



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT

On August 28, FVAP celebrated the 35th anniversary of UOCAVA. UOCAVA, as amended, requires that ballots be sent out 45 days before an election, allows for UOCAVA voters to choose to receive their blank ballots electronically, and allows for the use of a single for registration and absentee ballot request (the Federal Post Card Application) in addition to the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. In addition, the use of the Federal Post Card Application establishes absentee voting eligibility for all federal elections in a minimum of a calendar year. FVAP's virtual celebrations include a reflection on UOCAVA from FVAP Director David Beirne as well as a "Now and Then" showcase of UOCAVA voters in the past and present. Check out this celebration on FVAP's social media platforms. The Act's importance has not diminished since its initial passage, and we appreciate all you do to help ensure success for these voters in your state.

FVAP RELEASES ITS 2020 POST-ELECTION REPORT TO CONGRESS

After every federal election year, FVAP conducts post-election surveys and analyzes state and federal data to evaluate the absentee voting experience of military and overseas voters and the impact of FVAP and DoD voting resources. The first phase of this research, as documented in the Report to Congress, reveals key indicators about military voters, overseas voters, Voting Assistance Officers, and state election officials during a General Election. The following are the highlights of the report:

- The 2020 voter registration rate for ADM was 69 percent, a three-point increase from 2016.
- The 2020 voter participation rate for ADM was 47 percent, on par with the 46 percent voter participation rate for the 2016 General Election.
- The 2020 estimated voter participation rate for overseas citizens was 7.8 percent, equivalent to the estimated voter participation rate for the 2016 General Election.
- Active duty military (ADM) who received assistance from a DoD resource (FVAP, Unit Voting Assistance Officers, Installation Voter Assistance Offices) were significantly more likely to submit an absentee ballot than ADM who did not receive DoD assistance. This consistent finding across the last five General Elections

speaks to the importance and effectiveness of efforts by FVAP and the military Services to raise awareness of available resources and provide direct assistance.

- UOCAVA voters requested their ballots earlier than they did in 2016, and general election voted ballots were returned earlier than they were in the 2016 and 2018 General Elections.
- The most frequently reported challenge experienced by U.S. voters living overseas was difficulty with international mail systems.

FVAP continues to move forward into 2022 with the following objectives: reducing obstacles to UOCAVA citizen voting success, expansion of UOCAVA voter awareness and outreach initiatives, and enhancing measures of effectiveness and participation.

To learn more about FVAP's research and activities during 2020, read the report located: https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/FVAP-2020-Report-to-Congress_20210916_FINAL.pdf.

If you have any questions about the Report or the data contained within, please reach out to FVAP directly at vote@fvap.gov.

FVAP RELEASES ITS STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS 2020 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY TECHNICAL REPORT

In January 2021, FVAP sent out the 2020 Post-Election Voting Survey to state election officials from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories. The data collected and analysis for this survey can be found in the 2020 Post-Election Voting Survey for State Election Officials Technical Report. FVAP remains committed in its efforts to support state election officials and is thankful to those who participated in this survey.

Here are some highlights from the report:

- In 2020, 90% of SEOs were satisfied with FVAP.gov, which is an increase from the 2016 rate of 84%.
- Fourteen percent of SEOs took FVAP's election official online training in 2020 (a decrease from the 2016 rate of 39%). In addition, only 27% of SEOs referred local election officials to the training (a decrease from 2016).
- The FPCA remains the main ballot request form when it comes to ensuring UOCAVA protections to UOCAVA, with 96% for both 2020 and 2016.



View the 2020 Post-Election Voting Survey for State Election Officials Technical Report: <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/PEVS-SEO-Tech-Report-Final.pdf>

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

Since June, FVAP has presented either in-person or virtually at 14 election conferences held by states and election official organizations, and will present at an additional five conferences before the end of the year. FVAP's presentations focused on a "Back-to-Basics" to account for the inability to directly brief local officials during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to bring new officials up-to-speed on UOCAVA, the resources and training materials FVAP provides for election officials, state-specific data and regulations, current FVAP policy initiatives, and FVAP's emphasis going into 2022. We are thankful for the valuable time on these agendas as we know UOCAVA voters make up only a small portion of the overall citizenry served. Additionally, FVAP provides online training modules that can be accessed at any time by new staff members or staff working with your UOCAVA populations directly. The online module can be found here: <https://www.fvap.gov/eo/training>

NCSL, FVAP, AND CSG COLLABORATE ON AN ARTICLE ABOUT UOCAVA VOTING

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), FVAP and the Council of State Governments (CSG) collaborated on an article titled "Voting is for All Americans, Including Those Living Abroad". The article focuses on barriers to voting for UOCAVA citizens and shares some ways states are doing to assist their UOCAVA voters. FVAP Director David Beirne, in particular, discussed how customer service is key during the processing, stressing the importance of communicating with the voters during key parts of the voting process: requesting an absentee ballot, submitting a ballot, and counting UOCAVA ballots.

For the full article can be found in the July issues of NCSL's The Canvass, including information from CSG, please go to the following link: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/the-canvass-july-2021.aspx>

UPDATE: VOTING ASSISTANCE GUIDE COORDINATION

A big thank you from FVAP to all state offices and staff for assistance with pulling together each state's crucial information for UOCAVA voters for the Guide. The election dates, deadlines, and local election office contact information is vital for UOCAVA voters navigating the absentee voting process. Currently, we are finalizing the information with states before printing and look forward to publishing the Guide later this year for use over the upcoming election cycle.