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FVAP Releases 2016 Post-Election Report to Congress

Alexandria, Va. – The Federal Voting Assistance Program’s 2016 Post-Election Report to Congress shows that its voting assistance efforts work: FVAP continues to make progress in reducing obstacles to absentee voting for active duty military and has expanded outreach initiatives for voters covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

"I am proud of the work accomplished by FVAP to support military members, their families, and Americans living abroad throughout the 2016 cycle," FVAP Director David Beirne said. "The post-election data show that military members and overseas citizens are more likely to return their ballots when they use a DoD voting assistance resource — and our 2016 outreach activities were highly effective in letting them know about these resources. However, we must do more, particularly for first-time voters who need help navigating the process."

FVAP voting assistance worked for Service members in 2016

Military members exposed to FVAP materials had higher knowledge of:



Key absentee ballot dates



Federal voting assistance forms



How to register to vote and request an absentee ballot

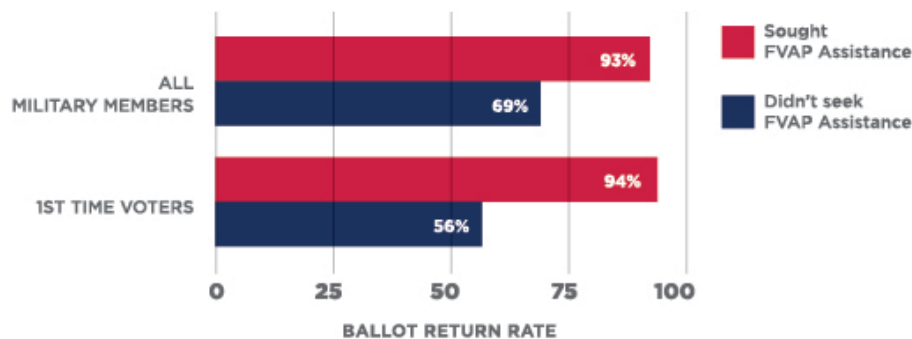


How to submit an absentee ballot



Military members **REQUESTED THEIR BALLOTS EARLIER** in 2016 than 2012 and **RECEIVED BALLOTS EARLIER** too.

SERVICE MEMBERS WHO SOUGHT VOTING ASSISTANCE WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO RETURN THEIR BALLOT





“A striking finding from our analyses is the reported drop in participation rate among military personnel in the 2016 election as compared to the general population — but it’s important to keep in mind that fluctuation in voting rates is normal and typically correlated with interest in the election,” FVAP Director David Beirne said. “The data show that more military members cited motivation-related reasons for not voting and were less interested in the election in 2016 than in 2012. We are continuing our analysis to statistically test whether this decrease can be attributed more to the decline in motivation or to barriers to the absentee voting process.”

FVAP will release its findings, in addition to research on the voting experiences of U.S. citizens residing abroad, later this year.

See highlights of U.S. military voter experiences in 2016 and the full 2016 Post-Election Report to Congress at www.fvap.gov/info/reports-surveys/2016-post-election-report-to-congress.

The full report includes:

- voter registration and participation by military members;
- assessments of FVAP activities and usage of voter assistance resources;
- descriptions of cooperation between States and the Federal Government in carrying out the requirements of *UOCAVA*; and
- findings from post-election surveys of active duty military members, State and local election officials and Voting Assistance Officers.

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Federal Voting Assistance Program

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) organization that works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.

FVAP assists voters through partnerships with the Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice, and election officials from the 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. State and local governments administer U.S. elections, including those for federal offices. FVAP supports State and local election officials by providing absentee voting information, materials, training and guidance.

Voters can contact FVAP’s call center at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584) or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find FVAP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter.