

Step-by-Step Instructions

These procedures apply to persons who are members of the Uniformed Services and their dependents who are also U.S. citizens and residents of Minnesota. 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.

Absentee Voting by Minnesota Military Personnel and Dependents

Follow these steps:

- Download an [FPCA \(Federal Post Card Application\)](#), or obtain the application from your Voting Assistance Officer.
- Carefully complete your application by following the instructions ([pdf](#)).
- Fax or mail your application to the McLeod County Auditor's Office. You may fax to: 320-864-1295
- If you change your address after you apply, you must submit another application and fax or mail it to the McLeod County Auditor.
- The ballot will be mailed to you 30 days before each election, or after receipt of application if less than 30 days.
- Mail your completed ballot to the McLeod County Auditor (ballots must be received by the County Auditor in time to deliver to the precinct before the polls close on Election Day).

Tips to ensure that your vote gets counted:

- You must be a Minnesota resident, but you do not have to be a currently registered voter in Minnesota to apply (the application serves as your voter registration form).
- Send your FPCA application to your auditor as soon as possible, even now. You may use a single application for all elections in a calendar year (local, state, and federal offices).
- Military spouses and dependents can use the same process to apply for absentee ballots.
- A member of your immediate family (spouse, parent, sister, brother, or child over 18 years of age) can complete and submit your application for you. They must sign the signature line and state their relationship to, you the applicant.
- Allow enough time to mail the ballot. Remember, the voted ballot must be received by the County Auditor in time to deliver to the precinct before the polls close on Election Day.
- Minnesota does not allow you to receive or return ballots by fax.
- If you are located outside the U.S., and have applied for but have not received your state ballot, request a **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** from your Voting Assistance Officer. The Federal Ballot only contains candidates for Federal Offices