

## Absentee Voting

Promote the vote by educating people about their right to cast a ballot even if they cannot be present on Election Day, through absentee ballot or other provisions. Protect the vote by ensuring that these rules are followed in your community.

Individuals unable to get to the polls on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot, but please be mindful of absentee ballot submission or postmark deadlines, which vary by state and educate your communities and individual volunteers about these laws.

### Registered voters are eligible to cast an absentee ballot if they are:

- ▶ Students, their spouses, and dependents residing with them.
- ▶ Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, government employees, their spouses, and dependents residing with them.
- ▶ Workers who, for reasons of employment, will not be able to vote on Election Day.
- ▶ Physically disabled persons.
- ▶ Persons on vacation.
- ▶ Persons age 65 or older.
- ▶ Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on Election Day or at least four days prior to the election.
- ▶ Persons with a death or funeral in the family within three days prior to the election.
- ▶ Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial.
- ▶ Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons.
- ▶ Persons who cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs.

These are only some of the criteria for obtaining absentee ballots. Each state has its own rules for absentee voting and may have other provisions such as early voting. Use the resources listed below to learn your state's procedures and key deadlines to cast a vote by absentee ballot.

### Resources for More Information on Absentee Voting

- ▶ **State-by-State Guide to Absentee Voting** to identify each state's requirements for absentee voting and access related forms or applications, [http://www.longdistancevoter.org/absentee\\_ballots](http://www.longdistancevoter.org/absentee_ballots)
- ▶ **Federal Voting Assistance Program** for Uniformed Services members and US citizens living abroad, <http://www.fvap.gov/>
- ▶ **US State Department** provides details on Overseas Voting, [http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas\\_voting/overseas\\_voting\\_4754.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas_voting/overseas_voting_4754.html)