

FVAP UPDATE

JULY AND AUGUST 2019



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2018 POST ELECTION REPORT TO CONGRESS NOW AVAILABLE

After General Elections for federal office we produce a Report to Congress describing voting data among voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

In addition to voter registration and participation, the Report to Congress covers voting assistance provided to and used by military members. FVAP also surveys Voting Assistance Officers supporting military voters and state election offices that support military and overseas voters.



Please check out the report in further detail here:
<https://www.fvap.gov/info/reports-surveys/2018ReporttoCongress>

LAST REMINDER 2020-2021 VOTING ASSISTANCE GUIDE

States should be on the lookout the 3rd and final 2020 Voting Assistance Guide page review for approval in the month of August. We are planning to have final changes to the Guide made in September in order to send to the printer and incorporate into the FVAP.gov state specific tools.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE BEFORE THE POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UPU

The possible U.S. withdrawal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) may impact the use of international mail and absentee voting in 2020. The UPU will hold an Extraordinary Congress of its member nations on September 24 and 25 to discuss U.S. proposals. If an agreement is not reached, the U.S. will withdraw from the UPU effective October 17, 2019. FVAP is working diligently with its federal partners to anticipate the withdrawal and plan accordingly. Here are some suggested contingency actions that FVAP shared with state election officials, including a standardized notice to the voter we encourage mailing no later than August 31, 2019:

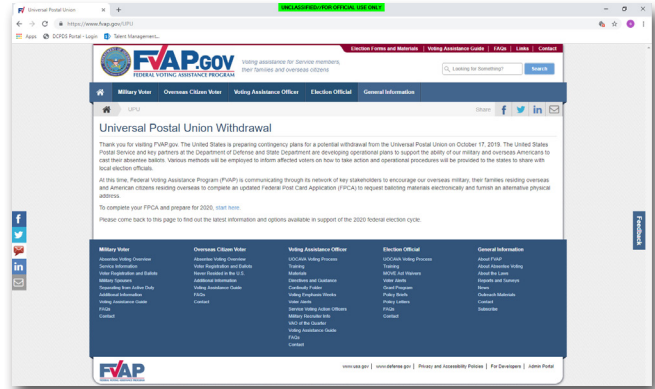
- 1) We know international mail service will continue between now and October 16, 2019. FVAP suggests reaching out to your known UOCAVA voters to request they update their registration data, contact information, and ballot requests for 2020. This will serve three purposes: you will have up-to-date contact information; the voter will be made aware of the pending situation regarding mail to and from the United States; and you will be able to use the postage paid indicia covered under 39 USC 3406.
- 2) Review your state laws, regulations, and administrative procedures regarding the acceptance and processing of both the Federal Post Card Application and the Federal Write-in Absentee

Ballot. Communicate these to your localities to ensure statewide uniformity in administration. Some suggested areas for review are below:

a) If your state does not process FPCA forms for the 2020 election year until January 1, 2020, does state law or regulation allow for the storing of FPCAs received before January 1st for processing in January? (e.g. if you received an FPCA today, could you hold it for processing until the 2020 calendar year if the voter's intent is clear?)

b) Does your state accept online voter registration and absentee ballot requests, and if so, is the voter able to indicate their UOCAVA status and provide an overseas address to ensure those protections are provided?

More information will follow, so please visit www.fvap.gov/UPU for the latest information and guidance on this important issue.



SVAO SPOTLIGHT AIR FORCE

Mr. Carl R. Buchanan has accumulated 35+ years of service to the United States Air Force as an active duty member and a civil service employee. Since 2003, he has been a member of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services, working many diverse personnel issues, to include serving as the lead Air Force agent specifying and measuring a common Airman culture, Chief of Enlisted Force Development, creating and institutionalizing senior leader development courses, Program Manager for the Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program, and policy analyst for the Airman & Family Readiness Policy Branch at the Air Staff. He retired from active duty in 2006 as a Chief Master Sergeant and has held 3E800 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and 8F000 (First Sergeant) Air Force Specialty Codes.



In his current role within the Airman and Family Policy Branch, Mr. Buchanan is responsible for organizational policy publications, compliance, Airman and family support during emergency response and actions, and the Air Force Voting Assistance Program with over 3,000 unit voting assistance officers and 73 installation voting assistance offices.

UPDATED FPCA AND FWAB

The FPCA and the FWAB have been approved and updated in coordination with FVAP and GSA. Thank you to all that participated in the rounds of comments on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). We are currently in coordination with GSA to produce print versions of the forms and will have the electronic copies up later in the year when the Voting Assistance Guide is ready to be published.

Some of the new changes to the forms that have been made are:

- Clarification of National Guard use of the form while federally activated.
- Updates and clarifications for states requiring additional information.
- Enhanced clarity for registration and ballot request instructions.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us.