



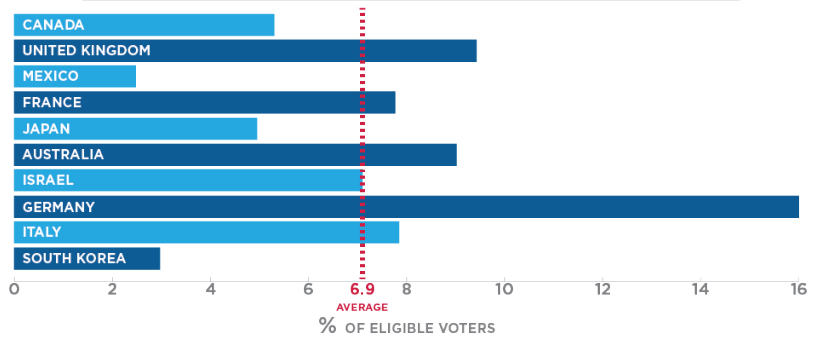
WHO ARE OVERSEAS AMERICANS? THE ANALYSIS CONTINUES...

We recently released our second biennial [Overseas Citizen Population Analysis \(OCA\)](#) and we wanted to highlight some of the findings in this month's newsletter for election officials.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) conducts OCA biennially in conjunction with each federal election cycle and in response to its federal requirement for conducting a statistical analysis of overseas citizen participation rates. The study assesses demographics, overseas voting participation, monitors how voters are navigating the absentee voting process from abroad, and informs efforts to remove obstacles.

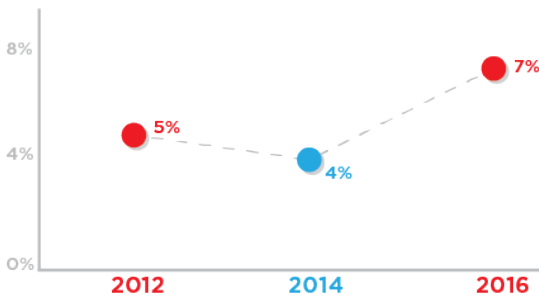
**208,329 BALLOTS FROM OVERSEAS CITIZENS WERE RECEIVED IN 2016.
THAT'S A 6.9% TURNOUT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.**

TURNOUT VARIES GREATLY BY COUNTRY, EVEN AMONG THOSE WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.



The [OCA report](#) details U.S. citizens abroad and their voting behaviors in 2016. It combines data from U.S. and foreign governments, state records of ballot requests and voting, and a survey of 10,965 registered voters living abroad who requested a ballot for the 2016 General Election - the only representative survey of this group.

OVERSEAS VOTER TURNOUT FOLLOWS THE SAME PATTERN AS STATESIDE.
HIGHER TURNOUT IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEARS.
AND A LOWER TURNOUT DURING MIDTERM ELECTIONS.



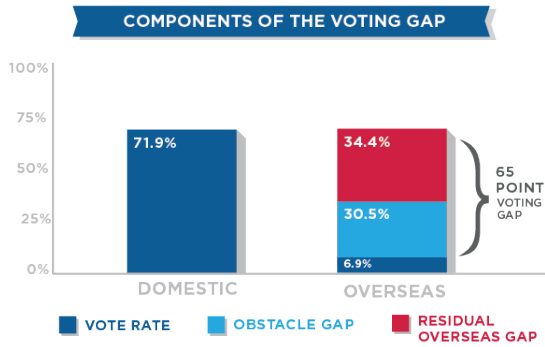
Some of the demographics of overseas voters included:

- Median age is 46
- Most are working professionals
- 80% hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and
- 40% cited they were living abroad to be with family.

The report also provides updated estimates of the numbers of U.S. citizens living in foreign countries and the voting rate of the overseas citizen voting-age population in the 2016 General Election. It

also compares their voting rate to that of the voting-age population living in the United States; determines how much of the difference in participation is due to obstacles unique to the overseas voting process; and assesses how FVAP can help mitigate these obstacles. We hope that you enjoy reading about these findings as much as we have!

THE VOTING GAP: DOMESTIC VS OVERSEAS

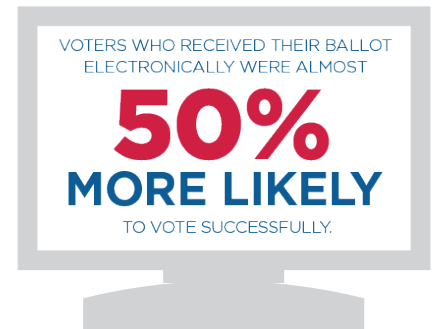


The OCPA and other studies consistently show that a much smaller proportion of U.S. citizens who live overseas vote in each election compared to the proportion living stateside who vote. The OCPA refers to this difference as the voting gap. In 2016, 91% of registered voters overseas returned a ballot, equaling about 7% of U.S. citizens living abroad who were old enough to vote. That was a 65% difference from the nearly 72% stateside voting participation rate. To ensure U.S. citizens abroad who want to vote can do so successfully, the 2016 OCPA examined this gap. Data from FVAP's Overseas Citizen Population Survey was used

to divide the voting gap into a 30.5% "obstacles gap" (those that did not vote due to real or perceived obstacles) and a 34.4% "residual gap" (those who did not vote because they did not want to or did not have a candidate preference.)

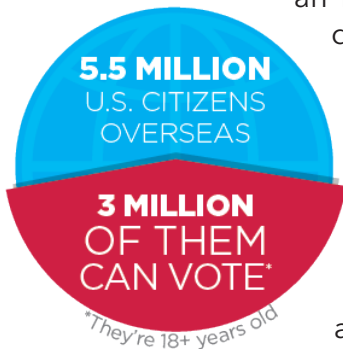
IMPACT OF CHANGES IN BALLOT DELIVERY & RETURN MODES

As shown, obstacles associated with sending and receiving voting materials still preclude substantial numbers of overseas citizens from exercising their right to vote. However, provisions in the MOVE Act requiring each state to offer at least one electronic mode of ballot transmission were intended to mitigate the mailing obstacles by allowing overseas citizens to bypass their inbound international mailing system and cut the overall transit time in half.



For those confronting greater voting obstacles in their country, the mode through which they receive an absentee ballot is related to the likelihood they can vote successfully. Overall, and especially in countries or regions with fewer voting obstacles, there is little difference observed in the rate of successful voting among those reporting electronic receipt versus mail receipt of an absentee ballot. However, in countries or regions with the highest estimated voting obstacles, those who receive their ballot electronically are approximately 50% more likely to have a vote recorded than those receiving a ballot by mail.

OVERSEAS CITIZEN POPULATION



There were an estimated 5.5 million U.S. citizens living overseas in 2016. This represents an increase of slightly more than 1 million (23%) since 2010. These citizens are distributed across 170 countries, with the largest populations in Europe and the Western Hemisphere, including Canada. The greatest population growth since 2010 has been in East Asia and the Pacific, which had an estimated population increase of 36% from 2010 to 2016. The population in South-Central Asia also increased substantially, with the 2016 population estimated to be about 28% larger than in 2010.

Not all of the individuals in the overseas citizen population are 18 years old and, thus, not old enough to vote. Of the estimated 5.5 million overseas citizens in 2016, about 3 million were of voting age.