

RHODE ISLAND

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

SAMPLE FORM

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)			
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF _____		COUNTY OF _____	
		CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF _____	
§ I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.			
1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (See instruction 1.)		6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See instructions.)	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		b. SEX c. RACE	
d. DATE OF BIRTH		e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card)		7. REMARKS (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See instructions.)	
2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)			
a. YEAR		b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP	
c. STATE		d. VOTER REGISTRATION NO. (if known)	
3. VOTING RESIDENCE (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)			
a. LAST DAY OF RESIDENCY		b. NUMBER AND STREET (do not use Post Office Box)	
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		d. STATE	
e. COUNTY OR PARISH		f. ZIP CODE (9-digit, if known)	
4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO: (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)			
5. YOUR FAX NUMBER (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See Instructions.)		8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT	
		X only one: a, b, c or d I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See instructions)	
		a. a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent.	
		b. a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.	
		c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent.	
		d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.	
		e. I am a U.S. Citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribe to any required state/local oath or statement.	
		f. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated.	
		g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.	
		h. The information on this form is true and complete.	
		i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	
		j. DATE	
		DATE SIGNED	
		(If required by state law)	
		9. WITNESS/NOTARY ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE	
		(If required by state law)	

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

Application Instructions

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions below. You must complete all shaded areas.

- A** Your current and valid Rhode Island driver’s license number is required in 1.f. If you do not have a current and valid Rhode Island driver’s license number, the last four digits of your Social Security number are required in 1.e. If you do not possess either of these identifications, Rhode Island shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voting purposes.
- B** Do not leave blank. Enter “N/A” if not applicable or if you are a first time voter.
- C** Provide the complete address of your Rhode Island voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location. For example: “on Highway ____, 2 miles past Highway ____, across the street from the ____ gas station.” This address must be different from the one provided in Item 4 and must be within the city or town where you claim legal voting residence.

- D** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. Your current mailing address must be different from the address you provided in Item 3.
- E** You must list a party affiliation to vote in primaries, e.g., Democrat, Republican or write “none” in Item 6 of the FPCA. Changes of party affiliation must be made on or before the 90th day before the election. Political party affiliation is not required to vote in general elections.
- F** Check ONE box.
- G** You are swearing or affirming that the information provided is true and correct by signing the FPCA.
- H** If you are an “other” overseas citizen (see Section II. A.) requesting a state voter registration form only, a notary public, commissioned officer, consular officer, or other authorized person must complete this section.

I. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island, members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, and members of religious groups or welfare agencies officially attached to the Armed Forces overseas and their spouses and dependents accompanying them outside the state. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

This single FPCA can be extended beyond one year to the length of the assignment at a duty station (if over one year) by completing an absentee ballot certificate. In Item 7 of the FPCA write: “I request an absentee ballot certificate (Section 17-20-9.2).” When you receive the certificate, complete the form (including your name, Rhode Island address, duty station address where you want your ballot mailed, length of time assigned to that duty station) and obtain the name and signature of the military commander.

Rhode Island waives registration.

To request an absentee ballot, the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence must receive your FPCA not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the State Board of Elections by **9:00 p.m. on election day**.

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. State elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and then will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you are outside the U.S. and have not received your official state ballot or official blank state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below and in Chapter 2, page 12.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA, Item 5. Use fax numbers below.
- Rhode Island will transmit the appropriate ballot by fax and by mail to the voter.
- Rhode Island allows you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix C for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. Use the following numbers:

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527
1-800-368-8683

Additional international toll-free fax numbers are listed on the inside back cover.

F. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island provides an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available.

G. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island has expanded the use of the Federal Write-In Ballot (FWAB). The instructions described in Chapter 2 remain the same except that Rhode Island also allows the FWAB to be used to vote for offices in state and local elections.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

II. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island and overseas citizens. The term “overseas citizen” means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Rhode Island.

Notify Your Local Election Official About Your Current Mailing Address

- overseas citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. by reason of employment by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government, overseas citizens employed outside the U.S. and spouses and dependents of such persons (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- “other” overseas citizens residing outside the U.S. (for Federal office ballots)

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To request an absentee ballot, send the FPCA to the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

Rhode Island waives registration except for “other” overseas citizens residing outside the U.S. “Other” overseas citizens must complete a voter registration form and an Affidavit of Absentee Voter Upon Registration; both documents must be returned to the Board of Canvassers not later than 30 days before the election.

These forms may be requested by using the FPCA, letter, telephone, fax or e-mail.

“Other” overseas citizens are those persons who reside outside the territorial limits of the U.S., for reasons other than employment or military service.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the state board of elections **by 9:00 p.m. on election day.**

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. For overseas citizens employed outside the U.S., state elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below and in Chapter 2, page 12.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

FPCA: No notary or witness required. However, “other” overseas citizens, in order to register to vote, must have their Affidavit of Absentee Voter Upon Registration notarized by a person authorized to administer oaths.

Ballot Return Envelope: No notary or witness required.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA, Item 5. Use fax numbers below.
- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island will transmit the appropriate ballot by fax and by mail to the voter.
- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island allows you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix C for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. **Use the following numbers:**

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Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

III. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Bars to Registration and Voting

No person convicted of a felony can vote until completion of the sentence, including parole or probation, regardless of a no contest plea. Upon such completion, the person’s right to vote shall be restored. No person declared mentally incapable can vote.

B. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is canceled for failure to respond to confirmation mailings along with the failure to vote in the next two general (Federal office) elections.

C. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Rhode Island shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Denial of registration may be appealed to the State Board of Elections. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

D. Late Registration

Any member of the Armed Forces or of the merchant marine of the U.S. in active service, and any person absent from the state in the performance of “services intimately connected with military operations”; any person who is employed by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government and who by reason of such employment resides outside of the continental U.S.; and any person employed outside the territorial limits of the U.S. shall be exempt from registration during the period of his/her service or employment for 2 years after their return to the U.S.

E. Voting By Citizens Who Have Never Lived in the U.S.

If the person is a U.S. citizen and has never lived in the U.S. but has a parent who is a qualified Rhode Island elector, then this person will be eligible to register and vote in Federal elections.

F. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the **Board of Canvassers**, city or town of voting residence listed below:

City or Town	Zip Code
Barrington	02806-2406
Bristol	02809-2230
Burrillville	02830-1420

City or Town	Zip Code
Central Falls	02863-2835
Charlestown	02813-3454
Coventry	02816-8909
Cranston	02910-2738
Cumberland	02864-8351
East Greenwich	02818-3808
East Providence	02914-4530
Exeter	02822-2446
Foster	02825-1226
Glocester	02814-1959
Hopkinton	02833-1142
Jamestown	02835-1149
Johnston	02919-7191
Lincoln	02865-1332
Little Compton	02837-1543
Middletown	02842-7264
Narragansett	02882-3612
Newport	02840-2792
New Shoreham	02807-0220
North Kingstown	02852-5767
North Providence	02911-1740
North Smithfield	02876-7227
Pawtucket	02860-2163
Portsmouth	02871-1268
Providence	02903-1738
Richmond	02898-1247
Scituate	02857-1906
Smithfield	02917-3224
South Kingstown	02879-3140
Tiverton	02878-4401
Warren	02885-4369
Warwick	02886-7145
Westerly	02891-1888
West Greenwich	02817-2155
West Warwick	02893-4829
Woonsocket	02895-4330

“Your Vote Counts, No Matter Where You Are”

by Ben D. Roth, Civilian, Ramstein, Germany