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Military and overseas voters can apply for absentee ballots

Colorado residents serving in the military or living overseas who will be absent for the 2004 General Election are encouraged to act early to register to vote and apply for absentee ballots.

This is important for Colorado residents on active duty or in the merchant marine service. This also applies to U.S. citizens who are former Colorado residents living outside the United States, and non-military Colorado residents living temporarily outside the U.S.

Citizens located outside the United States, usually considered overseas and military voters, are covered by the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), which was enhanced in 2002 by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA02) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). These special laws help ensure that U.S. citizens temporarily or permanently located overseas will not lose their ability to vote. Often logistical challenges make it difficult for overseas voters to receive and return absentee ballots in time to be counted. So, these laws provide for streamlined voter registration and absentee ballot requests, and even faxing of absentee ballots for overseas and military voters.

Important Deadlines

Strict deadlines still apply to overseas/military voters. All voters are encouraged to register, or make any changes to their voter registrations well before election deadlines. The following critical dates apply to all voters for the 2004 General Election:

- October 4 – Last Day to Register to Vote
- October 26 – Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot to be Mailed
- October 29 – Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot not to be Mailed
- November 2 – General Election

General Information

Overseas/military voters can obtain voter registration and voting information from the Colorado Secretary of State at 303-894-2200, or their web site at: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/uocava.html>

Arapahoe County residents are encouraged to contact the Clerk and Recorder's Office at 303-795-4511, or visit the County's Elections web page at www.co.arapahoe.co.us/CR/Election

Absentee Ballots for Overseas & Military Voters

Under the UOCAVA law, absentee ballots may be faxed to overseas and military voters who request them using the appropriate application form. The completed form can be faxed or mailed to the Clerk's office. The forms are available at the Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder's office, from the Colorado Secretary of State, or at the following web site: www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/2004_UOCAVA_ballot.pdf

Overseas/military voters who wish to have their absentee ballots faxed to them must have their absentee ballot applications to the Colorado Secretary of State or their County Clerk's Office no later than the close of business on Friday, Oct. 29, 2004.

For mailed absentee ballots, it is important that the County Clerk has updated address information for overseas and military voters. When a move or change of duty station occurs, to ensure the absentee ballot is mailed to the correct address, Uniformed Services Electors, Non-Resident and Resident Overseas Electors must submit a new Standard Form 76, the Federal Post Card Application (FCPA): www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/onlinefpa.pdf

Questions? Visit our web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us or call the Elections Division at 303-795-4511.
