



# STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

## Frequently Asked Questions from U.S. Students Studying Abroad

**Q: Can I vote online? Can I sign my voter registration, Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)/ State Ballot /Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) electronically?**

**A:** States do not allow online voting, but many allow for online voter registration and alternative methods for returning the voted ballot. If your state does allow voted ballots to be emailed or uploaded (see QR Code below), you still have to print, sign, scan, and send it to your election office.

**Q: I'm already registered to vote in my home state, can my parent(s), or another family member just mail my ballot to me from the United States?**

**A:** Your parent(s), or another family member should not mail your ballot to you from the United States. In order to have the blank ballot sent directly to you 45 days before an election, you must register to vote and request a ballot using a FPCA (using the QR Code below and a printer) and send it to your election office. You can request your blank ballot to be sent to you electronically, which is the fastest way to receive your ballot.

**Q: Can I send in my FPCA before I go abroad?**

**A:** While you can register to vote before leaving, your absentee ballot request must contain your mailing address overseas.

**Q: I will be studying abroad in more than one location, which one should I put down as my overseas address?**

**A:** Use the address where you think you will be living at the time of the election. If you are not sure of the address, put down as much as you know, even if it's just the address of the school you will be attending. You may request your blank ballot be sent to you electronically for fast receipt. Your election office mainly needs to know that you are actually overseas. If you put down a U.S.- based address your FPCA could be rejected.

**Q: I already know who I want to vote for, can I send in a FWAB (back-up ballot) now just in case I don't get my state ballot in time?**

**A:** Yes, as long as you are overseas, you can send your FWAB at any time to ensure the voted ballot arrives by the state's election deadline. Then if you receive your requested state ballot later, you can vote and send that in also. If both arrive by the deadline, the election office will only count one ballot. Be sure to indicate the election the voted ballot is for (primary, general, run-off) on the outside of the FWAB envelope.



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