

# IOWA

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

## FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

SAMPLE FORM

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)			
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF _____ COUNTY OF _____ CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF _____ §		I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.	
<b>1. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b> (See instruction 1.)		<b>6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION</b> (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See instructions.) <b>E</b>	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) _____		b. SEX _____ c. RACE _____	
d. DATE OF BIRTH _____		e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____	
f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card) _____ <b>A</b>		<b>7. REMARKS</b> (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See instructions.)	
<b>2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION</b> (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)			
a. YEAR _____		b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP _____ <b>B</b>	
c. STATE _____		d. VOTER REGISTRATION NO. (if known) _____	
<b>3. VOTING RESIDENCE</b> (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)			a. LAST DAY OF RESIDENCY _____
b. NUMBER AND STREET (do not use Post Office Box) _____			
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE _____ <b>C</b>			d. STATE _____
e. COUNTY OR PARISH _____		f. ZIP CODE (9-digit, if known) _____	
<b>4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO:</b> (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)			
_____ <b>D</b>			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
<b>5. YOUR FAX NUMBER</b> (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See Instructions.)			
_____			
<b>8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT</b> <b>F</b>		<b>9. WITNESS/NOTARY ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE</b> (If required by state law)	
X only one: a, b, c or d		DATE SIGNED _____	
I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See instructions)		M M D D Y Y	
a. a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent.		<b>i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT</b> <b>G</b>	
b. a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.		M M D D Y Y	
c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent.		M M D D Y Y	
d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.		M M D D Y Y	
e. I am a U.S. Citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribe to any required state/local oath or statement.			
f. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated.			
g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.			
h. The information on this form is true and complete.			

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

### Application Instructions

*Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions below. You must complete all shaded areas.*

- A** The last four digits of your Social Security number or your Iowa Driver's License number is required for voter registration, the full Social Security number is requested. If you do not possess either of these identifications, the State shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.
- B** Do not leave blank. Enter "N/A" if not applicable or if you are a first time voter.
- C** Provide the complete street address of your Iowa voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Item 7. For example: "on Highway \_\_\_\_\_, 2 miles past Highway \_\_\_\_\_, across the street from the \_\_\_\_\_ gas station." This address must be different from the one provided in Item 4 and must be within the county or township where you claim legal voting residence.
- D** Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. Your current

mailing address must be different from the address you provided in Item 3.

**E** If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections. You must indicate your political party affiliation in Item 6 when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat or Republican). Political party affiliation is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for other elections. If you are currently registered and want to change your political party affiliation or you have previously declined to indicate a political party and you now want to vote in a primary election, you must submit a completed FPCA to the local election official. Your voter registration record will be changed to reflect the party named on your application.

**F** Check ONE box.

**G** You must sign and date the FPCA. When signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

## I. UNIFORMED SERVICES

### A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Iowa and members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To request registration and/or an absentee ballot, the local County Auditor must receive your FPCA at any time before the election.

### C. Casting Your Vote

**Ballot Return Deadline:** Voted ballot must be **postmarked not later than the day before the election**. Mail your voted ballot to the local election official so that it **arrives not later than noon on the Monday after the election**.

Local election officials mail ballots approximately 40 days before primary and general elections. For other elections, ballots are mailed later but will be sent as soon as they are ready.

The affidavit on the ballot return envelope is the registration form. You will be permanently registered when you return the voted ballot, if you are not already registered.

You may also use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below.

### D. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

### E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Iowa allows you to send the FPCA for registration and absentee ballot request by fax. You must submit the original FPCA by mail.
- Iowa does not allow you to receive the blank ballot by fax.

- Iowa does not allow you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix C for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. **Use the following numbers:**

DSN 223-5527  
(703) 693-5527  
1-800-368-8683

Additional international toll-free fax numbers are listed on the inside back cover.

### F. Application for Registration and Ballot by Proxy

Within 70 days of the general election, your spouse, parent, parent-in-law, adult brother, adult sister, or adult child who resides in your county of voting residence may request registration and an absentee ballot for you. Forms are available from the County Auditors and the Secretary of State.

A handwritten request may be sent including the name and signature of the person requesting a ballot, Iowa address, name or date of election for which the ballot is requested (or for all ballots in a calendar year) and other information required to determine the correct ballot for the voter.

### G. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Iowa provides a state special write-in absentee ballot available 90 days before the general election if you are overseas and unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided for regular absentee ballots. This special ballot is not available for the primary election.

The FPCA may be used to request this state special write-in ballot. In Item 7 of the FPCA, place one of the state special write-in labels from Section III.H. If no labels are available, write in Item 7: “To the best of my belief I will be outside the continental United States and unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided for regular absentee ballots. I request a special write-in absentee ballot.”

The state special write-in ballot must be requested not earlier than 90 days before the general election. Vote the ballot by writing in the names of specific candidates.

### H. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

If you are outside the U.S. and have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

***Notify Your Local Election Official About Your Current Mailing Address***

Iowa has expanded the use of the FWAB. The instructions described in Chapter 2 of this Guide remain the same, except that Iowa also allows the FWAB to be used to vote in state and Federal primaries and in general and special elections to fill vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives and Iowa Legislature.

Iowa also allows the FWAB return envelope to be used as an application for registration if the person is otherwise eligible to vote in Iowa.

For further instructions on the FWAB see Chapter 2, page 12.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

## II. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

### A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Iowa and overseas citizens. The term “overseas citizen” means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Iowa.

- Iowa residents temporarily residing outside the U.S.
- overseas citizens
- U.S. citizens who have never resided in the U.S. but have a parent who is eligible to vote in Iowa. These citizens are eligible to vote at the same voting residence claimed by their parent.

### B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local election official early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To request registration and/or an absentee ballot, the local County Auditor must receive your FPCA at any time before the election.

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A handwritten request may be sent including the name and signature of the person requesting a ballot, Iowa address, name or date of election for which the ballot is requested (or for all ballots in a calendar year) and other information required to determine the correct ballot for the voter.

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write-in labels from Section III.H. If no labels are available, write in Item 7: “To the best of my belief I will be outside the continental United States and unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided for regular absentee ballots. I request a special write-in absentee ballot.”

The state special write-in ballot must be requested not earlier than 90 days before the general election. Vote the ballot by writing in the names of specific candidates.

## H. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

If you did not receive your state ballot in a timely manner, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

Iowa has expanded the use of the FWAB. The instructions described in Chapter 2 of this Guide remain the same, except that Iowa also allows the FWAB to be used to vote in state and Federal primaries and in general and special elections to fill vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives and Iowa Legislature.

Iowa also allows the FWAB return envelope to be used as an application for registration if the person is otherwise eligible to vote in Iowa.

For further instructions on the FWAB see Chapter 2, page 12.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

## III. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

### A. Bars to Registration and Voting

Persons convicted of a felony or declared mentally incompetent to vote may not register or vote, unless the voting rights are restored.

### B. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is canceled after name is on the inactive list for two successive general elections. A registration becomes inactive if the U.S. Postal Service indicates the voter has moved.

### C. Action on Registration Requests

The local election official will send an acknowledgment to the applicant at the mailing address provided on the FPCA.

### D. Action If Registration Is Denied

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Iowa shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Persons denied registration or ballot should contact the Iowa Secretary of State for additional information.

## E. Voting by Citizens Who Have Never Lived in the U.S.

If a U.S. citizen outside the U.S. has never lived in the U.S. and either parent is a qualified Iowa voter, then that person is eligible to register and vote where his or her parent is a qualified voter.

## F. Late Registration

Members of the Armed Forces or merchant marine who have been discharged within thirty days of an election may register and vote in that election by presenting the precinct election official with his or her discharge papers.

## G. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the **County Auditor** at the county of voting residence as listed below:

County	County Seat	Zip Code
Adair	Greenfield	50849-1291
Adams	Corning	50841-0028
Allamakee	Waukon	52172-1700
Appanoose	Centerville	52544-1794
Audubon	Audubon	50025-1255
Benton	Vinton	52349-0549
Black Hawk	Waterloo	50703-4774
Boone	Boone	50036-3992
Bremer	Waverly	50677-3536
Buchanan	Independence	50644-0317
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	50588-2371
Butler	Allison	50602-0325
Calhoun	Rockwell City	50579-1487
Carroll	Carroll	51401-2413
Cass	Atlantic	50022-1497
Cedar	Tipton	52772-1752
Cerro Gordo	Mason City	50401-3254
Cherokee	Cherokee	51012-1700
Chickasaw	New Hampton	50659-0311
Clarke	Osceola	50213-1291
Clay	Spencer	51301-3860
Clayton	Elkader	52043-0416
Clinton	Clinton	52733-2957
Crawford	Denison	51442-0423
Dallas	Adel	50003-1482
Davis	Bloomfield	52537-1600
Decatur	Leon	50144-1647
Delaware	Manchester	52057-1796
Des Moines	Burlington	52601-0784
Dickinson	Spirit Lake	51360-1259
Dubuque	Dubuque	52001-7056
Emmet	Estherville	51334-2254
Fayette	West Union	52175-0267
Floyd	Charles City	50616-2790
Franklin	Hampton	50441-0026
Fremont	Sidney	51652-0610
Greene	Jefferson	50129-2144
Grundy	Grundy Center	50638-1496
Guthrie	Guthrie Center	50115-1331
Hamilton	Webster City	50595-3195
Hancock	Garner	50438-0070
Hardin	Eldora	50627-1700
Harrison	Logan	51546-1398
Henry	Mount Pleasant	52641-0149
Howard	Cresco	52136-1526
Humboldt	Dakota City	50529-0100
Ida	Ida Grove	51445-1497
Iowa	Marengo	52301-0126
Jackson	Maquoketa	52060-2295

<b>County</b>	<b>County Seat</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Jasper	Newton	50208-0944
Jefferson	Fairfield	52556-2820
Johnson	Iowa City	52240-4207
Jones	Anamosa	52205-0109
Keokuk	Sigourney	52591-1499
Kossuth	Algona	50511-2643
Lee	Fort Madison	52627-0190
Linn	Cedar Rapids	52404-2178
Louisa	Wapello	52653-0186
Lucas	Chariton	50049-1764
Lyon	Rock Rapids	51246-1597
Madison	Winterset	50273-0152
Mahaska	Oskaloosa	52577-3189
Marion	Knoxville	50138-2598
Marshall	Marshalltown	50158-4978
Mills	Glenwood	51534-1756
Mitchell	Osage	50461-1229
Monona	Onawa	51041-1699
Monroe	Albia	52531-2075
Montgomery	Red Oak	51566-0469
Muscatine	Muscatine	52761-4168
O'Brien	Primghar	51245-0803
Osceola	Sibley	51249-1698
Page	Clarinda	51632-2197
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	50536-0095
Plymouth	Le Mars	51031-2190
Pocahontas	Pocahontas	50574-1694
Polk	Des Moines	50309-4757
Pottawattamie	Council Bluffs	51501-0649
Poweshiek	Montezuma	50171-0057
Ringgold	Mount Ayr	50854-1642
Sac	Sac City	50583-1750
Scott	Davenport	52801-1187
Shelby	Harlan	51537-1441
Sioux	Orange City	51041-0018
Story	Nevada	50201-2084
Tama	Toledo	52342-1300
Taylor	Bedford	50833-1394
Union	Creston	50801-2430
Van Buren	Keosauqua	52565-0475
Wapello	Ottumwa	52501-2518
Warren	Indianola	50125-0237
Washington	Washington	52353-0889
Wayne	Corydon	50060-0435
Webster	Fort Dodge	50501-3892
Winnebago	Forest City	50436-1793
Winneshiek	Decorah	52101-1775
Woodbury	Sioux City	51101-1246
Worth	Northwood	50459-1599
Wright	Clarion	50525-0147

***Your Vote, His Vote, Her Vote, Our Vote, Are Votes***

by Jacqueline E. Clark, USMC, Albany, Georgia





