

Royal Decree 1621/2007 of 7 December, regulating a voting procedure for Spanish citizens who are temporarily abroad

Article 2. Applicability.

The procedure regulated by the present royal decree may be applied for by those voters who fulfil the following requirements:

1. To be temporarily outside the national territory once the electoral process has been called, and expect to remain abroad until the day of the election.
2. To be registered in the Consular Registration Register as non-residents.

Article 3. Application to exercise the right to vote.

1. Spanish citizens who are temporarily abroad and who wish to participate in any electoral process held in Spain must request the documentation necessary to exercise their right to vote from abroad from the corresponding Provincial Delegation of the Electoral Census Office, no later than the twenty fifth day following the calling of the respective electoral process.
2. The application referred to in the previous section, whose model is in accordance with the provisions of annex I, must be made using a specific form that can be acquired in the Consular Offices or the Consular Sections of the Embassy, or can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
3. The completed form must be submitted in person at the Consular Office or the Consular Section of the Embassy, after the voter has provided identification by showing the National Identity Card or Spanish Passport, and the consular civil servant has verified the registration of the voter in the Consular Registration Register as non-resident and the signature of the voter.
4. The Consular Office or Consular Section of the Embassy shall issue the request immediately to the Provincial Delegation of the corresponding Electoral Census Office.
5. The said request will be valid, exclusively, for a specific electoral process, or for several if they are held on the same date, and it entails the right to vote being exercised from abroad.

Article 4. Sending of voting documentation.

1. Once the application has been received, the Provincial Delegation of the Electoral Census Office shall send the interested party the Certificate of registration in the census referred to in article 72 of Organic Law 5/1985 of 19 June, in addition to the following documentation:
 - Ballot papers. In the case of Elections to General Courts, the ballot paper sent shall be in accordance with the provisions of article 190.2 of Organic Law 5/1985 of 19 June.
 - Voting envelope.
 - An envelope complete with the address of the corresponding polling station.
 - An information sheet.
2. The Provincial Delegation of the Electoral Census Office shall send the said documentation to the foreign domicile indicated in the application, by registered post and no later than the thirty fourth day following the calling of the election or, in the case of appeals of the announcement of candidates, the forty second day following the calling of the election.
3. In the case of Elections to General Courts, the mailing of the documentation must be made no later than the thirty second day following the calling of the election, unless this coincides with the holding of other electoral processes, in which case the deadlines established in the previous section will apply.

Article 5. Voting.

1. Once the voter has chosen a voting ballot, they shall place it inside the voting envelope and seal the envelope. If more than one election has been called, this process should be repeated for each of them. The voting envelope or envelopes and the certificate should be placed inside the envelope addressed to the polling station, and the latter envelope must be sent by registered post not later than the third day prior to the holding of the election.
2. In the case of Elections to General Courts, the voter shall write on the ballot paper the name of the party, federation, coalition or group for which they choose to vote, and submit the vote in accordance with the provisions of the previous section.
3. It is essential for the validity of these votes that there be on the envelope addressed to the polling station a clear postmark or other official registration from the State post office in question, indubitably certifying compliance with the time requisite indicated in the first section of this article.

4. Until the day of the election, the post office shall hold all correspondence addressed to the polling stations, and shall on that day transfer it to them at 9 am. Likewise, any post received on this day shall be taken to the polling station up until 8 pm. The post office shall keep a record of all documentation received, which will be made available to the Electoral Boards. The envelopes received after the day stipulated for the election shall be sent to the Zone Electoral Board for the purpose of the resolution of possible complaints and, in the event of the reimbursement of postal vote shipping expenses to voters.