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**From:** Angela Upchurch <aupchurch@colletoncounty.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:30 AM  
**To:** 'Heather Bakst'  
**Cc:** governor@govoepp.state.sc.us; Haley, Nikki; Whitmire, Chris;  
aupchurch@colletoncounty.org  
**Subject:** RE: SC Absentee Ballot Complaint

Dear Ms. Bakst,

The deadline for sending (mail, email and fax) ballots to military and overseas citizens for the 2016 General Election was **Saturday, September 24.**

Meeting this deadline is a requirement of state and federal law. This process is closely monitored by the SEC and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The SEC is required to provide information to DOJ about the status of UOCAVA ballots.

**After the deadline, UOCAVA ballots must be sent no later than the close of business on the next business day following the date the request was received.**

With this information in mind, you requested a paper ballot to be mailed to your home in Germany on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our office did not receive our ballot order until Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. (This was later than expected due to Hurricane Matthew.) As stated above, I had no choice but to send you the ballot you received to be in compliance with state and federal law.

On the day of the election, your enclosed ballot will be opened by Board Members and transferred onto an official ballot that can be read by an optical scanner. Through this public duplication process, your original ballot and the duplicate ballot will be marked for auditing purposes, allowing your original ballot to be matched up with the scanned ballot to ensure your choices were transferred properly. While the duplication process is public, your ballot is anonymous and no one will see how you voted.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can also visit the state website [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org). This website may answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your concern,

Angela G. Upchurch  
Director  
Board of Voter Registration & Elections  
2471 Jefferies Hwy  
843-549-2842 phone  
843-549-2812 fax  
[aupchurch@colletoncounty.org](mailto:aupchurch@colletoncounty.org)  
[www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org)

**From:** Heather Bakst [mailto:hnbakst@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 6:10 AM  
**To:** aupchurch@colletoncounty.org  
**Subject:** Fwd: SC Absentee Ballot Complaint

Dear Ms. Upchruch,

I am forwarding to you and email I sent to the Governors office concerning my absentee ballot. It does not look like an official ballot, instead it seems to be a printout of the touchscreen ballot. What can be done in order to make sure I receive the proper ballot in time to vote?

Sincerely,  
Heather Bakst (nee Benton)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather Bakst** <[hnbakst@gmail.com](mailto:hnbakst@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 11:11 AM  
Subject: SC Absentee Ballot Complaint  
To: [governor@govoepp.state.sc.us](mailto:governor@govoepp.state.sc.us), [nrh@gov.sc.gov](mailto:nrh@gov.sc.gov)

Dear Governor Haley,

I apologize in advance if I am incorrect in sending this to you. After looking online, I could not find the correct office to address this complaint to and as voting is now more important than ever, I did not wish to waste any time.

I am a SC citizen living abroad in Berlin, Germany. I have lived in Germany for over 8 years now and have voted absentee throughout this time. I am originally from Walterboro, SC which is located in Colleton County, and am still registered to vote there.

I requested my absentee ballot and received it in the mail a few days ago. However, I do not believe I received an official ballot. It looks nothing like the absentee ballots I have received in the past. Instead, it looks as though it is nothing more than a printout of the touchscreen ballot. I have included a picture of page 1.

If this is not the official ballot, what can I do in order to receive one?

Sincerely,  
Heather Bakst (nee Benton)