



2018 Election Data Demonstrates Benefits of 2009 Congressional Reforms

In late January, FVAP released the EAVS Section B (ESB) data for the 2018 General Election. This research shows how timing of ballot requests and modes of transmission influence ballot return for military and overseas voters. The amendments to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) passed in 2009, allow military and overseas voters to choose an electronic option for receiving blank absentee ballots and require election offices to transmit ballots no later than the 45th day prior to an election for federal offices. While FVAP continues to gather 2020 information, 2018 data from the report titled "Data Standardization Helps Assess Congressional Reforms for Military and Overseas Voters" reveals:

- Ballot return rates are higher among voters who used the Federal Post Card Application rather than a state application to request their ballots.
- UOCAVA voters are more likely to return the ballot the later they place their request up to the ballot deadline.
- Voters who requested their ballot within the 45-day period before the election, were more likely to return their ballot if they received it electronically rather than by mail.
- Active duty military (ADM) personnel tended to request their ballots earlier, and were more likely to request that their absentee ballot be mailed to them compared to overseas citizens who were more likely to request that their ballot be sent to them electronically.

Since 2015, FVAP has been working with The Council of State Governments' Overseas Voting Initiative to develop a standardized format that eases the burden of data collection for states and localities while capturing transactional-level data about military and overseas absentee voter experience in the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Section B (ESB) Data Standard.

For the full text of the report, please visit [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). If you have any questions regarding the report, please reach out to FVAP at vote@fvap.gov.

Voting Assistance Guide Coordination

In late February, FVAP kicked off the Voting Assistance Guide coordination for the 2022-2023 edition. The Guide is a compilation of absentee voting regulations, laws, deadlines and procedures across all U.S. states, territories, as well as the District of Columbia. As the primary source of state absentee voting information for citizens covered by UOCAVA, the Guide continues to be a critical resource for both our Voting Assistance Officers and our website when assisting voters in successfully completing the required forms and finding contact information for their election office. As in previous years, we will work with the state election office through three stages of coordination, each step requiring different, crucial, and timely information for voters.

Be sure to reach out to us with any legislative or regulatory changes that occur during coordination that will be in effect for 2022 and impact UOCAVA voters. We can adjust the content of the printed guide until its print date in the fall and can update the online information at any time.

We will work with state election officials to get local election official contact information, but please do not hesitate to send us your individual updates to vote@fvap.gov since we all know that elections never stop.

FVAP Welcomes a New Air Force Program Manager - Ms. Kehinde Oshikoyapamphille

Ms. Kehinde Oshikoyapamphille is the Air Force's Voting Assistance Program Manager, based out of the Directorate of Airman & Family Readiness Operations Division, at the Air Force Personnel Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph AFB, Texas. She ensures FVAP and Air Force-specific information, tools and resources are provided to Installation Voting Assistance Offices worldwide, who in-turn offer direct support to service members, their families and other voting age U.S. citizens.



Comment Period for FPCA and FWAB Revisions

After each regularly scheduled general election for federal office, FVAP reviews and suggests changes to the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). That process is currently underway. As always, we actively seek your input to the suggested changes via the public comment period on the Federal Register. We will let you know through a special message to this newsletter when the comment period begins. The message will contain the links to the OMB federal register site – one for the FPCA and one for the FWAB, as well as a quick summary for the proposed changes. Please note, while we value your feedback anytime, any edits or suggested updates to the draft forms must be submitted through the OMB federal register site. FVAP cannot accept comments directly during that period. We look forward to receiving your suggestions. If you have any general questions or issues accessing the draft forms, please contact us directly at vote@fvap.gov.

State and Local Engagement

In January, FVAP kicked off engagement with the states through one-on-one virtual meetings as a part of our state and local engagement strategy. The goal of these meetings has been for FVAP to hear directly from the states regarding observations from the 2020 election, ways FVAP can continue supporting the states as well as a time for FVAP to share our observations from 2020. To date, FVAP has met with over 30 states and will continue to coordinate meetings through the end of March. Additionally, we ask that as you plan out any virtual conferences, webinars, or events for the year that you include participation from FVAP as we continue to seek to increase UOCAVA education and awareness. If you are interested in FVAP's participation in your upcoming event, please contact Heather (Martin) Eudy at heather.d.martin23.civ@mail.mil

Online Election Official UOCAVA Training

FVAP.gov continues to host online training for state and local election staff that assist UOCAVA voters or require and understanding of the process to carry out their responsibilities. This training is a great resource for new employees and can also serve as a quick refresher for more seasoned staff. The training is available by visiting our website here: <https://www.fvap.gov/eo/training>.

Event Recap: JEOLC, NASS and NASED

FVAP participated in the 2021 Joint Election Official Liaison Committee Conference. During the conference we presented observations from the 2020 election, challenges of COVID-19, updates and upcoming changes for 2021 and our state and local engagement plans. Additionally, FVAP also participated in conference calls with NASS and NASED members to continue to provide communication about, and awareness of, UOCAVA as well as support and guidance to the states regarding military and overseas voters. FVAP will continue to engage stakeholders to provide support, transparent communications, and opportunities to cooperate toward increased UOCAVA awareness and success.