

Dear Voter:

As we prepare for the 2020 federal election cycle, we wanted to alert you to recent developments that may impact how overseas American citizens send and receive mail through the Military Postal Service (APO/FPO) or foreign postal addresses. The United States intends to withdraw from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in mid-October 2019, in the absence of reforms adopted by the UPU. Though motivated by other policy concerns, a U.S. departure may impact this type of mail.

United States government officials are currently negotiating bilateral agreements with individual countries and developing other means to ensure continuity of service for the American people. To ensure your ability to use international mail service to submit your 2020 absentee ballot request to the United States, we encourage you to take immediate steps to use the attached Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request receipt of your balloting materials electronically for the 2020 federal election cycle, as allowed by federal law.

Should the U.S. depart the UPU, the availability of international mail service may become dependent on country specific arrangements and overseas voters should consult their Embassy/Installation websites to review their options for mailing official election materials. You may also visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, www.fvap.gov/UPU, for the latest updates and guidance on how best to return your ballot from your current duty station, or foreign country of residence. As in previous years, all overseas American voters can drop off their ballots and official election materials at Embassies and Consulates for onward mailing to your election official.

When completing the attached Federal Post Card Application, please pay attention to the instructions with special attention to the following:

1. In Section 4, please list both a primary and alternate email address.
2. In Section 5, specify your preference for receiving voting materials by email or online to avoid reliance on international mail and specify a political party preference if you wish to vote in primary elections.
3. **For United States Civilians (non-active duty) Living Overseas: Please provide an alternative physical mailing address in Section 6 to receive possible package shipments from commercial couriers.**
4. In Section 6, please indicate your desire to request ballots for all elections for federal office occurring in the 2020 calendar year.
5. Return the completed Federal Post Card Application immediately. If returning the application by mail from a foreign country, please be sure to include additional postage and return it prior to October 18, 2019.
6. Our mailing address is: [insertion of appropriate state/local election authority address]

If you receive this notice after October 17, 2019, please visit www.fvap.gov/UPU for guidance on how best to submit your Federal Post Card Application.

Please know that our federal partners are working diligently to minimize these disruptions to the greatest extent possible. Feel free to contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program via vote@fvap.gov or 800-483.8683.