



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

December 15, 2011

Director Bob Carey
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
Rosslyn Plaza North
1777 North Kent Street
14th Floor, Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209-2162

Dear Director Carey:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on the tremendous strides the nation has taken in response to the need for efficient voting opportunities for citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) since you have been Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

This office worked with the 2011 Montana Legislature to implement the mandates from the 2009 Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, through passage of Senate Bill 55. Our responses to the legislative recommendations from your office are as follows:

- 1. Enact the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) Model Legislation.**
Recommendations of the ULC will be analyzed and legislation may be drafted to make Montana's laws for citizens covered under UOCAVA more uniform with the recommendations of the ULC.
- 2. Extend the period of registration and absentee ballot request availability.**
I agree with your comments that the period that an absentee ballot request by a voter covered under UOCAVA should be valid for one general election, and will look at incorporating a similar provision into 2013 legislation.
- 3. Permit Emergency Authority for State Chief Election Official.**
As mentioned in my response to the Legislative Initiatives letter from last year, I plan to have legislation drafted on this subject for the 2013 Legislative Session.
- 4. Enfranchise Citizens Who Have Never Resided in the U.S.**
Montana's laws on this subject mirror the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Introduction of legislation to enfranchise citizens who have never resided in the U.S. is not anticipated at this time.



My office continues to make voting for citizens covered under UOCAVA a priority, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond to these legislative initiatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda McCulloch".

Linda McCulloch

Montana Secretary of State

Cc: The Honorable Jim Peterson
The Honorable Mike Milburn
The Honorable Carol Williams
The Honorable Jon C. Sesso