

FVAP UPDATE

Q2: JUNE 2020



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COVID-19 UPDATE ★

We realize you may be looking ahead to the November General election and preparing strategies for international mailings. With COVID-19 precautions causing postal disruptions internationally, FVAP continues to collaborate with the United States Postal Service, the Military Postal Service Agency, and the U.S. Department of State to track these impacts. We strongly urge election officials to communicate with the voters regarding options to help overcome these challenges, including the use of electronic blank ballot delivery and making sure all options for returning voted ballots are known in your state.

FVAP maintains a list of helpful tips and resources for election officials and voters during the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#). Just like previous election cycles, FVAP maintains a list of mailing guidelines, PDF envelope styles, and resources [here](#) for use while preparing ballots for military and international recipients.

Please be advised that if your state only authorizes postal return for voted ballots, COVID-19 responses internationally may impact the ability for voters to return voted ballots altogether. International airport disruptions can impact both international mail and shipping. In addition, embassies and consulates may be disrupted and limited in their ability to accept voted ballots for return via diplomatic pouch.

NEW FVAP RESEARCH NOTE ASSESSING STATE UOCAVA WEBPAGES ★

FVAP's latest research note shows that simple improvements can improve your website's UOCAVA absentee voting information for use by UOCAVA voters from your state. In most instances, a voter can quickly locate a state's UOCAVA information though there were a few states where this information was more difficult to find. Finding and understanding the UOCAVA information was demonstrated to be the most difficult of the tasks presented during the testing.

In order to improve your website(s) and help military and overseas voters, FVAP identified the following best practices in the new research note: (1) Implement search engine optimization strategies specific to UOCAVA information; (2) Make it easy to find UOCAVA information on election homepages and through menus; (3) Include all UOCAVA information on one page where possible; (4) Organize information by how a voter would go through the process; (5) Use lists or tables to organize information, especially dates and deadlines; (6) Avoid election professional specific jargon and remove unnecessary content.

The complete study can be found [here](#). Please contact us directly with any questions or requests for additional information.

#TrustedInfo2020 ★

FVAP is happy to be part of the National Association of Secretaries of State social media campaign #TrustedInfo2020. The goal of the campaign is to encourage voters to follow and share accurate, up-to-date, election news from trusted sources – their election officials. As part of this partnership, FVAP and NASS collaborated on short videos highlighting state and local election officials as being the trusted source of election information. They are available to share view [here](#) and just remember to use the hashtag #TrustedInfo2020.

SVAO SPOTLIGHT FVAP WELCOMES THE NEW AIR FORCE PROGRAM MANAGER ★

Mr. Edmund Baker is the Voting Assistance Program Manager, Directorate of Airman & Family Division, HQ Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX. His charge is to assist service members, their families and all other voting age citizens with access to Installation Voter Assistance Offices worldwide, to register and vote either at the polls or by absentee ballot.

His previous positions were Air Force Functional Area Manager, Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System and Relocation Assistance Program Manager. Prior to arriving at Randolph AFB. He was the Director, Airman & Family Readiness Center, RAF Menwith Hill, UK.

Mr. Baker is a 23-year Air Force retiree and has been a civil servant for 18 years. He is married (46 years) with two daughters and 3 grandchildren. He received a M.B.A., Business Administration, Computer Resources/Information, Webster University and a B.S., Technical Business, Southern New Hampshire. Prior to his last PCS is was Adjunct Faculty at Palo Alto Community College and Park University where he taught Computer Information Systems, Business and Public Speaking.



UPDATE YOUR COUNTY'S CONTACT INFORMATION ★

As the primaries are finishing and election offices across the US are preparing for the November election, voters may need to contact their election office with a variety of questions. We encourage election offices to review their contact information on [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). If you notice something is incorrect, send us an email at vote@fvap.gov containing the necessary changes and we will do the rest.

If your state's UOCAVA voters rely heavily on faxes to submit their voted ballots, then FVAP's fax transmission service is there to help. Be sure to double check that your county fax numbers are operational during your regular election preparations to include inspecting the fax machines, power outlets, ink supply, paper supply, and fax lines. FVAP is happy to run a quick fax line test with you anytime, just contact us at fax@fvap.gov. While FVAP does its part to ensure timely delivery of ballots to your offices, there are moments when fax machines are no longer accepting voted ballots after the deadline. If a ballot is timely received in our office, we include a document attesting to its timeliness for your consideration.

UPDATED UOCAVA TRAININGS FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS ★

FVAP released an updated training for your new state or local level election staff that will be assisting UOCAVA voters. This training also continues to be a good refresher for more seasoned staff. The training is available by visiting our website [here](#).

