



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Reviewing Your ABBM's and FPCAs



Resources

- [Elections Form Index](#)
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- [Texas Election Code](#)
- **Advisories:**
 - [No. 2023-13](#)—NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1599 – Changes to the Corrective Action Process for Defects on Application for a Ballot by Mail and Carrier Envelope
 - [No. 2025-11](#)—Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program
 - [No. 2021-24](#)—Informal Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)





Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Eligibility to Vote by Mail



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

- **A qualified voter may vote by mail if the voter:**
 - Will be 65 or older on Election Day (*Annual or Regular ABBM*);
 - Has a disability (*Annual or Regular ABBM*);
 - Is expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day (*Regular ABBM*);
 - Is civilly committed under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code (*Regular ABBM*);
 - Expects to be absent from county during Early Voting and on Election Day (*Regular ABBM*);
 - Is confined in jail (*Regular ABBM*);
 - Is in Address Confidentiality Program (*Regular ABBM*);
 - Is military or dependent of military and outside of home Texas county (*FPCA*);
 - Is temporarily living outside the United States (*FPCA*);
 - Is living outside the United States and voter has indicated their intent to return is uncertain (*FPCA*); or
 - Is a member of the National Guard or dependent (*FPCA*).



Texas Secretary of State
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Reviewing Applications for Ballot by Mail



Texas Secretary of State

ELECTIONS DIVISION



New ABBM and Instruction Sheet

PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY. THEN, FOLD AND MOISTEN SHUT TO SEAL.

TEXAS APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL				
Voter Information	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name (if any)	Suffix (Jr., Sr., III)
1	Residence Address (Number and Street)		Apt/Unit	
	City		State	Zip Code
	Optional Information: Providing this information is helpful to the Early Voting Clerk if needed to clarify any information on this application and/or your voted mail ballot.			
	VOID Number		Voter Registration Precinct Number	
	Telephone Number		Email Address	
Where to mail my ballot	An address from my voter registration certificate		Another address that fits one of the categories below	
	2		2	
Reason for applying and ballots requested	My reason for voting by mail		My reason for voting by mail	
	3		3	
Applicant, sign here	I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime.		Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	
	4		4	
Witness and/or assistant, sign here	Check this box and complete this section if the applicant is unable to make a mark in Section 4. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4.		Printed name of witness or assistant	
	5		5	

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING YOUR TEXAS APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL	
Section 1 – Voter information Print your legal name (with suffix) and residence address (not mailing address). <i>Optional Information:</i> Providing this information is helpful to the Early Voting Clerk if needed to clarify any information on this application and/or your voted mail ballot. Failure to provide your voter registration number, voter registration precinct number, or telephone number does not invalidate this application. Please check your voter registration before submitting an application. Changing your voter registration address after submitting an application could result in your ballot being rejected. You must provide your Texas Driver's License, Texas Identification Card, or Election Identification Certificate number. If you have not been issued one of these numbers, provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you have not been issued any of these required numbers, check the relevant box. Section 2 – Where to mail my ballot Your ballot will be mailed to your residence or mailing address unless you qualify for one of these exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">65 years of age or older, or have a disability – Your ballot can be mailed to a hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, retirement center, assisted living facility, or a close relative (state your relationship);Confined in jail or involuntarily civilly committed – Your ballot can be mailed to a jail, facility, or a close relative (state your relationship); orExpected absence from the county – Your ballot must be mailed to an address outside the county if you expect to be out of the county on Election Day and during any remaining period of Early Voting by personal appearance after you submit your application.	Section 3 (continued) ballots, your application may be forwarded to other entities holding elections. As a result, you may receive a ballot for other elections in addition to the ballot you originally requested. Section 4 – Applicant, sign here The boxes require your original signature signed and dated in ink. A witness must complete Section 5 if you are unable to sign and you make a mark instead of a signature, or you are unable to sign or make a mark. Section 5 – Witness and/or assistant, sign here <ul style="list-style-type: none">Check the relevant box and complete this section if the applicant is unable to make a mark in Section 4. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4.Witness – Check the relevant box if you witnessed the applicant make a mark or the applicant could not sign in Section 4 and you are signing on his or her behalf. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4. State your relationship to the applicant and complete this section. Acting as a witness for more than one applicant in the same election or for more than one applicant for an annual application for ballot by mail in the same calendar year is a <i>Class B Misdemeanor</i>, unless you are related to the applicants as a parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or sibling.Assistant – Check the relevant box and complete this section if you assisted the applicant in filling out this application in his or her presence or submitted on his or her behalf (by mail, email, or fax). Providing assistance without disclosing the information required in this section is a <i>Class A Misdemeanor</i>.
Section 3 – Reason for applying and ballots requested Check the box that best describes your reason for voting by mail: <ul style="list-style-type: none">65 years of age or older – You must turn 65 no later than Election Day.Disability – You affirm that, "I have a sickness or physical condition that prevents me from appearing at the polling place on Election Day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or injuring my health," as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a).Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election DayConfined in jail or involuntarily civilly committed – At the time you submit your application, you are either: (1) Confined in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence for a term that ends on or after Election Day; (2) Pending trial after denial of bail; (3) Without bail pending an appeal of a felony conviction; (4) Pending trial or appeal on a bailable offense for which release on bail before Election Day is unlikely; or (5) Are involuntarily civilly committed under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code.Expected absence from the county – List the dates during which you can receive mail at the address outside of the county.	Submitting your application Acceptable methods include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">In-person delivery by the voter to your Early Voting Clerk;By mail (U.S. Postal Service);Common or contract carrier (via a bona fide, for-profit carrier); orBy email or fax, but only if this original hard copy is received by mail within four business days of its initial submission. Call your Early Voting Clerk, the Secretary of State, or scan the QR code for the email address or fax number. Deadline to apply Your application must be received by your Early Voting Clerk by the 11th day before Election Day. If that day is a weekend or holiday, the deadline moves to the preceding business day.
Questions? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call your Early Voting ClerkVisit sos.texas.gov or votetexas.gov La solicitud está disponible en español. Por favor llame al secretario de votación adelantada para obtener una versión en español.	



Reviewing an ABBM

Voter information <i>Failure to provide your voter registration number, voter registration precinct number, or telephone number does not invalidate this application</i>	Last Name		First Name		Middle Name (if any)		Suffix (Jr, Sr, III)		
	Residence Address (Number and Street)					Apt/Unit			
	City			State		Zip Code			
	1 Optional Information: Providing this information is helpful to the Early Voting Clerk if needed to clarify any information on this application and/or your voted mail ballot.								
	VOID Number				Voter Registration Precinct Number				
	Telephone Number				Email Address				
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	

! You must provide one of the following numbers

Texas Driver's License (TX DL), Texas Identification (TX ID) Card, or Election Identification Certificate (EIC) number:

I have not been issued a TX DL, TX ID, or EIC number, and the last four digits of my Social Security Number are:

XXX - XX -

☐ I have not been issued a TX DL, TX ID, EIC, or Social Security Number

Section 1

- Must include the applicant's name and address at which the applicant is registered to vote.
 - If the VOID, precinct number, telephone number, email address, and date of birth are not included on the application, this is **not** fatal to the application.



Reviewing an ABBM

Section 1 (continued)

- Voter must provide:
 - Texas Driver's License, Texas Personal Identification Number, or Election Identification Certificate number issued by DPS, **OR**
 - Last four digits of SSN, **OR**
 - Provide an indication that they have not been issued either number.
- **The number provided MUST be validated off of voter's voter registration record.**
 - If the number is missing or incorrect on the ABBM, the voter can correct this defect by submitting a new ABBM or through the Ballot by Mail Tracker.



You must provide one of the following numbers

Texas Driver's License (TX DL),
Texas Identification (TX ID) Card, or
Election Identification Certificate
(EIC) number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

I have not been issued a TX DL, TX
ID, or EIC number, and the last four
digits of my Social Security Number
are:

XXX - XX -

--	--	--	--

☐ I have not been issued a TX
DL, TX ID, EIC, or Social
Security Number



Reviewing an ABBM

Where to mail my ballot <i>Select one option</i>	2	An address from my voter registration certificate <input type="checkbox"/> My residence address <input type="checkbox"/> My mailing address	OR	Another address that fits one of the categories below				
				Number and Street	Apt/Unit	City	State	Zip Code
				<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, retirement center, assisted living facility, or a close relative (state your relationship) _____				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Jail, civil commitment facility, or a close relative (state your relationship) _____				
				<input type="checkbox"/> Other address outside the county _____				

Section 2 The ABBM must include the:

- Address of the hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, retirement center, assisted living facility, or person related to the applicant within the second degree by affinity (by marriage) or the third degree by consanguinity (by blood) if the mailing address is different from the residence address (age or disability).
- Address outside the applicant's county of residence to which the ballot is to be mailed (absence from the county of residence).
- Address of the jail or of a person related to the applicant within the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity (confinement in jail).
- Address of the facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of a person related to the applicant within the third degree by consanguinity (involuntarily civil commitment).



Reviewing an ABBM

Reason for applying and ballots requested <i>*Primary elections take place in even-numbered years only</i>	My reason for voting by mail <input type="checkbox"/> 65 years of age or older <input type="checkbox"/> Disability – I affirm that, “I have a sickness or physical condition that prevents me from appearing at the polling place on Election Day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or injuring my health,” as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a). Send me a ballot for the following elections 3 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Annual Application</i> – I want to receive a ballot for all elections in this voting year. I qualify because I am 65 years of age or older, or have a disability. I would like to vote in a primary election* for the following party and any resulting runoff: <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Any resulting runoff <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Any resulting runoff <input type="checkbox"/> Do not send me a ballot for a primary election	My reason for voting by mail <input type="checkbox"/> Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day <input type="checkbox"/> Confined in jail or involuntarily civilly committed <input type="checkbox"/> Expected absence from the county – The dates during which I can receive mail at the address outside of the county are: _____/_____/_____ to ____/____/_____ OR Send me a ballot for the following elections <input type="checkbox"/> May Election <input type="checkbox"/> Special Election (name or date, if known) <input type="checkbox"/> November Election <input type="checkbox"/> Any resulting runoff I would like to vote in a primary election* for the following party and any resulting runoff: <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Any resulting runoff <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Any resulting runoff
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Section 3 The ABBM must include:

- An indication of the ground of eligibility for early voting. If it does not include this information, the application must be rejected.
- For an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on any ground, an indication of each election for which the applicant is applying for a ballot. There are some exceptions to this.
 - **See the FAQs at the end of this presentation for examples.**



Reviewing an ABBM


	Applicant, sign here	4	<p>I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime.</p> <p>The box below requires your original signature signed in ink. A witness must complete Section 5 if you are unable to sign and you make a mark instead of a signature, or you are unable to sign or make a mark.</p>	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
			<div><div>X</div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>/</div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>/</div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div>

Section 4

- The ABBM must be in writing and signed by the applicant.
 - An electronic signature is not permitted.
 - If ABBM is not dated, it is **NOT** fatal.



Reviewing an ABBM

 Witness and/or assistant, sign here <i>For definition of witness and assistant, see the application instructions</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box and complete this section if the applicant is unable to make a mark in Section 4. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4.	Printed name of witness or assistant
		<input type="checkbox"/> Witness – Check this box if you witnessed the applicant make a mark or the applicant could not sign in Section 4 and you are signing on his or her behalf. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4. State your relationship to the applicant below and complete this section.	Residence Address Apt/Unit City State Zip Code
		<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant – Check this box and complete this section if you assisted the applicant in filling out this application in his or her presence or submitted on his or her behalf (by mail, email, or fax).	Failure to complete this section is a Class A Misdemeanor if applicant's signature or mark was witnessed or applicant was assisted in completing this application. Signature of witness or assistant

Section 5

- May be signed by a witness, if the voter cannot sign because of a physical disability or illiteracy.
- The person who cannot sign must affix the person's mark to the document, which the witness must attest.
 - If the voter cannot make a mark, the witness must state that fact on the document.
- A person who assisted the voter must also provide their information.



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

- Review for:
 - Timeliness;
 - Proper delivery (i.e., mail, common/contract carrier, fax, in-person by voter, email);
 - Correct Clerk (if not, forward);
 - **Registration status;**
 - **Residence and mailing address;**
 - Additional considerations—
 - Outside county, disability, 65 or older; and
 - Ensure all required information was provided.
- Recommend date-stamping application on the date it is received by the EV Clerk.

A gray shield-shaped graphic with the words "BEST PRACTICE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**BEST
PRACTICE**



Methods of Submitting an ABBM

- Please see [Advisory No. 2023-13](#)—Registering a Voter who is part of a Confidentiality Program, for information on how a voter may submit a request to vote by mail if he/she participates in the Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program.

6-54
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Texas Election Code, Section 84.0021
09/2023

Confidential Voter Registration Form and Early Voting Ballot Application

FOR ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ONLY
I REQUEST AN EARLY VOTING BALLOT FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND THAT ARE CONDUCTED BY YOUR OFFICE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I WANT TO RECEIVE A BALLOT FROM AN ENTITY WHOSE ELECTION YOUR OFFICE IS NOT CONDUCTING, I MUST APPLY AT THE ENTITY'S OFFICE IN PERSON.
Use blue or black ink - please print clearly.

1 Last Name (include Suffix if any - Jr., Sr., III) _____
Middle Name (if any) _____ First Name _____
Former Name (if any) _____

2 Confidential Mailing Address (Assigned by Office of the Texas Attorney General)
City: _____ State: TX Zip: _____

3 Texas Address Confidentiality Authorization Number (Assigned by Office of the Attorney General) _____

4 Date of Birth (MM / DD / YYYY) _____
5 Gender (Optional)
☐ Male ☐ Female

6 Texas Driver's License Number or Texas Personal Identification Number or Election Identification Certificate Number (issued by the Dept. of Public Safety) _____
If no Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification Number or Election Identification Certificate Number, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. XXX-XX-XXXX

☐ I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License, Personal Identification Card Number, Texas Election Identification Certificate Number or Social Security Number.

7 Telephone (Optional) (____) ____ - ____
Email Address (Optional) _____

Optional Information: Providing your phone number and/or email may assist the Early Voting Clerk to notify you of any defects with your ballot application and/or Carrier Envelope that contains your voted ballot.

Party Preference (Primary Election Only) - Fill in ONE box
☐ Republican Primary ☐ Democratic Primary ☐ Do Not Send Me a Primary Ballot

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL STATUS
Initial here _____ to acknowledge your status as an address confidential program participant. "I swear or affirm that I am a certified participant or eligible household member of a certified participant in an address confidentiality program administered by the Texas Attorney General as described in Chapter 56, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. I understand that by completing this application, it is my responsibility to cancel my voter registration in any county in which I may have been registered to vote. If my voter registration was not previously canceled, it is also my responsibility to cancel any confidential application for ballot by mail that was filed in every election conducted by the early voting clerk within the boundaries of the county of previous residence. I understand that I am requesting a ballot by mail for years after the application is submitted) or your office receives notice that I am no longer in the program or my ballot by mail has been returned as undeliverable, whichever occurs first."

(For Office Use Only)
Voter is qualified to vote in the following jurisdictions indicated by the verbal physical description of his or her residence:
District Type District Code District Type District Code
District Type District Code District Type District Code
District Type District Code District Type District Code
District Type District Code District Type District Code
District Type District Code District Type District Code

10. I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to one year in jail, a fine up to \$4,000 or both. PLEASE READ ALL THREE STATEMENTS TO AFFIRM BEFORE SIGNING.
I affirm that I
• am a resident of this county and U.S. Citizen;
• have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
• have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

X Signature of Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness
Check one or both boxes below if you served as a Witness or Assistant or both. Witness ☐ Assistant ☐ If you act as a Witness to the applicant's mark or sign on the applicant's behalf, you must state your relationship to the voter here _____
Witnesses and Assistants must provide _____ (Indicate Relationship)



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Reviewing Federal Post Card Applications



Federal Post Card Applications

- Dual function:
 - Registers the individual onto the permanent voter rolls 30 days after receipt by the county.
 - Functions as an application for ballot by mail.





Form and Contents of Application

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Print clearly in blue or black ink, please see back for instructions.

1. Who are you? Pick one.

I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:

☐ I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- ☐ I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my intent to return is uncertain.
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.

Mr. Miss
Mrs. Ms.

Suffix (Jr., II)
Previous names (if applicable)
Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Driver's license or State ID#

2. What is your address in the U.S. state or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?

Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on the other side of form.

Street address
City, town, village
County
Apt #
State
ZIP

3. Where are you now? You MUST give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.

Your mailing address. (Different from above)
Your mail forwarding address. (If different from mailing address)

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.

Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.

Phone:
Email:
Fax:
Alternate email:

5. What are your preferences for upcoming elections?

A. How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? (Select One)
☐ Mail
☐ Email or online
☐ Fax

B. What is your political party for primary elections?

6. What additional information must you provide?

Puerto Rico and Vermont require more information, see back for instructions. Additional state guidelines may be found at FVAP.gov. You may also use this space to clarify your voter information.

7. You must read and sign this statement.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

- The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and have not been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
- I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

Requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY)

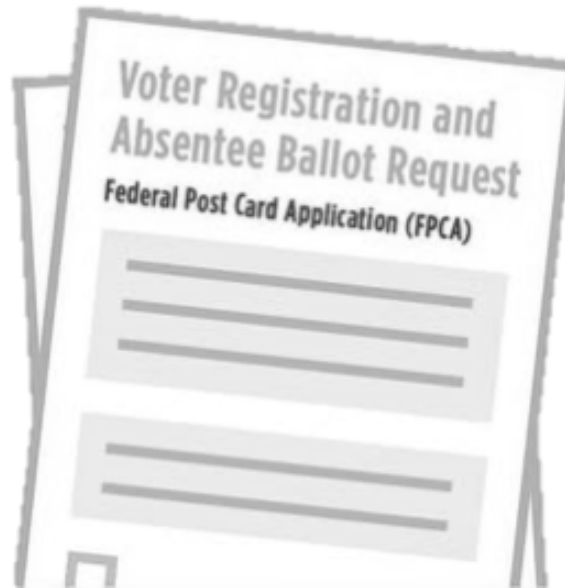
Form No. 0704-0503, NSN 7540-00-643-3053

- Application must:
 - Be submitted on official [Federal Post Card Application](#) form.
 - Prescribed by the Federal Voting Assistance Program.
- Include information indicating the applicant is eligible to vote in the election for which ballot is requested.



FPCA and Voter Registration

- EV clerk should make a copy of the FPCA (for mailing ballots and keeping records) and then must forward the original FPCA to the county voter registrar so that it may be processed for registration.
 - Voter Registrar determines whether to add the voter to the registration list.





Reviewing an FPCA

1. Who are you? Pick one.			
I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine	-OR- <input type="checkbox"/> I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my intent to return is uncertain.	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.	
Last name	<input type="text"/>	Suffix (Jr., II)	<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
First name	<input type="text"/>	Previous names (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Middle name	<input type="text"/>	Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="text"/>
Social Security Number	<input type="text"/>	Driver's license or State ID#	<input type="text"/>

Voter must:

- Select the category that best describes their situation;
- Provide name and date of birth; and
- Provide Texas issued ID number or last four digits of SSN. If they do not have this information, should include information in Box 6 that they do not have one of these numbers.



FPCA Affirmation Reasons as they Relate to Voter Registration and Ballot by Mail

"I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ballot is issued by the EV clerk• VR registers the individual or updates a permanent voter record
"I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ballot is issued by the EV clerk• VR registers the individual or updates a permanent voter record
"I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FEDERAL BALLOT only is issued by EV clerk• NOT eligible for voter registration• CANCELS an existing registration
"I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NOT eligible to receive ballots• NOT eligible for voter registration• CANCELS an existing registration



Reviewing an FPCA

2. What is your address in the U.S. state or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?			
Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on the other side of form.			
Street address	<input type="text"/>	Apt #	<input type="text"/>
City, town, village	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>	ZIP	<input type="text"/>

Voter must:

- Provide the complete street address of their voting residence address where they are registering to vote.
- Cannot use a post office box mailing address.



Reviewing an FPCA

3. Where are you now? You MUST give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.	
Your mailing address. (Different from above)	Your mail forwarding address. (If different from mailing address)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Voter must:

- Provide current mailing address, even if requesting their ballot by email.
- If the voter wants their ballot sent to a different address or have a forwarding address, they must include that information in this space.



Reviewing an FPCA

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.

Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.

Email:

Phone:

Alternate email:

Fax:

Voter should:

- Provide contact information so election official can contact if needed.
- Provide email address if requesting to receive ballot by email.



Reviewing an FPCA

5. What are your preferences for upcoming elections?

A. How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? (Select One)

- ☐ Mail
☐ Email or online
☐ Fax

B. What is your political party for primary elections?

Voter should:

- Select their preferred method of receiving voting materials.
- Provide email address if requesting to receive ballot by email.
- Provide the name of the party ballot they wish to receive for the primary election.



Reviewing an FPCA

6. What additional information must you provide?

Puerto Rico and Vermont require more information, see back for instructions. *Additional state guidelines* may be found at FVAP.gov. You may also use this space to clarify your voter information.

Voter should:

- Provide any additional information that may assist the EV clerk in accepting the application.



Reviewing an FPCA

7. You must read and sign this statement.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

- The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
- I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
- I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

Sign here

X

Today's date
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Voter should:

- Sign and date the form.
- May be signed by a witness, if the voter cannot sign because of a physical disability or illiteracy.
- The person who cannot sign must affix the person's mark to the document, which the witness must attest.
 - If the voter cannot make a mark, the witness must state that fact on the document.
- A person who assisted the voter must also provide their information.



Intent to Return/Timeliness

- Applicant is entitled to receive a full ballot (federal and nonfederal offices) if submitted on or before the 20th day before Election Day and application contains information for registering to vote.
- Applicant receives a full ballot if submitted after the 20th day and by the 11th day deadline and the **applicant is already registered to vote**.
- If the FPCA does not have a postmark, it is timely if received by the EV clerk by the 15th day before the election.
- If the FPCA is postmarked after the 20th day but received no later than the 11th day before the election with a postmark, FPCA voter gets federal ballot only.





Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: If a voter calls to request an ABBM, can the election officer fill in the voter's name and residence address at the top of the application?

Answer: No, Section 276.016(a)(4) of the Election Code prohibits an election official from completing any portion of the ABBM form and distributing that form to the applicant.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The EV clerk received a timely ABBM for an upcoming election from a voter who is not currently registered to vote in the county/political subdivision. Can the EV clerk process the application and send the voter a ballot by mail?

Answer: The application must be rejected and the voter must be sent a [Notice of Rejected Application for Ballot by Mail](#) (Form 6-2) if the voter is not registered in the county/political subdivision and the voter registration records reflect that the voter will not have an effective voter registration by election day in the county/political subdivision. Section 13.143 of the Election Code states that a voter registration is effective for purposes of early voting if it will be effective on election day. As such, if the voter registration records reflect that the voter's registration will be effective by election day, and the single-use ABBM or Annual ABBM contains the required information, the application should be processed and the voter should be sent a ballot by mail.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What if the residence address the voter provided on the ABBM is different from the residence address at which the voter is registered?

Answer: As long as the voter is registered in the political subdivision holding the election, *and* as long as the address on the ABBM is also within that county (or political subdivision), then the EV clerk should process the ABBM (if the voter is otherwise eligible to vote in the election) and send the voter a [Statement of Residence](#) (Form 21-6) along with the balloting materials. When mailing a ballot to the voter, the EV clerk must make a notation on the carrier envelope that a Statement of Residence is included so that the early voting ballot board knows to look for the Statement of Residence with the marked ballot; the early voting ballot board cannot count that ballot if the Statement of Residence is not returned by the voter.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: It appears the voter may have recently gotten married/divorced and is now using a different last name on the ABBM than the last name the voter is registered to vote with. May the application be accepted?

Answer: If the EV clerk is able to confirm that the individual is a registered voter of the political subdivision, then the ABBM should not be rejected. However, if possible, the voter should be advised that there may be a problem later when the early voting ballot board reviews the name on the carrier envelope compared to the name on the list of registered voters. There is a possibility that the EVBB will reject the ballot. If possible, the EV clerk should contact the voter and have the voter update their information as to the name change. Once updated, the EV clerk can process the ABBM.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: A voter has contacted our office and indicated that the personal identification number in their voter registration record is wrong; what can the voter do?

Answer: The voter registrar should review the voter's record to determine whether the voter's personal identification number was properly recorded by the voter registrar's office. If this review reflects that the voter's personal identification number was properly recorded by the voter registrar as previously provided by the voter, the voter should update their voter registration record. They can do so by submitting a new voter registration application to the registrar or by validating their personal identification numbers on [Texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov) if the voter has a DPS-issued driver's license or personal identification card. The process for updating the voter registration record is explained to the voter in the [Notice of Rejected Application for Ballot by Mail](#) (Form 6-2).





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The voter submitted an ABBM by mail. The physical application did not include the voter's residence address. However, the envelope in which the application was delivered by mail included the voter's residence address. Should the application be rejected and the voter be notified of a defect?

Answer: No, the application should not be rejected. Section 84.005 of the Election Code provides that each document that contains information required for an early voting ballot application and that is submitted to the EV clerk and any envelope in which an application is submitted are part of the early voting ballot application. The envelope in which the voter's application was received by the EV clerk is part of the voter's application. If the residence address provided on the envelope is the same residence address at which the voter is registered to vote, the application should be processed and a ballot should be sent to the voter.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: A voter submitted an ABBM and provided two types of personal identification numbers (i.e., driver's license number and last four digits of social security number) on their application. The voter registration record contains both types of personal identification numbers; one number on the ABBM matches the record, but the other does not match. Should the application be rejected?

Answer: No, the application should not be rejected. Because the EV clerk was able to validate one of the numbers to the voter's voter registration record (and thus verify the identity of the voter), the clerk must accept the ABBM and send a ballot to the voter.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Can a voter call and ask what personal identification number the voter registrar has on file for that voter?

Answer: Yes, a voter can ask to confirm the number listed, but the number should be provided by the voter and the EV clerk can confirm whether that number is accurate. The clerk should not provide any personal identification number from the voter registration record to a person over the phone. If the voter provides an incorrect number, the voter registrar can tell the voter that the number is incorrect, but the voter registrar should not read the number to the voter over the phone. The voter registrar can also confirm the type of number listed on file (driver's license or social security number).





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How may facilities such as jails, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities obtain blank applications for multiple voters?

Answer: These facilities may request ABBMs from the Office of the Secretary of State, which has express statutory authority to provide ABBMs to voters and organizations, in reasonable quantities, upon request. They may also be directed to download the application by visiting VoteTexas.gov or the EV clerk's internet website (if the clerk maintains a website). An EV clerk must post the official application form for an early voting ballot on the clerk's internet website, if the clerk maintains an Internet website, in a format that allows a person to easily complete the application directly on the website before printing.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The EV clerk received a single-use ABBM from a voter who is confined in jail. The application was personally delivered to the EV clerk by a person from the jail authority. May the application be processed and a ballot mailed to the voter?

Answer: Yes, the application may be processed and a ballot mailed to the voter. On request of the applicant, an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of confinement in jail may be submitted to the EV clerk, at the discretion of the authority in charge of the jail, by personal delivery by the jail authority or by a designated subordinate of the authority.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: May a voter under 65 years of age submit an Annual ABBM if the voter will turn 65 before the first election in which he/she will vote by mail?

Answer: Yes, Section 82.003 of the Election Code states that a voter must be “65 years of age or older on election day” to vote early by mail.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The voter submitted an application on the ground of being outside of the county of residence using the official ABBM provided by the Secretary of State. However, the voter did not provide the dates that they are out of the county on the official application. Should the application be rejected on those grounds?

Answer: No, the application should not be rejected, assuming that the application included all other legally required information. Section 84.002 of the Election Code, which provides the law regarding the contents of an application, does not require a voter to provide the dates the voter will be out of the county.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: May a voter request ballots for more than one election if their reason for voting by mail is expected absence from the county? (Ex: voter will be out of the county January through May and requests ballots for both the primary and May elections).

Answer: Yes, if the voter's application indicates that they will be out of the county for a time period that covers multiple elections, the voter may use a single application to request to receive all ballots the voter is eligible for during the time period that the voter will be out of the county.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: A voter submitted an ABBM and provided two grounds for voting by mail. In this example, the voter selected voting by mail on the grounds of being 65 years of age or older and disability. The voter selected the “Annual Application” box on the application. Should the application be rejected and the voter notified of a defect because the EV clerk cannot determine which eligibility ground the voter is using?

Answer: No, the application should not be rejected if it was otherwise properly completed. In this example, the voter has selected two eligibility grounds which allow the voter to submit an Annual ABBM. The EV clerk should select one of the grounds.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What if a voter does not check *ANY* boxes indicating for which election(s) they wish to receive a ballot?

Answer: It depends on the elections within that calendar year. If the Annual ABBM voter did not select any elections during a primary election year (e.g., 2026), and the voter did not select which party's ballot they would like to receive, the EV clerk should reject the ABBM for purposes of the primary election, but otherwise process the application as an Annual ABBM. The EV clerk should notify the voter of the rejection of the ABBM as it applies to the primary election, but also check the box that indicates the application will be considered an Annual ABBM. If it is an odd-numbered year (e.g., 2027), and the Annual ABBM voter did not select any elections, the application would be considered an Annual ABBM and processed accordingly.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What if a voter submitted an application on the ground of age or disability but did not select the “Annual Application” option on the form and only requested a ballot for the primary election and the general election for state and county officers (during a primary election year). Specifically, the voter opted not to mark the May Uniform election date.

Answer: If a voter only requested a mail ballot for selected elections but did not select the annual option on the form, in this case the primary election and the general election for state and county officers, you would *NOT* treat this as an Annual ABBM. Instead, you would treat this as a request for the specific elections identified by the voter.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The EV clerk received a single-use ABBM from a voter but the voter did not indicate that he/she wanted a ballot for any resulting runoff. Our political subdivision is conducting a runoff election. Should a ballot be mailed to the voter for the runoff election?

Answer: No, a ballot should not be mailed to the voter for the runoff election. An applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail may apply for ballots for the main election and any resulting runoff election on the same application. However, a ballot for the runoff election should not be mailed to the voter if the voter did not request a ballot for any resulting runoff on the single-use ABBM.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How many Annual ABBMs may a person witness in a calendar year?

Answer: Unless a close relative of the voter (e.g., parent, grandparent, spouse, child, sibling) or an EV clerk or deputy EV clerk, a person may witness one single-use ABBM per election in a calendar year, or one Annual ABBM for the entire calendar year. *NOTE:* A violation of this law does not invalidate the ABBM.





Frequently Asked Questions

Question: The EV clerk received an application that reflects that the voter received assistance in completing the application. However, the assistant did not provide their signature/printed name and/or residence address. May the application be accepted?

Answer: Yes, the application may be accepted. Mistakes with respect to completing the assistance portion on an ABBM do not cause rejection of the application. However, a person who in the presence of the applicant otherwise assists an applicant in completing an early voting ballot application commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person knowingly fails to comply with Section 1.011(d) of the Election Code in the same manner as a witness.





Available Support



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