

Marion County's Military-Overseas Program

Steps below only include those taken during the 45-days before an election

- Military-Overseas absentee applications are received via mail, email or fax.
 - Voter marks preference on application for her or his ballot to be mailed, emailed or faxed.
- Staff files applications
 - Original Military-Overseas applications are kept on permanent file according to expiration date (application expires after 2 general elections).
 - Each active application is copied so that it can be included with the voter's absentee ballot that is delivered to the polls on Election Day.
- Fax/Email ballots are prepared, once the county's ballots are ratified by the Election Board
- Staff prioritizes Military-Overseas requests
 - Military-Overseas applications and ballots are processed separately from civilian applications and ballots.
- For Military-Overseas absentee ballots by mail:
 - Ballots are sent directly to the post office in trays affixed with the green Military-Overseas mail tags provided by the post office.
- For Military-Overseas absentee ballots by fax or email:
 - Voter receives ballot by preferred method, included with it is the ABS-9 (waiver of ballot secrecy) and an instructional cover sheet.
 - Military-Overseas voters voting by email or fax receive confirmation upon the Election Board's receipt of their ballot.
- Military-Overseas absentee ballots are sent to the polls to be counted on Election Day with civilian absentees

Marion County Military-Overseas Recommendations and Issues

Marion County strongly recommends the separating of civilian from military/overseas absentee ballot/application processing to prevent unnecessary clerical errors.

Multiple application requests for the same Military-Overseas voter present the largest administrative challenge. Absentee applications for Military-Overseas voters stay on file for two general election cycles. Unless the initial request has expired or the voter changes their name, address or absentee voting preference (i.e. mail, fax or email), Military-Overseas voters do not need to submit an application in every election.

The best way for the Election Board to improve the overall experience for Military-Overseas voters is communication and outreach. Military-Overseas voters should be encouraged to contact their local Election Board early in the election season to ensure their application is intact before submitting a new application.

Marion County 2008 General Election Military-Overseas Statistics	
Ballots Sent Via Fax/Email	779
Ballots Sent Via Mail	2603
Total Number Sent	3382
Total Ballots Returned by Voters	833
Total Ballots Counted	833

For further information or inquiries, please contact Jenny Troutman at jtroutma@indygov.org or 317.327.5097.