

Voting Residence: Overseas U.S. Citizens

Why do I need a voting residence?

Your election official needs your exact voting residence address in order to determine your voting precinct—and for which offices and candidates you are eligible to vote. Even if you are only voting for federal offices, the local election official still needs to identify your voting residence to send you the appropriate absentee ballot for that voting precinct.

What is my voting residence?

Your voting residence is the **State in which you last resided** immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This residence remains valid even if:

- ✓ You no longer own property or have other ties to that State.
- ✓ Your intent to return to that State is uncertain.
- ✓ Your previous address is no longer a recognized residential address.

Are there tax implications for claiming an address as your voting residence?

- ✓ Voting in an election for Federal offices may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purpose of imposing State and local taxes. If you claim a particular State as your residence and have other ties to that State in addition to voting, you may be liable for State and local taxation, depending on that particular State law. If you are unsure of your voting residence or if you are concerned about the tax implications of claiming a specific voting residence, you should consult legal counsel.

What if I was born overseas and have never resided in the U.S.?

Voting rights vary by State for U.S. citizens born overseas who have never established residency in the U.S.

- ✓ **Thirty-one States** have passed legislation to allow these citizens to vote if their parents are eligible to vote in that State. In these cases, **your voting residence may be your parent's voting residence.**

States allowing citizens born overseas who never resided in the U.S. to claim a parent's voting residence

Alaska	Iowa	North Dakota
Arizona	Kansas	Ohio
California	Kentucky	Oklahoma
Colorado	Maine	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Massachusetts	South Dakota
Delaware	Michigan	Tennessee
District of Columbia	Nebraska	Virginia
Georgia	New Hampshire	Washington
Hawaii	New York	West Virginia
Illinois	North Carolina	Wisconsin
		Wyoming

- ✓ If neither of your parents is from one of these States, you may not currently have voting rights. However, additional States are working on passing legislation to allow citizens born overseas who have never established residency in the U.S. to vote in the State in which their parents are eligible. Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* for the most current State information (<http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag>).