

FAQS: August Primary Ballot Deadlines and Changes to Overseas Voting

Q: How do we access the packet?

A: It's posted with the webinar access information in Recent Clerk Communications or you can click on the *Handouts* field in your webinar dashboard and print off a copy.

Q: The page that is showing is not changing?

A: It's just a slide as a placeholder for the additional and complete documents in your packet.

Q: What if someone requests a ballot be mailed to them on Saturday 11:55 pm and the post office is closed?

A: Putting a requested ballot in your mailbox with the flag up or however you indicate mail is ready to be picked up is an absentee ballot request fulfilled and sent.

Q: Do we need to go to the Village Hall up until midnight to check fax?

A: Yes, if you have a fax machine.

Q: Are Canada and Mexico considered overseas?

A: Yes.

Q: Can the State please send a notification for our boards etc., why we have to work on a Saturday until midnight? They will never believe this is required.

A: You may want to share these documents with them, in particular the UOCAVA memo we posted last week in Recent Clerk Communications. The Saturday deadline is established under federal law. It is not necessary to be available the entire day as long as email, fax and mail requests are monitored and fulfilled by the deadline.

Q: The State is going to be there until Saturday until midnight to assist us as we have never had one of these requests to this point.

A: Yes, we will have staff available by email for questions and will be monitoring MyVote Wisconsin for absentee ballot requests.

Q: Can you please review which type of voter receives a federal-only vs a regular ballot or is there a chart available. I do not see that in our packets today.

A: Permanent overseas voters receive a federal-only ballot; all other types of voters receive the full ballot for this election.

Q: Do military and overseas voters need to meet the mail in deadline for voter registration?

A: Military voters are not required to register, so they can request an absentee ballot through 5:00 p.m. on Election Day. Permanent and temporarily overseas voters must meet the open registration deadline, and their voter registration applications must be postmarked at least 20 days before the election.

Q: Where should the initials appear on the face of the ballot?

A: In a corner of the ballot is fine, place your initials in a uniform manner.

Q: Are voters that are temporarily in the organized U.S. territories considered overseas as far as tracking/reporting? (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

A: Generally, if they have intent to return to the United States, they are considered regular absentee voters. These situations can be more complicated than that, so if you have a voter from a U.S. territory and are unsure of their status, please contact our office.

Q: May we receive this form (FPCA) via email or does it need to have an original “wet” signature?

A: It can be received via email as an absentee ballot request. Military voters do not have to be registered so they can send their absentee request electronically. A registered permanent or temporarily overseas voter can also send in the FPCA electronically as an absentee ballot request. If a permanent or temporarily overseas voter is using the FPCA as both a voter registration application and an absentee ballot request, it must be sent to the clerk via regular mail.

Q: I'm assuming these are the dates for ALL absentee ballot requests we have, whether UOCAVA or not.

A: June 28, 2018 is the state deadline for all absentee voters; June 30, 2018 is the federal deadline for UOCAVA voters. In the event of a large volume of requests, priority should be given to Military, Permanent, and Temporary Overseas voters to ensure compliance to the June 30, 2018 (federal) deadline. There are other deadlines for absentee ballot requests received after these dates as listed in the Election Administration manual on page 117.

Q: Often around this type of election, we get requests for what our procedure is for sending out absentee ballots, doing in-person absentee voting, etc. Could we scan in the instructions, let's say page 21 and 22 out of this packet along with the Type E notice, etc.?

A: You can use the documents we provided in any manner you like. The documents you list explain the absentee voting procedure.

Q: Are there any changes in the Type E notice or other notices due to these changes?

A: There are no changes to the Type E Notice.

Q: We must come into our office at midnight and check. That time needs to change to 5:00 pm – how can we get this time changed?

A: Yes, it is a federal requirement. You will need to contact members of your congressional delegation to request any changes to the deadline.

Q: Are temporarily overseas voters able to access the ballot electronically via MyVote as was previously only available to permanent overseas?

A: No, since temporarily overseas voters must provide photo ID before they can receive a ballot, the MyVote Wisconsin website is not currently configured to allow temporarily overseas voters to receive their ballots electronically.

Q: Just to be sure, temporary overseas electors only receive ballots for federal races, correct?

A: Incorrect. Temporary overseas voters receive a full ballot, only permanent overseas voters receive a federal-only ballot.

Q: How do we know which elections they want a ballot for?

A: If not specified on the request, you should treat it as a calendar-year request.

Q: What if you do not have a fax machine?

A: The statutes specifically state that electors may request an absentee ballot by fax. The municipality must provide a fax number that electors may use, even if the fax number is shared with another office, such as the county clerk. Unless and until this statutory requirement is changed, there is a possibility an elector may file a complaint if they are unable to request an absentee ballot by fax.

Q: If a temporary overseas voter submits the FWAB and is NOT registered, do we retain the FWAB as a write-in ballot for processing if we receive the voter registration application by the deadline, or is it discarded and we do nothing with it because they are not registered?

A: Reach out to the voter and let them know that they need to register. In these types of situations, we recommend that clerks try to contact the voter and call our office for assistance.

Q: So, you are saying clerks need to be in their office to check fax machines, email and mail on Saturday, June 30th until midnight, not typical business hours? Is that reasonable?

A: It is a federal requirement. It is not necessary to be available the entire day as long as email, fax and mail requests are monitored and fulfilled by the deadline. You may have the ability to monitor these requests somewhere other than your office, depending on your circumstances.

Q: Do you have a federal-only ballot available on your website?

A: Your county should have a federal-only ballot available for you. The federal-only ballot we have on the website is a template and does not list your candidates for office.

Q: Are County Clerks aware of this?

A: Yes.

Q: Why don't they draft the form so that online is listed separately from email so we don't have to follow up with the voter. That would make it clearer to the Clerk.

A: Noted and we agree! The form is prepared by the federal government.

Q: Permanent overseas voters only get the "Fed ballot ". Military and not permanent overseas voters get the ballot for the district/ward they are registered in--correct?

A: Yes. Permanent overseas voters are the only type of absentee voter that received the federal-only ballot. All other absentee voters get the full ballot with all federal, state and local contests.

Q: Because of the length of the partisan primary ballot, can the scanned ballot be reduced to 8.5x14? If e-mailed to voters, how are they going to print these ballots because of their length?

A: The ballot can be reduced to send to a voter. The voter can increase the size on their computer to view the candidates and contests and print off and vote the reduced sized ballot to return via regular mail to the municipal clerk.

Q: Under #5, on FPCA application, if they check a political party for primary elections, do we still send them all party ballots?

A: You can disregard any information about political party and should send the full ballot for all parties, unless they are permanent overseas voters and receive federal-only ballots for all parties.

Q: If we are a relier, do we need to let our provider know if a voter is a temporary overseas voter as opposed to a regular voter?

A: Your provider needs to be notified anytime you receive a request, when you have sent out a ballot and when a ballot is returned, among other actions. They will need to know the type of absentee voter as that is information tracked in WisVote and reviewed by WEC staff to ensure that the ballots go out on time.

Q: The post office holds our Saturday mail until Monday. Are you saying we have to go to the post office to find out if we have applications for A.B.?

A: No, a request is considered received when it is delivered as part of the regular mail delivery.

Q: The change regarding Temporary Overseas absentee voters on the absentee ballot application has been made, however you do not have a revision on EL-121. We have just received an absentee ballot application from our county clerk and it does not include the Temporary Overseas.

A: The revised EL-121 has been posted with a revision date of 2018-06.

Q: I have a voter who has checked the Permanently Overseas box, and requested the absentee ballot via online. I don't send her the ballot, correct? She has to go to MyVote to get the ballot?

A: Correct.