

# FVAP UPDATE

## MARCH AND APRIL 2019



**FVAP.GOV**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## UPDATED DRAFT FPCA & FWAB FORMS BACK ON REGULATIONS.GOV! ★

As you may have heard by now, the second and last comment period for the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is now active through the Federal Register. As you all are the ones receiving and processing the forms, please share these links with local jurisdictions, as we welcome all comments – the good, the bad, and the ugly! We will adjudicate the comments and incorporate feedback to ensure the updated forms are easy to complete for voters and easily processed by states and localities. Thanks to you as stakeholder (your) collaboration is critical to the success of the updated forms and everything we do at FVAP.

The forms have been updated with:

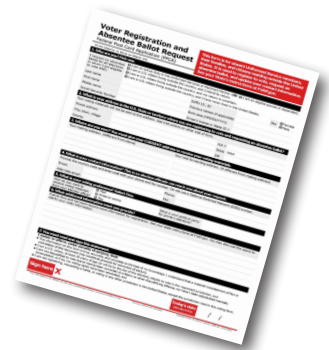
- Clarification of National Guard use of the form while federally activated.
- Updates and clarifications for states requiring additional information.
- Enhanced clarity for registration and ballot request instructions.

To view and comment on the FPCA, please visit:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOD-2018-OS-0092-0077>.  
DEADLINE - April 24th, 2019.

To view and comment on the FWAB, please visit:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOD-2018-OS-0091-0027>.  
DEADLINE - April 24th, 2019.



## VOTING ASSISTANCE GUIDE COORDINATION 2020-2021 ★

Our biennial update of the Voting Assistance Guide is underway. The Guide is the primary source of information for UOCAVA citizens and is a critical resource to assist them in successfully completing the required forms and communicating with you and your localities throughout the absentee voting process. The final coordinated contents are a compilation of absentee voting regulations, laws, deadlines, procedures, and contact information across the 50 States, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia and is also used to build the information database for the online form completion assistants at FVAP.gov. There will be three total requests for coordination, the first of which is completed with the second heading your way in May.

## SVAO SPOTLIGHT MARINE CORPS

Brian Mitchell graduated from Park West High School, New York City in 1983, and received a BS in Management from Park University in Parkville, MO. Since his military retirement in July 2015, Brian has been working as the Marine Corps' Service Voting Action Officer.

As a United States Marine, Brian accrued 30 years of honorable and faithful service. He completed multiple deployments and contingency operations, to include Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. During his military career, Brian served as an Amphibious Vehicle Crewman, Military Postal Clerk, Marine Corps Recruiter, Voting Assistance Officer, and Postal Officer.

Brian's military career culminated with his promotion to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 and assignment as the Director, Marine Corps Postal Affairs. Upon his retirement, Brian was hired to his present position as the Service Voting Action Officer for the Marine Corps, and is located at Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.



As the Service Voting Action Officer, Brian is responsible for Marine Corps voting policy, daily voting assistance operations, and the oversight of the Marine Corps Voting Assistance Program. Working closely with 953 appointed Marine Corps Voting Assistance Officers, Brian ensures every Marine, their eligible family members, and other personnel serving with a Marine Corps command overseas or CONUS (in the continental United States), and who are eligible to vote under the laws and procedures of their State of voting residence, are afforded every opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Brian believes as Americans one of the most important rights you fight to defend is the right to vote. The right to vote is one of our most important civil liberties, and by expressing ourselves with a ballot, we preserve our democratic system and protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

---

## NEW RESEARCH AVAILABLE

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is pleased to announce the publication of groundbreaking research that yields greater insights into congressional reform amendments to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act in 2009. The Council of State Governments partnered with FVAP in 2014 to foster the development of a new data reporting standard for election jurisdictions.

During the 2016 General Election, the following observations about our military, their family members and overseas citizens validate Congressional reforms quantitatively:

More than 65% of all ballot requests were received at least 45 days prior to the election;

- Voters who received their ballots earlier were slightly more likely to return them;
- Voters who received their ballots early were less likely to have these ballots rejected; and
- Voters who received their ballots by mail were more likely to return them than those who received them electronically.

This new data standard focuses on transactional information to identify the specific timing and methods that work best to support the absentee voting rights of these military and overseas citizens. The 2016 data collected and analyzed is based on information provided directly from states and localities. With this initial round of research complete, FVAP intends to expand the collection of these data in 2020 to yield research that provides the greatest level of accuracy.

Go here to read more: <https://www.fvap.gov/info/news/2019/3/25/innovative-research-on-military-and-overseas-voters>.