



Learn more at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov)

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### Americans can vote. Wherever they are.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) 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.



### Preparing for upcoming elections

Voting is a citizen's most fundamental right. FVAP helps Service members, their families and overseas citizens vote by providing tools and resources to receive, cast and return an absentee ballot during all federal elections.

To inform Service members and their families about the resources available to them, FVAP:

- Broadcasts Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the American Forces Network
- Creates informational materials that help simplify the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* voting process
- Emails all Service members with .mil addresses
- Develops training tools for every step of the process
- Provides tools and resources to Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) and election officials
- Exhibits at Service-specific military conferences
- Reaches out via a military spouse blogger network
- Works with the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to share voting information through Department of Defense (DoD) schools to reach overseas citizen employees, voting-age students and their parents



### Reaching out to overseas citizens

To inform overseas citizens of the available tools, FVAP:

- Sends customized digital toolkits to overseas companies and study abroad groups
- Works to survey known overseas citizen voters to improve targeting and messaging in the future
- Customizes voting residency materials for overseas citizens
- Studies voting and participation rates to identify barriers



### Online tools at FVAP.gov

The FVAP.gov website:

- Serves as an information-rich portal with an intuitive online assistant that walks the user through completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to print, sign and send to their election official
- Provides a Direct-To-Voter training focusing on the individual voter in a new, creative way
- Directs users to State websites offering online voter registration and ballot request
- Provides election news, dates and deadlines to help UOCAVA voters and those who assist them stay current







## Providing Voting Assistance Officers with tools

FVAP provides all Installation Voter Assistance (IVA) Offices, Unit Voting Assistance Officers (UVAOs) and Department of State Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) with voter assistance toolkits that contain essential items to assist voters.

### Installation Voter Assistance Offices

The more than 200 IVA Offices are just one of the many voting assistance resources available to Service members and their families. These offices are required to be included in the in-processing and out-processing activities of reporting and detaching personnel.

Although IVA Offices are designated and managed by the Services, FVAP:

- Hosts monthly conference calls with the Service Voting Action Officers to discuss the IVA Office requirements
- Contacts all IVA Offices regularly to keep contact information current



- Coordinates with Senior Service Voting Representatives and Service Voting Action Officers to implement program activities

### Unit Voting Assistance Officers

In addition to IVA Offices, there are more than 13,000 UVAOs. These peer-based VAOs are available in every unit, in every Service, all over the world. To assist, FVAP:

- Provides resources such as the Voting Assistance Guide, FPCA and FWAB reference sheets, fact sheets, brochures and posters to assist voters and increase awareness
- Facilitates classroom and webinar training and self-paced courses
- Provides a portal for reporting metrics

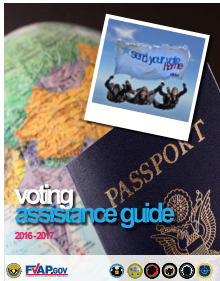
### Department of State Voting Assistance Officers

VAOs are located in embassies and consulates around the world to assist overseas citizens with the absentee voting process. To assist, FVAP:

- Provides resources such as the Voting Assistance Guide, FPCA and FWAB reference sheets, fact sheets, brochures and posters to assist voters and increase awareness
- Facilitates classroom and webinar training as well as self-paced courses
- Participates in virtual town hall meetings hosted by the State Department to discuss absentee voting



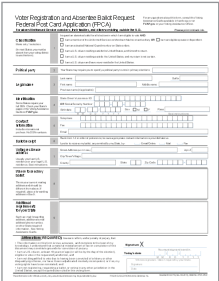
## FVAP communication materials



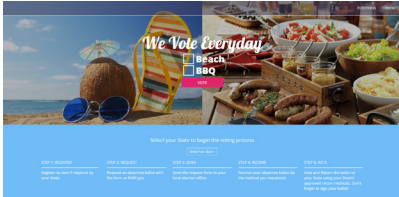
The 2016–2017 Voting Assistance Guide was distributed to election officials in all 55 States, territories and the District of Columbia, and Installation Voter Assistance Offices and Voting Assistance Officers worldwide.



A new direct-to-voter video focuses on the individual voter and is unlike anything FVAP has produced before. We expect this to augment the existing infrastructure and positively impact the Department's 2016 voting assistance efforts.



Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) forms assist to ensure every Service member, eligible family member or overseas citizen is able to successfully cast a ballot — from anywhere in the world.



The FVAP microsite provides a fun, intuitive introduction to absentee voting. The site directly ties into users' online experiences through Facebook and Twitter, and encourages sharing and cross-promotion for improved reach.



## Empowering the States

To inform State and local election officials of the requirements of UOCAVA, FVAP:

- Provides training to State and local election officials on how to process election materials from military and overseas voters
- Attends and hosts workshops to share best practices for election officials' communication with absentee voters
- Informs election officials of States' responsibilities under federal law
- Provides recommendations on policies and procedures
- Advises on State legislative changes to absentee voting laws and their impacts to military and overseas citizen voters
- Overhauled the Voting Assistance Guide for 2016, the catalog of the State-specific processes and regulations, by standardizing content and using plain language.



## FVAP works with overseas citizen organizations

FVAP works with overseas citizen organizations to provide information for absentee voting. By forging relationships and using their networks, FVAP is able to reach more U.S. citizens than by traditional methods to ensure they have the tools and resources they need.



## Researching and Reporting

FVAP works with the election community to identify voting barriers, and work on solutions. For example, FVAP:

- Has three research notes supplemental to 2014 Post-Election Report to Congress (1) Additional analysis on comparison of active duty military and citizen voting age population voter behavior (2) spousal impact on voter participation (3) use of FVAP website to foster a greater understanding on its impact with voting success.

- Continues to work with Council of State Governments (CSG) to release recommendations for State and local election officials to improve the likelihood of success for UOCAVA voters; and explore the areas of performance metrics, data standardization and best practices with processing of UOCAVA ballots.

- Is examining the use of a pilot program through CSG, with the Military Postal Service Agency, to provide full ballot tracking in the mail stream to increase the visibility of blank and voted ballots.

- Is fielding a pilot survey of known overseas citizen voters to determine viability of a new methodology and statistical modeling approach to capture more information on the demographics of this population as well as estimated voter registration and participation rates.

## To further ongoing research, FVAP is:

- Working to reduce obstacles to the absentee voting process through its research grants with State and local election officials
- Conducting statistical analyses of voting behavior and awareness to identify and leverage the most effective voting assistance resources
- Working with the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and CSG to make improvements to Section B of the Election Administration and Voting Survey (the UOCAVA portion of the survey).
- Incorporating recommendations from an external research initiative throughout planning and activities for 2016.

We are working with the Services on comprehensive plans to increase military awareness of voting resources. View the Voting Action Plans at [www.fvap.gov/vao/directives](http://www.fvap.gov/vao/directives).