

# 2016-17 Voting Assistance Guide

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Assistance for citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S. Code 1973ff)

**Publication ID# VAG 16-17**

The *2016-17 Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)* was prepared by the Federal Voting Assistance Program with the assistance of the Secretaries of State, Directors of Elections and their staff, the Uniformed Service branches and the Department of State. Information and procedures in the **VAG** are current as of September 2015 and may be affected by changes to Federal and State legislation. Check [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) for updates and for information on how to order an updated version of the **VAG**.

We want your feedback! If this book was helpful to you or if you ran into problems or have questions, please email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov) or mail: **Federal Voting Assistance Program**, 4800 Mark Center Dr., Ste 03J25-02; Alexandria, VA 22350.

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Dear *Voting Assistance Guide* User:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG). The VAG, published every two years and continually updated online, is a catalog of the State-specific processes and regulations that military and overseas voters should follow to successfully register to vote and cast an absentee ballot. FVAP produces this important resource for each election cycle as it often serves as a single source of information for both Voting Assistance Officers and voters. It contains all of the essential steps Uniformed Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens should take to complete the absentee voting process.



The VAG dates back to the 1950s and over the years the format and quantity of information have made the publication overwhelming and less readable to some. For the previous 2014-2015 VAG, we worked with election assistance professionals to employ best practices in election material design to make it more usable. I am pleased to share that for this edition, FVAP further improved this valuable resource by standardizing the content and rewriting it in plain language. This was no small feat. FVAP worked closely with State election officials through several rounds of coordination – we could not have accomplished this much-improved version without their collaboration and valuable input.

FVAP continues to distribute the VAG in multiple formats to accommodate the various environments in which U.S. citizens reside. Whether it is in hardcopy format or the FVAP website, this material is a resource available for people across a wide spectrum of conditions ranging from domestic Installation Voting Assistance Officers, personnel on ships at sea, Peace Corps volunteers, missionaries, business people, students and military members deployed at Forward Operating Bases.

Voting is an individual's choice and personal responsibility, and for those Uniformed Service members, their families and overseas citizens who want to vote, FVAP is committed to providing the best voting assistance possible. We look forward to continuing to serve our voters – and the people who support them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Boehmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Boehmer  
Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program

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