

VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT GUIDE

Uniformed & Overseas Civilians (and their spouses) UOCAVA

Just because you're far away, doesn't mean you can't be heard.

When you left the country, your voting rights went with you.

Our freedom and the privilege to be able to vote in an open, democratic, process to elect our leaders, is due in large part to you, our military men and women, and the soldiers who served before you. Regardless of where you are in the world, you have the right to cast a ballot in every election, and more importantly, have it arrive in time to count. If you are in the military, a dependant, or a citizen living overseas and you are registered to vote, you will be mailed a ballot. However, your current location and mail delivery time could cause a delay. To make sure your vote counts, please read the alternatives outlined in this guide.

- Let us know of any changes to your mail address!
- UOCAVA ballots are mailed 30 days prior to elections.
- For UOCAVA voters, the date you sign the affidavit on the ballot envelope is the date used for validation. (This is because sometimes military and/or overseas mail goes out in pouches then gets postmarked days later).

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

- FWAB's may be used by military and overseas civilian voters residing outside the United States if their regular absentee ballot has not been received in a timely manner.
- FWAB's can be obtained from your Installation Voting Officer or from any US Embassy or Consulate Office or you may request the write-in ballot directly from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov).
- The ballot must be returned by mail with a postmark date no later than the date of election. The date of election is at the top of the ballot.
- FWAB's must be received in the Auditor's office prior to the election being certified. Primary elections are certified 15 days after the election and 21 days after a General election.
- FWAB's are only accepted in Primary and General elections when federal candidates are on the ballot.
- FWAB's will be accepted only if you are outside the United States.
- FWAB's cannot be used as an application to register to vote in Washington State.

Regular All-Mail Ballot Voters

- Active voters will automatically be mailed a regular ballot for every election.
- Ballots are mailed approximately 3 weeks prior to each election.
- Only voters within applicable districts on the ballot will be mailed a ballot. If you are not sure whether or not you should receive a ballot contact the election department as soon as possible (360) 385-9119.

- The ballot must be returned by mail with a postmark date no later than the date of election. The date of election is at the top of the ballot.

Special Ballots

- You may request a special ballot in writing or via email up to 90 days prior to a primary or general election.
- Your application must state that you will not be able to receive and return a regular mail ballot by normal mail within the period provided for regular ballots.
- You will receive a sample ballot containing all of the races and issues on which you are entitled to vote.
- The ballot must be returned by mail with a postmark date no later than the date of election. The date of election is at the top of the ballot.

Email Ballot Program

- *If you are unable to receive, vote and return a regular mail ballot within the normal time frame allowed,* you may request your ballot be sent to you via email.
- To participate in this program you must provide us with your email address, have access to a computer and printer, and have Adobe Acrobat installed on the computer. You can download Adobe Acrobat for free from the Jefferson County website.
- A ballot, voter affidavit, voting instructions and a fold-n-tape return envelope are sent via email as pdf attachments.
- Ballots and accompanying material are sent approximately 3 weeks prior to the election it is requested for.
- The ballot is an exact image of your regular mail ballot.
- The ballot must be returned using mail delivery (not emailed).
- The ballot must be returned by mail with a postmark date no later than the date of election. The date of election is at the top of the ballot.

Affidavit, Envelope & Adobe Acrobat

Voter affidavit for mail-in ballot (use link on Voter Info section of county web page)

Fold-and-tape return mail-in ballot envelope (use link on Voter Info section of county web page)

Adobe Acrobat www.co.jefferson.wa.us

Jefferson County Auditor's Office – Elections Division

1820 Jefferson St

PO Box 563

Port Townsend WA 98368

Donna M Eldridge, County Auditor

(360) 385-9118 deldridge@co.jefferson.wa.us

Karen Cartmel, Chief Deputy Auditor / Election Coordinator

(360) 385-9117 karenc@co.jefferson.wa.us

Betty Johnson, Election Specialist

(360) 385-9119 bettyj@co.jefferson.wa.us