas | 13. New Mexico |
| 3. Connecticut | 14. New York |
| 4. Florida | 15. Rhode Island |
| 5. Hawaii | 16. South Dakota * <i>not listed on FWAB form</i> |
| 6. Idaho | 17. Texas |
| 7. Illinois | 18. Vermont |
| 8. Indiana | 19. West Virginia |
| 9. Kansas | 20. Wisconsin |
| 10. Louisiana | 21. Wyoming |
| 11. New Hampshire | |

and the following territories:

1. American Samoa
2. Guam
3. Puerto Rico

The following states accept the FWAB as voter registration and/or ballot request when voting for the election (must meet same registration/request deadlines as relevant):

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alaska | 16. Montana |
| 2. Arizona | 17. Nebraska |
| 3. California | 18. Nevada |
| 4. Colorado | 19. North Carolina |
| 5. Delaware | 20. North Dakota |
| 6. Georgia | 21. Ohio |
| 7. Iowa | 22. Oklahoma |
| 8. Kentucky | 23. Oregon |
| 9. Maine | 24. Pennsylvania* |
| 10. Maryland | 25. South Carolina |
| 11. Massachusetts | 26. Tennessee |
| 12. Michigan | 27. Utah |
| 13. Minnesota | 28. Virginia |
| 14. Mississippi | 29. Washington |
| 15. Missouri | |

and the following territories:

1. District of Columbia
2. Virgin Islands

*PA allows overseas citizens who have not submitted the FPCA to use the FWAB to vote in elections for federal office, but expands that right for those who have already requested a ballot to use the FWAB to vote in all elections for federal, State and local offices, including ballot measures.

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These states require a witness when using the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB):

1. Alabama (2 witnesses)
2. Alaska (1 witness)
3. Virginia (1 witness)
4. Wisconsin (1 witness)

Witness(es) must sign the FWAB **Section 6. What additional information must you provide?**

VIII. Voting and Taxation

Voting for candidates for federal offices does NOT affect your federal or state tax liability.

Voting for candidates for state or local offices could affect your state tax liability.

See Also

- [2018 Primary Elections Deadlines](#)
- [2018 General Election Deadlines](#)
- [2018 Chronological Election Deadlines](#)