

7 FAM 1520 DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

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(Office of Origin: CA/OCS/PRI)

a. **Absentee Ballot** – a ballot used by voters who are not going to be present to exercise their right to vote in the usual place of their voter registration on election day. A voter must apply for an absentee ballot in advance.

b. **Domicile** (Voting Residence) – place where an individual has a permanent home or ties, and to which, whenever absent, the individual has the intention of returning. It is the address that ties the voter into the precinct in which the voter intends to vote. However, the voting residence of a U.S. citizen voting pursuant to the UOCAVA and no longer domiciled in the U.S. will be the place in which he/she was last domiciled immediately prior to departing the U.S.

c. **Electoral Vote** – votes cast for President and Vice President by presidential electors in what is known popularly as the Electoral College. The total electoral vote is 538, with 270 needed to win the election. Traditionally, by law or custom, the candidate who wins the most popular votes in a state wins all of that state's electoral votes.

d. **Elector** – a qualified voter. Also used for the 538 members of the Electoral College.

e. **Electronic Transmission Service** – a processing center, maintained by FVAP, which electronically routes applications for registration and ballots to local election officials; blank ballots to voters; and voted ballots to local election officials, as prescribed by state laws.

f. **Federal Post Card Application (FPCA SF-76)** – simultaneous registration and/or absentee ballot request used by U.S. citizens voting pursuant to the UOCAVA.

g. **Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB SF-186)** – a back-up ballot that can be used by UOCAVA citizens in general elections under very specific conditions.

h. **General Election** – an election held to choose candidates nominated in the primary or runoff election (or by convention or caucus), for Federal, State, and local offices.

i. **Non-partisan** – free from political party affiliation.

j. **Primary Election (Primary)** – an election held before a general election to nominate a political party's candidates for office.

Closed Primary – primary in which voters must declare their political party affiliation and choose a candidate from that party's ballot.

Open Primary – primary in which voters may vote for the candidates of any party listed on the ballot.

k. **Runoff** – an election held in some states if no one candidate for an office receives a majority (or specified percentage) of votes to win the election.

l. **Special election** – an election that is specially scheduled to fill an office that has become vacant before the term of its expiration.

m. **Registration** – the process whereby a prospective voter is required to establish identity and residence prior to an election in order to be declared eligible to vote.

n. **State** – for purposes of the UOCAVA, includes all of the following political jurisdictions:

- The 50 States
- The District of Columbia
- The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- The Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands

o. **State Special Write-In Absentee Ballot** – available from local election officials and used by certain voters who know in advance that they will not be able to receive and return the regular absentee ballot in time to be counted because of their remote location or special assignment.

p. **Voting Residence** (see Domicile)

q. **Voting Volunteer** – a U.S. citizen who volunteers to help disseminate information about absentee voting, registration deadlines and post activities regarding its Voting Assistance Program.

Also see “Key Election Terms” at

Appendix F of VAG