

FVAP Releases 2019 Annual Report to Congress

It is my distinct pleasure to present the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) 2019 Annual Report to the President and Congress. This report provides an assessment of our activities supporting the special elections for federal office in 2019 – and our preparations for the 2020 election cycle. It is important to remember that FVAP is an assistance agency — our mission is to inform voters of the right to vote and provide the tools and resources to help those who want to vote do so successfully from anywhere in the world.

Though 2019 was a less visible year in terms of elections for federal office, it was nonetheless a very busy year for FVAP. We worked continuously to ensure voters covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* were armed with the information and assistance needed to successfully participate in special elections. FVAP also dedicated time and resources to planning and advancing recommendations in support of the 2020 election cycle.

Using lessons learned from previous election cycles, FVAP further explored how to reduce obstacles by improving its resources throughout the Department of Defense, establishing mechanisms to expand voter awareness, and enhancing measures of effectiveness to refine its research approach and identify exactly what challenges remain with *UOCAVA* voters.

Increased collaboration with our stakeholders — Congressional Leaders, Department of State, state and local election officials, the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC), advocacy organizations, and the Military Services — FVAP made important strides in fulfilling those initiatives. Significant accomplishments in 2019 include:

- Revised Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1000.04;
- Improved absentee voting forms;
- Realigned the Voting Assistance Guide;
- Enhanced FVAP.gov website for greater usability;
- Continued work with the Council of State Governments (CSG) on state initiatives to incorporate use of Common Access Card signatures on election records;
- Increased FVAP social media presence;
- Published Post Voting Election Survey Reports;
- Created a tool for the Military Services to better assess their program effectiveness.

This report provides greater detail on these initiatives and introduces new efforts to support our stakeholders during the 2020 election cycle. I look forward to the opportunities and accomplishments ahead, and I know that together, in partnership with the dedicated *UOCAVA* community, we can reach our shared vision: Military members, their families, and Americans living abroad can successfully exercise the right to vote from anywhere in the world.

David Beirne

Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program

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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 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 email vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find FVAP on Facebook at facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter.