



Washington  
Secretary of State  
SAM REED

Washington State  
ELECTIONS

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October 4, 2010

Director Lynn Simpson  
Human Capital and Resource Management  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 14003  
Arlington, VA 22209

RE: Timely transmission of UOCAVA ballots

Dear Director Simpson,

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act requires states to send ballots to military and overseas voters at least 45 days before Election Day. The MOVE Act allows states to apply for a hardship waiver if unable to meet this deadline. Washington State was granted a hardship waiver on August 27, 2010 based on a comprehensive alternative plan to provide sufficient time for ballots to be sent and returned in time to be counted.

The waiver included specific reporting requirements, such as written certification that ballots were in fact transmitted to UOCAVA voters on the dates and in the manner described in the waiver application. Washington State's comprehensive plan called for transmitting ballots to UOCAVA voters no later than October 3, the 30 day deadline set in Washington state law, [RCW 29A.40.070](#), for mailing military and overseas ballots.

All 39 county election offices in Washington transmitted ballots to UOCAVA voters no later than October 1. Since voted ballots may be received until November 23, Washington State military and overseas ballots will have at least 53 days of total transit time. I also note that approximately 73% of these ballots were sent prior to the September 18 deadline, resulting in 66 days of total transit time, which far exceeds the 45 days mandated in the MOVE Act.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

Katie Blinn  
Assistant Director of Elections

cc:

Director Bob Carey, Federal Voting Assistance Program  
Deputy Director Paddy McGuire, Federal Voting Assistance Program