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, Delaware’s Single Point of Contact howard.sholl@state.de.us or the Department of Election office for your county if you need help.

Sincerely,

Elaine Manlove
State Election Commissioner

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.
5. 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.

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.

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 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.

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
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
Phone: (302) 577-5066

Kent County Office
Absentee Manager: Betty Greco
Phone: (302) 739-4498
email: absenteeekc@state.de.us
FAX: (302) 739-4515
WEB Page: http://electionskc.delaware.gov
Twitter: https://twitter.com/KentElectionsDE
Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/KentEleconsDE
Mail: Dept of Elecons 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
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
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.