

# **FVAP**

# **Back to Basics & Beyond**

**Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act**

**Date: June 15, 2021**



**FVAP.gov**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Overview

## Agenda:

- ✓ Back to Basics: FVAP & UOCAVA
- ✓ FVAP Resources for Election Officials
- ✓ Federal Post Card Application
- ✓ Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- ✓ Florida and UOCAVA Voters
- ✓ FVAP Call to Action 2022



# Back to Basics:

# FVAP & UOCAVA





**FVAP.gov**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*

Passed in 1986 and known as “UOCAVA”

Allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office.

*FVAP administers UOCAVA on  
behalf of the Secretary of Defense*

- **2002** – The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) amended UOCAVA to require states to notify voters of the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request
- **2009** – The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) amended UOCAVA to require states to send requested absentee ballots 45 days prior to an election for federal office, and to provide those ballots electronically upon request.

# FVAP Responsibilities



- Training
  - Installation and Unit Voting Action Officers
  - Embassy and Consulate Staff
  - Federal Government Agencies
- Maintain voter resources
  - Forms
  - Voting Assistance Guide
  - FVAP.gov Website
  - Online Assistants for Form Completion
- Reports to Congress
- Code of Federal Regulations Title 32, Part 233
- DOD Instruction 1000.04
- Data Collection
- Waiver Requests
- Ensure State and Local Election Official Awareness

# State Responsibilities / Requirements



## States and/or Localities Must:

- Transmit requested UOCAVA ballots by the 45<sup>th</sup> day prior to elections for federal office
- Offer electronic option for transmitting blank ballots
- Provide a free access system for voters to verify receipt of ballot
- Notify voter if, and why, a registration or ballot request is rejected

## Reminders:

- UOCAVA voters exempt from ID requirements
- Satisfying residency requirements is left to the states
- Last address in the United States remains the valid address for voting purposes
- Military Spouses have a choice where to align their residency – prior physical presence not required
- All election materials sent to UOCAVA voters are postage free



# Information Saturation

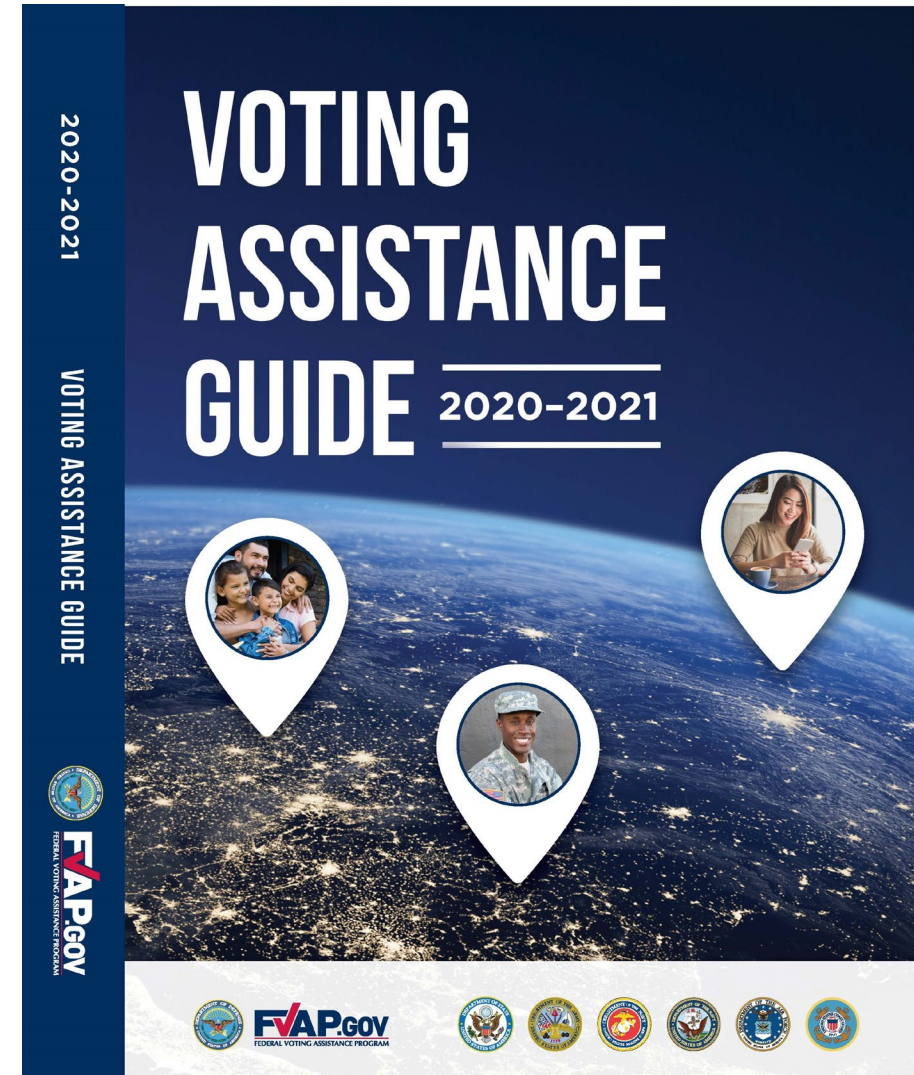
Through VAO Workshops, we train service members on where to find **UOCAVA** information on:

- ✓ Key state deadlines
- ✓ Changes to election information in particular states, like changes in submission methods or sharing emergency information that impacts elections
- ✓ Participation by state and local election officials
- ✓ Monthly distribution of upcoming elections to all active duty personnel



# Voting Assistance Guide

- ✓ In coordination with all 55 States and territories
- ✓ Distributed to military installations, Consulates, and Embassies worldwide
- ✓ Standardization of the *Voting Assistance Guide* into plain language to better support VAOs in the field and individual voters who visit FVAP.gov: **89% VAOs found it useful.**





# FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

## Workshop Execution

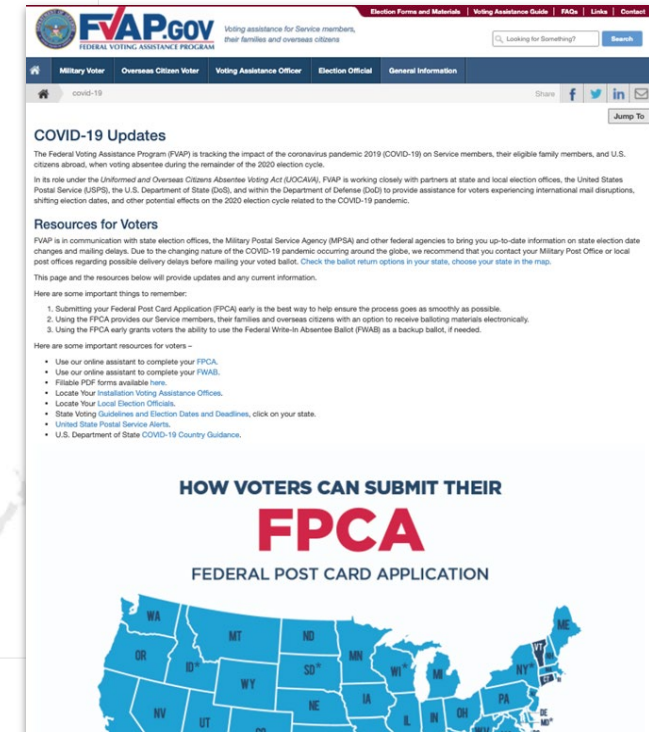
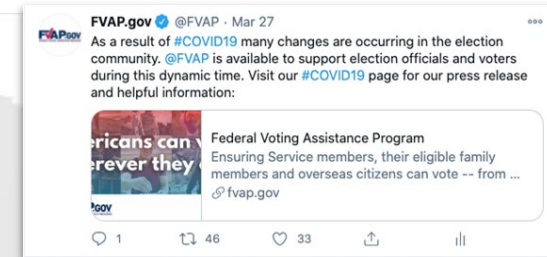
### JOIN FVAP at a VAO Training Workshop



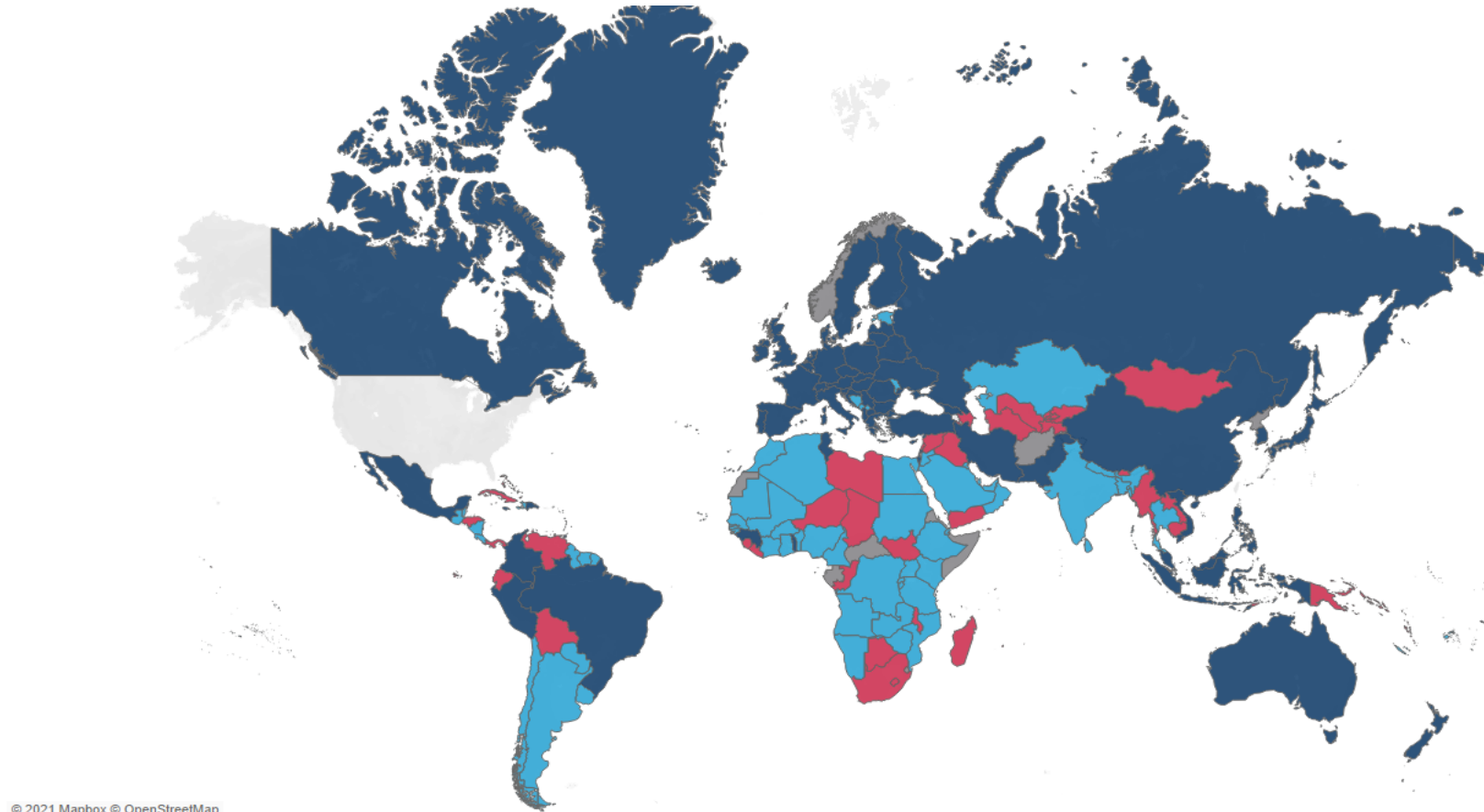
© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

#### Workshop Type

- In-person
- Virtual



# 2020 International Postal Disruptions



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Postal service disruptions approaching the 45 day mark before the 2020 General Election

- Delivery delays
- Postal service resumed after being suspended, with delivery delays still likely
- Postal service suspended or unable to deliver by air and sea
- No Data

# Florida

## UOCAVA Statistics



# UOCAVA 2018 Numbers for Florida

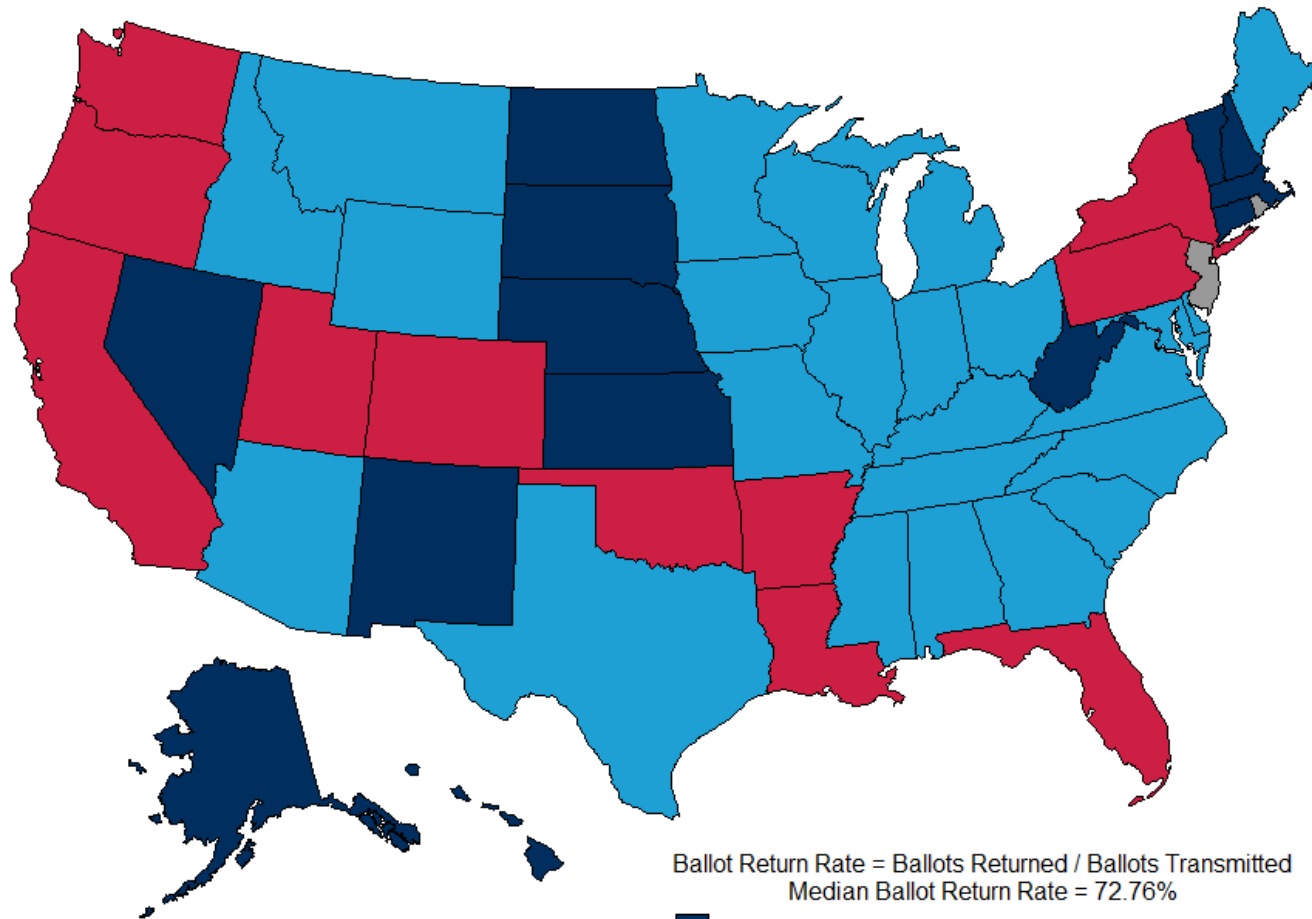
In 2018, Florida had:

**146,343 registered and eligible UOCAVA voters**

Of this number, 66% were Service members (96,010)  
and 34% were overseas citizens (50,324)

Data source: 2018 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC, Pg. 102  
[https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac\\_assets/1/6/2018\\_EAVS\\_Report.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/2018_EAVS_Report.pdf)

# 2018 UOCAVA Ballots Returned

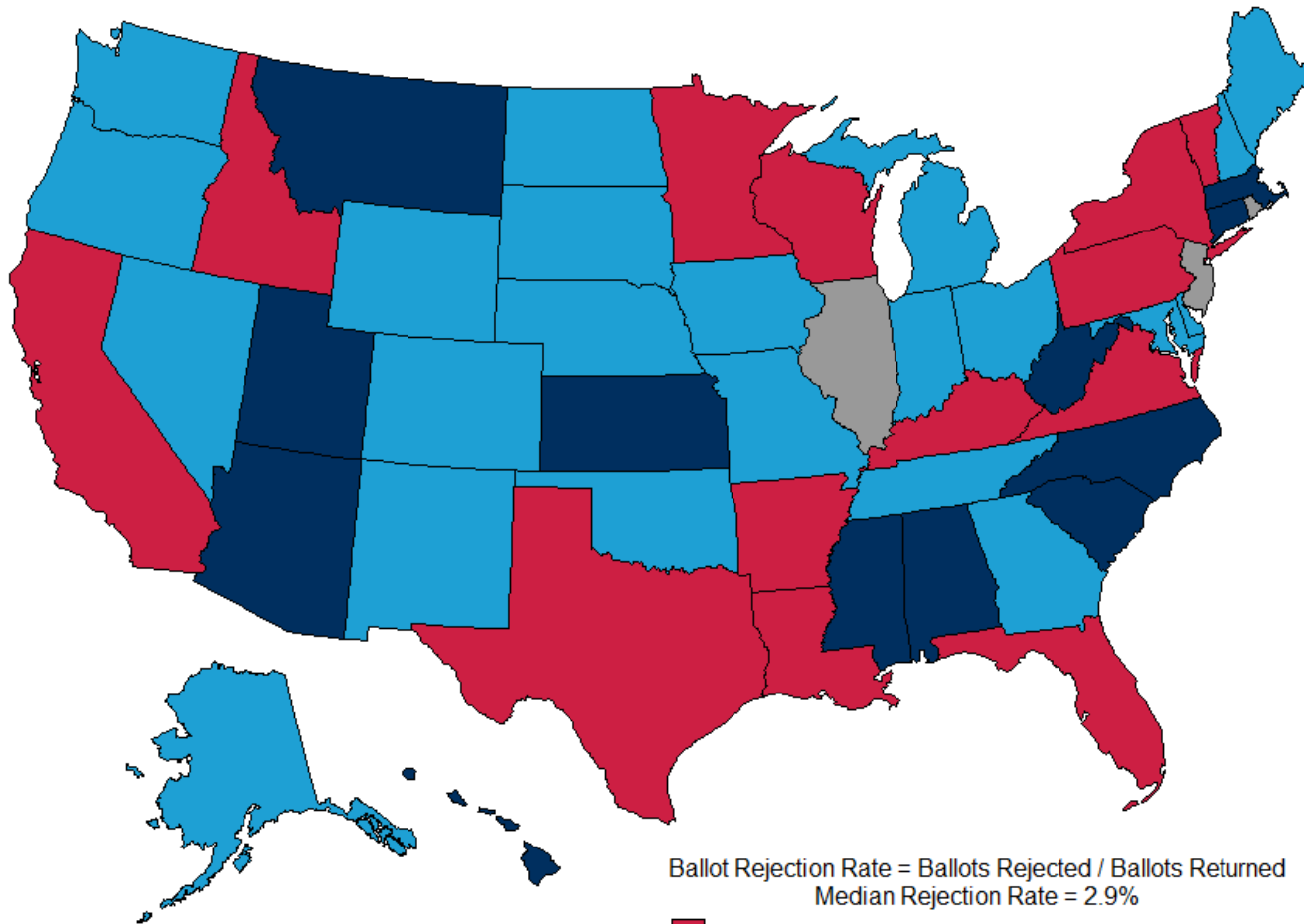


In the 2018 General Election, Florida transmitted 95,002 ballots to UOCAVA voters, and received a total of 49,762 returned ballots.

Data source: 2018 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC. Pg. 110



# 2018 UOCAVA Ballots Rejected



Florida rejected a total of 3,281 returned ballots in the 2018 General Election.

Data source: 2018 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC. Pg. 110

# Resources for the 2022 Election Cycle & Beyond





### Voters Start Here

Military and Overseas Citizens select your voting  
residence State

Select a State



### Help a Voter

★ [Voting Assistance Officers](#)

☑ [Election Officials](#)

## You Can Vote from Anywhere

when you're in the military or an American overseas

[Request an Absentee Ballot](#)

80 Days until the November 06 General Election

### Upcoming Election Dates

**Aug**  
**21**  
[Wyoming](#) - State Primary  
[Alaska](#) - State Primary

### Quick Links

- [State Voting Guidelines](#)
- [Locate Your Election Official](#)



### Latest FVAP News

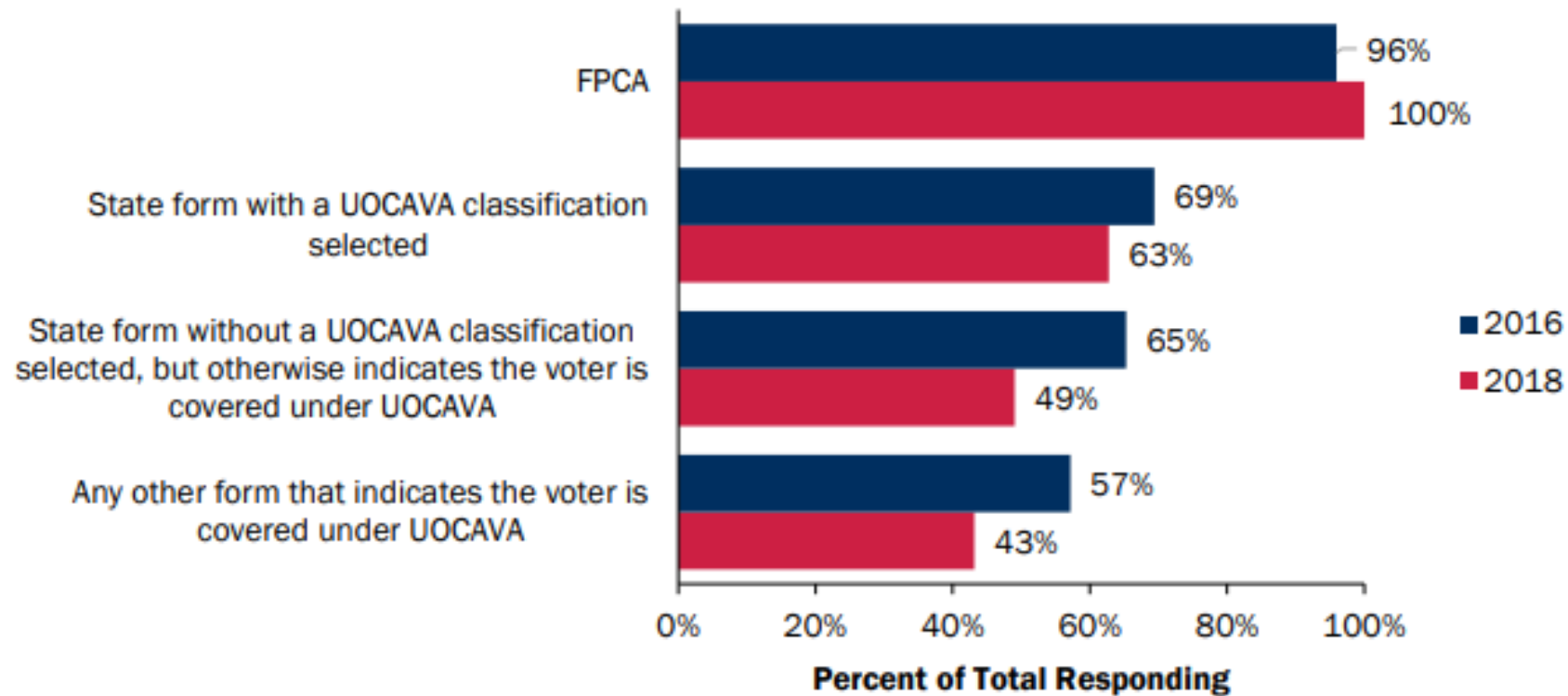
July 31

[Check Out Our Latest SEO Newsletter](#)

# Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

## FPCA Importance for *UOCAVA* Protections

### Absentee Ballot Request Forms that Allow for *UOCAVA* Protections, 2016-2018



# Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

- ✓ Updates considered every two years
- ✓ Federal Register public comment period
- ✓ Possible slight redesign for 2022
- ✓ Previous versions should still be accepted
- ✓ State requirements referenced
- ✓ AZ recognizes Never Resided status

***Used for both  
Registration & Ballot  
Request***

**Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request**  
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

**This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your State's instructions at FVAP.gov.**

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

**1. Who are you? Pick one.**

I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:

☐ I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- ☐ I am an eligible spouse or dependent.  
☐ I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix (Jr., II) \_\_\_\_\_ Sex ☐ Female ☐ Male  
First name \_\_\_\_\_ Previous names (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Driver's license or State ID # \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is your address in the U.S. State or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?**

Your voting materials will not be sent to this address.

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_  
City, town, village \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Where are you now? You must give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.**

Your mailing address. (Different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
Your mail forwarding address. (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.**

Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What is your voting preference? Select One.**

How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? ☐ Mail ☐ Email or online ☐ Fax

What is your political party for primary elections? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. What additional information must you provide?**

The following need more information: Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. (Ex. Witness signature, proof of residency, etc.)  
You may also use this space to clarify your voter information. See the Voting Assistance Guide at FVAP.gov.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. You must read and sign this statement.**

**I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:**

- The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
- I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
- I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

**Sign here** **X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's date**  
(MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 76 (Rev.09-2017), OMB No. 0704-0503



# Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

- ✓ Updates considered every two years
- ✓ Federal Register public comment period
- ✓ Slight update for 2022
- ✓ If both state ballot and FWAB are received, follow state procedures
- ✓ *UOCAVA* voters can use a FWAB well in advance of an election if necessary by noting the intended election date on the mailing envelope
- ✓ *UOCAVA* voters may vote by writing the name of a political party
- ✓ Can not be rejected based on the paper or envelope type it arrives in

***before using a FWAB***

[illegible]

# FVAP Call Center

Our most popular resource

- ✓ 40,000+ inquires in 2016 (presidential)
- ✓ 13,000+ inquiries in 2018 (midterm)
- ✓ Available Monday – Friday
- ✓ 7:30am – 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time
- ✓ **1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**
- ✓ [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov)



***Call center available to voters  
and election officials!***

# Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) Changes

**ETS began in 1992 for Service members deployed in Operation Desert Shield/Storm to transmit their election materials. It currently offers:**

- Forwarding of a voter's emailed election materials as a fax where state law allows fax, but not email, receipt

## **NOTE:**

- Voters that have the ability to email or fax their election official directly, should do so
- FVAP will no longer forward emails between voters and local election officials where email receipt is accepted
- Voters encouraged to use cover sheet (with secrecy waiver for voted ballot)
- Hazardous Duty pay zones listed at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov)

## **States and localities should:**

- Keep fax machines/fax servers operating 24/7 during election periods
- Have procedures for handling incoming faxed election materials



# FVAP Call to Action

## 2022 & Beyond



# FVAP Call To Action 2022



@FVAP



Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



## #UOCAVASaturday

### Things to consider leading up to an election!

- ✓ Review UOCAVA address formatting for military and overseas citizens
- ✓ Coordinate envelope design, drop-offs and pick-ups with local postal officials
- ✓ Leverage FVAP.gov for your new staff or a refresher for current staff
- ✓ Let FVAP know when your address changes!



### Military Voter Example

PFC John Doe  
PSC 3 Box 4120  
APO AE 09021

### Overseas Citizen Example

MR THOMAS CLARK  
117 RUSSELL DRIVE  
LONDON W1P 6HQ  
GREAT BRITAIN



# FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

## \*TESTING\* Your absentee ballot has been received!

coe\_noreply@state.de.us <coe\_noreply@state.de.us>  
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:

The Department received your absentee ballot on 03/22/2016 for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

You can check the status of your ballot by selecting the appropriate items in the "Voter Portal" at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

The Department will let you know whether or not your ballot was counted following the election. If it was not counted, we will tell you why. Ballots received on time are in most instances counted.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections  
New Castle County Office  
Carvel State Office Bldg  
820 N French St Ste 400  
Wilmington DE 19801  
Email: [absentee@state.de.us](mailto:absentee@state.de.us)  
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 100268808-W-N-212820



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

## \*TESTING\* Your absentee ballot has been counted!

coe\_noreply@state.de.us <coe\_noreply@state.de.us>  
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear MARCIA MARY SHOLL:

The Department has counted your absentee ballot for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections  
New Castle County Office  
Carvel State Office Bldg  
820 N French St Ste 400  
Wilmington DE 19801  
Email: [absentee@state.de.us](mailto:absentee@state.de.us)  
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 100475719-W-N-212821

**Ballot Received  
& Ballot Counted!**

# FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

## Emailing to [.mil] addresses:

- Heightened security concerns
- Attachments may be removed – recommend sending second email without the attachment
- Hyperlinks disabled
  - Separate links in email body
  - Clearly identify your contact information
- Bouncebacks
  - Be aware
  - Ask for private email, if necessary/possible



# FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

## Voter Emphasis Weeks

- **Armed Forces Voters Week – Independence Day week**
- **Overseas Citizens Voters Week – Independence Day week**
- **Absentee Voting Week – Late September/early October**



# What to watch for in 2021

- State Election Official Post-Election Voting survey
- FVAP availability for briefings to state and local election officials
- Public comment opportunity on proposed changes to FPCA and FWAB
- Updates to materials to include 2022 Voting Assistance Guide
- Continuing refinements to DoD Fax Service
- DoD proposal to remove itself from UOCAVA waiver process
- Release of FVAP EASE Grant Report to Congress
- Release of FVAP 2020 Report to Congress
- Release of FVAP 2020 Overseas Citizen Analysis
- Release of FVAP data standardization for Section B of the EAVS Survey
- Release of FVAP report on Military Ballot Tracking Project
- 2022 election cycle dates and deadlines




**HOW TO VOTE FROM ANYWHERE IN**  
**2 Simple Steps...**  
FOR U.S. MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

Did you know U.S. military members, their families and overseas citizens can exercise their right to vote from anywhere in the world?

**HERE'S HOW:**

**STEP 1**  
FILL OUT THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA) AT FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT  
**WHEN?**  
Send it to your election office by **August 1\*** (or later depending on your state) for the General Election on November 3, 2020.

**STEP 2**  
FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES  
**WHEN?**  
By your recommended deadline:

 <b>October 5, 2020</b> on a ship at sea	 <b>October 13, 2020</b> outside the U.S.	 <b>October 27, 2020</b> stateside
---	--	---



# Thank You!

More information:

**FVAP.gov**

**vote@fvap.gov**

Connect with us:

**1 (800) 438-VOTE (8683)**



**@FVAP**



**Facebook.com/DoDFVAP**



**FVAP.gov**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM