

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM APPROVED

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has approved a national mail voter registration form, as mandated by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The Commission will soon be distributing printing specifications and a camera-ready copy of the application booklet to the chief election official in each state. The forms are required to be publicly available by January 1, 1995.

U.S. citizens who reside or have an address in the United States can use the national form to register to vote in their state of residence. They may also report a change of name and/or address to their state election office, or register with a political party, then mail the form back to their respective state election authority.

The national form does not supplant state registration forms but is intended to offer greater flexibility in the times and places citizens can register to vote. The form may also be used in some public agencies required to provide voter registration services under the Act.

Citizens in all but five states will be able to fill out this form anywhere in the country and use it to register in their home state, beginning in January 1995. The five states where the forms will not be available on request are:

- Arkansas and Virginia laws prohibit accepting the form for use in their states until after Jan. 1, 1996.
- New Hampshire will accept the application only as a request for that state's absentee voter mail-in registration form.
- North Dakota does not have voter registration.
- Wyoming will not permit the use of the application for registering voters.

Officials of the National Clearinghouse on Election Administration said the registration form, in camera-ready format, will be sent to state election officials in late November. Each state will be responsible for actual printing and distribution.

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