



Secretary of State's Office

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Expanding UOCAVA Access to Emergency Responders

- Mississippi state law provides expanded access to UOCAVA voting procedures to include more than overseas citizens and members of the armed forces.
- In 2014, the Mississippi legislature expanded access to UOCAVA voting procedures to include emergency response providers that are deployed during a state of emergency, whether in Mississippi or elsewhere.



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Expanding UOCAVA Access to Emergency Responders

- The expansion of UOCAVA voting procedures to emergency response providers allows access to request and/or register to vote through the Federal Post Card Application. It also allows emergency response providers to receive and return ballot materials electronically.
- Our Circuit Clerks were already familiar with assisting voters through the UOCAVA process. By simply expanding the definition of who is eligible to vote under these procedures, Clerks were able to seamlessly provide emergency response providers with the UOCAVA voting option.



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UOCAVA Eligibility

- Any enlisted or commissioned members, male or female, of the US Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines, who are citizens of Mississippi;
- Any member of the Merchant Marine and the American Red Cross who is a citizen of Mississippi;
- Any disabled war veteran who is a patient in any hospital and who is a citizen of Mississippi;
- Any civilian attached to and serving outside of the US with any branch of the Armed Forces of with the Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and who is a citizen of Mississippi;
- **Any trained or certified emergency response provider who is deployed during any state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or any Governor of any state within the US;**
- Any citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the US and the District of Columbia;
- Any citizen of Mississippi enrolled as a student at a US Military Academy.
- The spouse and dependents of any absentee voter as set out in paragraphs (a)-(g) if also absent from their county and otherwise qualified to vote in Mississippi.

Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-673



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Process

- File the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA).
- Sign FPCA (physically or electronically).
- Return FPCA to county circuit clerk:
 - E-mail; fax; or mail
- Receive, vote, and return the ballot:
 - E-mail or online; fax; or mail
- Simultaneously submit ranked choice runoff ballot, if desired.
- County Circuit Clerk receives the ballot and deposits the ballot in the ballot box for counting.



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Hurricane Zeta and the 2020 Election

- Days before the 2020 November Election, Hurricane Zeta made landfall and caused significant damage across the Mississippi and Louisiana coastline.
- Countless homes were damaged and without power. Several of the precincts in Mississippi's coastal counties were also without power.
- Emergency response providers from all across Mississippi, and several from out of state, traveled to the Coast to assist with the aftermath.



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Hurricane Zeta and the 2020 Election

- Many emergency responders were dispatched to areas with little-to-no reception and no way to receive mail since they were constantly moving across the Mississippi Coast to provide relief wherever necessary.
- Mississippi's expanded UOCAVA procedures allowed these emergency response providers the ability to receive their ballot directly to their phone (via email), mark it, and return it via email.



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Questions?



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