



# Absentee Voting Instructions Uniformed and Overseas Voters

## STEP 1 – Complete your ballot in private.

## STEP 2 – Complete the return address

- Complete the return address in the upper left corner of the address portion of the absentee ballot mailing label.

## STEP 3 – Complete and sign the Voter's Affidavit / Declaration

- The Voter's Affidavit / Declaration is on the pre-printed mailing label.
- Sign your name as it is listed on the label.
- **Please Note: Your absentee ballot cannot be counted if the Voter's Affidavit / Declaration is not signed.**

## STEP 4 – Returning your ballot

- If returning your ballot by **fax**, make sure to fax both the ballot and the Voter's Affidavit / Declaration to your county auditor's office.
  - If you choose to return your absentee ballot by **fax**, you are voluntarily waiving your right to a secret ballot. (Election officials under oath will be the only people to see your ballot and they will only check to make sure the transmission captured your votes on the ballot.)
  - Absentee ballots returned by **fax** must be sent no later than midnight on the day before the election in the location where you completed your ballot.
- If returning your ballot by **mail**:
  - Fold your ballot with the printed side toward the inside to conceal your vote;
  - Place your folded ballot into a mailing envelope that you provide;
  - Cut out the mailing label and tape to the front side of the envelope. Clear tape is preferable. All wording must be visible through the tape. The US Postal Service recommends that the entire surface of the label is covered with clear tape to protect it during transport.
- Types of postage
  - The mailing label includes prepaid first class postage for military and overseas citizens who have access to the US Postal Service or Military Postal Service.
  - Prepaid expedited mail service is available for the General Election only by asking the Military Postal Service for a Label 11-DOD (see sample to the right). Place this sticker over the barcode and first class postage printed on the mailing label.
  - For overseas citizens who do not have access to the Military Post Office, the correct postage for the country from which the absentee ballot is being mailed must be used. Place the postage over the barcode and first class postage printed on the mailing label.
- Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day before the election and must arrive at the election official's office prior to the meeting of the canvassing board, which is no sooner than 3 days after the election and no later than six.



## STEP 5 – Track receipt of your Absentee Ballot

- You may track the receipt of your absentee ballot by accessing the Voter Information Portal on the North Dakota Secretary of State's website located at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/>. Click on the Check the Status of Your Absentee/Mail Ballot link.