

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

Website: [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org)

Link to state election website is also available through FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

**Democratic Presidential Primary Date: January 26, 2008\***

**Republican Presidential Primary Date: January 19, 2008\***

**State Primary Date: June 10, 2008**

**State Runoff Primary Date: June 24, 2008**

**General Election Date: November 4, 2008**

<b>Deadlines for Uniformed Services**</b>	<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>State Primary</b>	<b>State Runoff Primary</b>	<b>General Election</b>
<b>Registration</b>	December 26, 2007	December 19, 2007	May 10, 2008	May 10, 2008	October 4, 2008
<b>Ballot Request</b>	January 22, 2008	January 15, 2008	June 6, 2008	June 20, 2008***	October 31, 2008
<b>Ballot Return</b>	January 26, 2008	January 19, 2008	June 10, 2008	June 24, 2008	November 4, 2008

<b>DEADLINES FOR CIVILIANS OUTSIDE THE U.S.**</b>	<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>State Primary</b>	<b>State Runoff Primary</b>	<b>General Election</b>
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\* Note: Election dates and information are current as of July 2007. Check the state election website above, the FVAP Website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for updates.

\*\* Special conditions may apply; check the following pages for details.

\*\*\* South Carolina will send an "Instant Runoff" ballot with your State Primary ballot for use in the State Runoff Primary.

# SOUTH CAROLINA

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

## FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

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<b>REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)</b>	
<b>1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (mark only one):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT <input type="checkbox"/> (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY <input type="checkbox"/> (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY	
<b>2. MY INFORMATION (Required)</b> a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle) _____ SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.) _____ b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable) _____ c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F d. RACE <b>A</b> e. DATE OF BIRTH <b>M M D D Y Y Y Y</b> f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ - <b>B</b> - _____ g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER _____ h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes) _____ i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes) _____ j. EMAIL ADDRESS _____	
<b>3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (For military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) (Required)</b> a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box) _____ b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE <b>C</b> c. COUNTY _____ d. STATE _____ e. ZIP CODE _____	
<b>4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS</b> a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required) _____ <b>D</b> _____ b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (Complete 4.b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4.a.) _____ c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY: <b>E</b> <input type="checkbox"/> MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL	
<b>5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):</b> _____ <b>F</b> _____	
<b>6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots — see instructions for Block 6 paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)</b> _____ _____ <b>G</b> _____ _____	
<b>7. AFFIRMATION (required)</b> I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: 1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and 2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and 3. 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, and 4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and 5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and 6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury. Signed: _____ <b>H</b> _____ Date: _____ M M D D Y Y Y Y Signed: _____ Date: _____ M M D D Y Y Y Y (Witness/Notary and address (if required))	

## I. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FPCA

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.** Circled letters correspond to the circled letters on the sample form on the preceding page.

A. **Block 2.d:** You are requested to fill out this box. This information is requested from some states by the Department of Justice in its enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act. Enter the choice that best describes you from the following list: W= White; B/AA= Black/African-American; A= Asian; H= Hispanic; N= Native American; O= Other.

B. **Block 2.f:** Your Social Security number is required.

C. **Block 3:** Provide the complete street address of your South Carolina voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. 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 Block 4 and must be within the county or township where you claim legal voting residence.

D. **Block 4.a:** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent - usually your current mailing address. It must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.

E. **Block 4.c:** See Section II.D. or III.D.

F. **Block 5: If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections.** You must indicate your political party affiliation when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat, Republican) or write “none” in Block 5 of the FPCA. Political party choice is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections.

G. **Block 6:** Submission of this form serves as a request to receive ballots for all Federal elections held through the next two regularly scheduled general elections. If you do not wish to receive ballots for that length of time, you may request a ballot for each election for Federal office held in the next election year OR a ballot for only the next scheduled election for Federal office by noting your choice here.

Refer to section II.E or III.E for additional instructions.

H. **Block 7:** You must sign and date the FPCA. When signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

## II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of South Carolina and members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. 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.

### A. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter Two).

**To register and request an absentee ballot,** send a completed FPCA to the Board of Voter Registration so that it arrives not later than 30 days before the election.

**If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot,** send a completed FPCA to the local county Board of Voter Registration so that it arrives not later than four days before the election. However, waiting too long may make it impossible for you to receive your blank ballot in time to return it by the deadline for receipt of voted ballots.

### B. Casting Your Vote

**Ballot Return Deadline:** Voted ballot must arrive by the close of polls on election day.

Local election officials mail out absentee ballots at least 45 days before the election.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instruction in Chapter Two.

### C. Notary/Witness Requirements

**FPCA:** No notary or witness required.

**Returning a Ballot:** The oath on the ballot return envelope must be witnessed.

### D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- South Carolina allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot requests and registration by fax. You must also submit the original FPCA by mail.
- South Carolina allows you to receive the blank ballot by fax or email.
- South Carolina allows you to return the voted ballot by fax or email. The South Carolina State Election Commission prefers ballots to be faxed directly to County Election Commissions. Fax number for

County Election Commissions are available from the South Carolina State Election Commission website at <http://www.scvotes.org/howtoregister>.

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

DSN 223-5527  
(703) 693-5527

1-800-368-8683

(from U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands only)

International toll-free fax numbers  
(See inside back cover)

### E. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

South Carolina provides a state special write-in absentee ballot available 90 days before the election if you will be unable to vote by regular absentee ballot or in person due to requirements of military service or due to living in an isolated or extremely remote area of the world.

You may use the FPCA to request this state special write-in ballot. In **Block 6 of the FPCA** write: "I am unable to vote by regular absentee ballot or in person due to requirements of military service or due to living in isolated or extremely remote areas of the world. I request a special write-in absentee ballot."

You must request the state special write-in ballot not earlier than 90 days before an election and you may use it to vote for Federal offices, statewide offices, and members of the South Carolina General Assembly by writing in a political party choice or the names of specific candidates.

### F. Late Registration

Any person eligible to register who has been discharged or separated from service in the Armed Forces of the U.S., and returned home too late to register at the time when registration is required, is entitled to register for the purpose of voting in the next ensuing election after discharge or separation from service, up to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election. This application for registration must be made at the office of the Board of Voter Registration in the county in which the person wishes to register, and if qualified, the person must be issued a registration notification stating the precinct in which the person is entitled to vote and a certification to the managers of the precinct that the person is entitled to vote and should be placed on the registration rolls of the precinct.

### G. Bars to Registration and Voting

A person is disqualified from being registered or voting if she/he: is mentally incompetent as adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction; is serving a term of imprisonment resulting from a conviction of a crime; or is convicted of a felony or offenses against the election laws, unless the

disqualification has been removed by service of the sentence, including probation and parole time unless sooner pardoned.

### H. Cancellation of Registration

Permanent registration may be canceled if voting residence is changed to another South Carolina county or state or committing a crime as noted in Section B above.

### I. Action on Registration Requests

Notice of acceptance or denial is sent.

### J. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, South Carolina shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection.

### K. Action If Registration Is Denied

Persons denied registration should correct the defects noted in the denial notice. If a second denial is received, consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

## III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of South Carolina 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 South Carolina.

- members of the American Red Cross or service agencies serving with the Armed Forces (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- employees of the U.S. Government serving overseas (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- spouses and dependents who reside with the above persons (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- South Carolina residents temporarily residing outside the U.S. (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- overseas citizens (for Federal office ballots only)

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**IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.**

**Where To Send It**

Mail the FPCA to the **Board of Voter Registration**, county of voting residence, as listed below:

County	Mailing Address
Abbeville	Abbeville Board of Voter Registration PO Box 417 Abbeville, SC 29620-0417
Aiken	Aiken Board of Voter Registration PO Box 3127 Aiken, SC 29802-3127
Allendale	Allendale Board of Voter Registration 426 Mulberry Street, Unit A Allendale, SC 29810-0552
Anderson	Anderson Board of Voter Registration PO Box 8002 Anderson, SC 29622
Bamberg	Bamberg Board of Voter Registration PO Box 947 Bamberg, SC 29003
Barnwell	Barnwell Board of Voter Registration County Courthouse, Room 103 Barnwell, SC 29812
Beaufort	Beaufort Board of Voter Registration PO Box 1228 Beaufort, SC 29901-1228
Berkeley	Berkeley Board of Voter Registration PO Box 6122 Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Calhoun	Calhoun Board of Voter Registration 102 Courthouse Drive, Suite 113 St. Matthews, SC 29135-1479
Charleston	Charleston Board of Voter Registration PO Box 71419 Charleston, SC 29415-1419
Cherokee	Cherokee Board of Voter Registration 1434 N. Limestone Street Gaffney, SC 29340-4734
Chester	Chester Board of Voter Registration PO Box 580 Chester, SC 29706-0580
Chesterfield	Chesterfield Board of Voter Registration 416 West Boulevard Chesterfield, SC 29709
Clarendon	Clarendon Board of Voter Registration PO Box 548 Manning, SC 29102
Colleton	Colleton Board of Voter Registration PO Box 97 Walterboro, SC 29488-0001
Darlington	Darlington Board of Voter Registration 300 Russell Street, Room 107 Darlington, SC 29532-3329
Dillon	Dillon Board of Voter Registration PO Box 973 Dillon, SC 29536-0973
Dorchester	Dorchester Board of Voter Registration 201 Johnston Street Saint George, SC 29477-2443
Edgefield	Edgefield Board of Voter Registration PO Box 442 Edgefield, SC 29824-0442
Fairfield	Fairfield Board of Voter Registration PO Drawer 60 Winnsboro, SC 29180-0060
Florence	Florence Board of Voter Registration Public Services Building 2685 South Irby Street, Room 53 Florence, SC 29505

County	Mailing Address
Georgetown	Georgetown Board of Voter Registration PO Box 421270 Georgetown, SC 29442
Greenville	Greenville Board of Voter Registration 301 University Ridge, Suite 1900 Greenville, SC 29601-3668
Greenwood	Greenwood Board of Voter Registration 600 Monument Street, Box P-117 Greenwood, SC 29646-2642
Hampton	Hampton Board of Voter Registration 201 Jackson Avenue West Hampton, SC 29924
Horry	Horry Board of Voter Registration 103 Elm Street Conway, SC 29526-5116
Jasper	Jasper Board of Voter Registration PO Box 299 Ridgeland, SC 29936-0299
Kershaw	Kershaw Board of Voter Registration 515 Walnut Street Camden, SC 29020-3649
Lancaster	Lancaster Board of Voter Registration PO Box 1809 Lancaster, SC 29721-1809
Laurens	Laurens Board of Voter Registration PO Box 769 Laurens, SC 29360
Lee	Lee Board of Voter Registration PO Box 309 Bishopville, SC 29010
Lexington	Lexington Board of Voter Registration 605 W. Main Street, Suite 105 Lexington, SC 29072-2550
McCormick	McCormick Board of Voter Registration PO Box 636 McCormick, SC 29835-0636
Marion	Marion Board of Voter Registration 137 Airport Ct., Suite E Mullins, SC 29574-6034
Marlboro	Marlboro Board of Voter Registration PO Box 502 Bennettsville, SC 29512-0502
Newberry	Newberry Board of Voter Registration PO Box 147 Newberry, SC 29108
Oconee	Oconee Board of Voter Registration 415 S. Pine St. Walhalla, SC 29691-2145
Orangeburg	Orangeburg Board of Voter Registration PO Box 9000 Orangeburg, SC 29116-9000
Pickens	Pickens Board of Voter Registration 222 McDaniel Avenue, B-9 Pickens, SC 29671-2556
Richland	Richland Board of Voter Registration PO Box 192 Columbia, SC 29202
Saluda	Saluda Board of Voter Registration 111 Law Range Saluda, SC 29138-1701
Spartanburg	Spartanburg Board of Voter Registration PO Box 1287 Spartanburg, SC 29304-1287
Sumter	Sumter Board of Voter Registration 141 N. Main Street, Room 114 Sumter, SC 29150-4987
Union	Union Board of Voter Registration Supervisor's Office 320 East Main Street Union, SC 29379-2215
Williamsburg	Williamsburg Board of Voter Registration 5 Courthouse Square Kingstree, SC 29556-3932
York	York Board of Voter Registration E.C. Black Building 13 S. Congress Street York, SC 29745

***VOTE! We're counting on You!***

by 2nd Lt Brandon A. Bard (USAF), Shaw AFB, SC