

The 2016 U.S. Elections: How to Send Your Vote Home

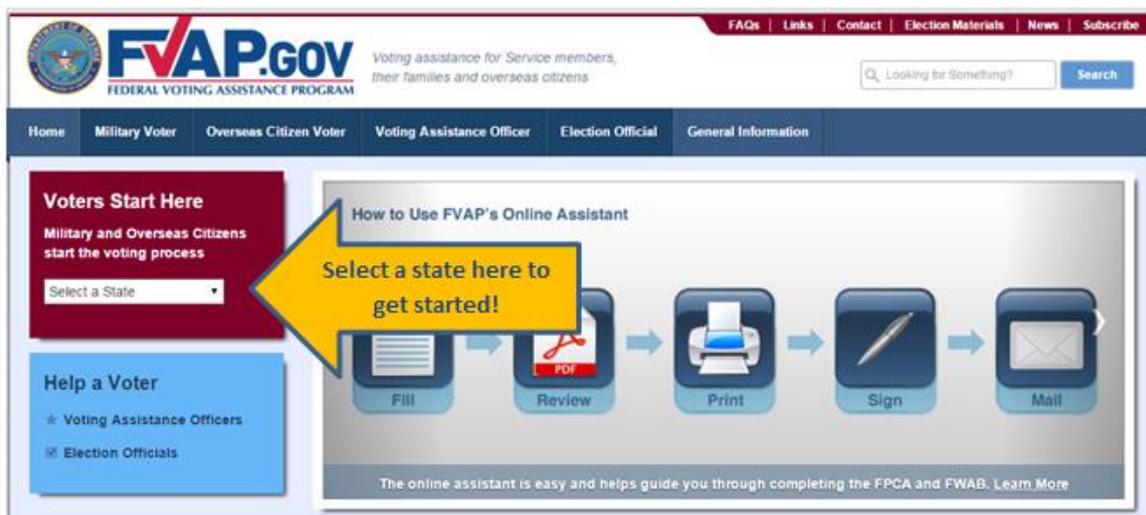
As Americans in the UK, we don't always get to enjoy the American media's 24/7 presidential election coverage, so it may come as a surprise that the first primary elections are about to kick off in February! The FAQs here cover the basics of how to send your vote home from abroad for the primary and general elections.

Can I vote in the 2016 U.S. federal elections?

Most Americans living abroad should be able to vote in U.S. federal elections in 2016. Voting is coordinated through state authorities, so overseas voters need a connection of some kind with a U.S. state in order to vote. To vote from overseas you will have to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and submit a completed ballot, as explained below.

In which state should I register to vote?

For Americans who have lived in the United States at some point, you should register in your last state of residence. For Americans who have never lived in the United States but have a parent, legal guardian, or spouse who did, your relative's last state of domicile may allow you to register there. The **Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) website (www.FVAP.gov)** makes it easy to find out if you are eligible to vote in a particular state. The site also provides a state-by-state guide on how to register to vote and how to request and submit your absentee ballot. Just select the state where you are registered or would like to register on the top left corner of the FVAP homepage to get started.



Can I vote in my state's primary?

Most states allow for absentee voting in primaries, though a few hold caucuses, which require in-person participation. ALL states allow absentee voting for the general election that will take place November 8. The FVAP state guidance will clarify your eligibility to vote in your state's primary election.

When should I request and submit my absentee ballot?

Each state has its own deadlines for registering to vote, requesting absentee ballots, and sending completed absentee ballots, both for the primary and general election. Using the FVAP state-by-state guidance, you can find your state's deadlines and the necessary forms for registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot.

How do I submit my registration, ballot request, and absentee ballot?

All states will accept these documents by mail; Royal Mail offers convenient, affordable mailing options to the United States with 5-7 day delivery times. You may also drop off any of these items at the U.S. Embassy in London in a completed, postage-paid envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the FVAP homepage). Some states will also accept documents by email or fax. You can find your state's specific guidelines and contact information on www.FVAP.gov.

If I request an absentee ballot for my state primary, will I automatically receive one for the general election?

That is sometimes the case, but to be safe you may wish contact your local election authority to confirm their policy.

Will there be a polling station at the U.S. Embassy on Election Day?

No. The only way to vote from overseas is by absentee ballot. Staff at the U.S. Embassy in London are here to answer your questions about voting from abroad, but it is not possible to vote in-person at the Embassy.