



2025-2026 Election Cycle Voting Action Plan

Important Dates for Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs)

2025

Nov 1	VAO of the Quarter	Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 3 rd Quarter 2025 VAO of the Quarter
Nov 5	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Nov 17	Order Supplies	Order new Voting Assistance Guides, FPCAs, FWABs, brochures and motivational posters. This is an ongoing task for all VAOs. Order your 2025FPCA/FWAB forms through proper channels; https://www.fvap.gov/vao/materials/usm-order .
Dec 1	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from December 8-10. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Dec 31	Measures of Effect and Performance	Deadline for VAOs and Installation Voter Assistance Office staff to submit metrics in the FVAP portal. SVAOs must submit metrics to FVAP by January 15 th .

2026

Jan 1	VAO of the Quarter	Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 4 th Quarter 2025 VAO of the Quarter
Jan 5	Command Emphasis Campaign	Release Voting Awareness/Emphasis messages via Commanders, Base Newspapers, electronic mail, etc. Messages may be obtained by VAOs through their SVAO/FVAP.
Jan 5	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA and will promote direct-to-voter training video.



Jan 12 IVA Office Outreach

IVA Office personnel should ensure the contact information for their office is correct as found on FVAP.gov: <http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact/iva-offices>. Email: vote@fvap.gov with updated contact information.
SVAOs will reach out to IVA Offices to confirm.

Jan 12 VAO In-Person Workshops

DoD Instruction 1000.04, Enclosure 4.2.t., requires all VAOs to complete either an FVAP or Service-provided workshop. Our 2026 in-person workshops kickoff at TBD. Find your workshop at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/training>.



Jan 15 Distribute FPCAs to UOCAVA voters

Deadline for VAOs to distribute FPCAs (electronically or in hand) to all UOCAVA voters and encourage them to complete and submit to their local election official to apply to register and request an absentee ballot for all elections in 2026.

Jan 20 Public Service Announcements

Create Service or base specific public service announcements with high ranking officials highlighting the importance of voting. Begin airing these PSAs at base theaters or on AFN. Examples can be found on <http://www.fvap.gov/info/outreach>.

Feb 1 FVAP Email Blast

FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.



Feb 8 Super Bowl Challenge

Host a voter registration drive or hang voting posters around your base Super Bowl Party. Post on social media and send photos to FVAP.

Mar 2 FVAP Email Blast

FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from March 2-4. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.

Mar 31 Measures of Effect and Performance

Deadline for VAOs and Installation Voter Assistance Office staff to submit metrics in the FVAP portal. SVAOs must submit metrics to FVAP by April 15th.


Apr 1 VAO of the Quarter

Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 2nd Quarter 2026 VAO of the Quarter

Apr 1 FVAP Email Blast

FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.



Apr 4	IVA Office Outreach	IVA Office personnel should ensure the contact information for their office is correct as found on FVAP.gov: http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact/iva-offices . Email: vote@fvap.gov with updated contact information. SVAOs will reach out to IVA Offices to confirm.
May 1	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Jun 1	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Jun 15	Public Service Announcements	Run a Service or base specific public service announcement with high-ranking officials highlighting the importance of voting at base theaters or on AFN. Examples can be found on the FVAP Facebook page.
Jun 29	 Armed Forces Voters Week and Overseas Citizens Voters Week	VAOs should plan and participate in Voting Emphasis Week (June 29-July 4, 2026) activities to encourage eligible citizens to apply to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. VAOs are encouraged to plan events around installation 4 th of July activities. Invite military Families and promote availability of new direct-to-voter training video!
Jun 30	Measures of Effect and Performance	Deadline for VAOs and Installation Voter Assistance Office staff to submit metrics in the FVAP portal. SVAOs must submit metrics to FVAP by July 15 th .
Jul 1	VAO of the Quarter	Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 2 nd Quarter 2026 VAO of the Quarter
Jul 1	Command Emphasis Campaign	Release Voting Awareness/Emphasis messages via Commanders, Base Newspapers, electronic mail, etc. Messages may be obtained by VAOs through their SVAO/FVAP. Campaign should run in coordination with the Voting Emphasis Week.
Jul 1	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them of the upcoming primary elections and emphasize the need to fill out an FPCA now and will promote direct-to-voter training video.



Jul 6	LES Statement	FVAP will ensure that a voting message encouraging Active Duty members to register and request an absentee ballot be added to the Leave and Earnings Statement for all DoD personnel.
Jul 6	IVA Office Outreach	IVA Office personnel should ensure the contact information for their office is correct as found on FVAP.gov: http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact/iva-offices . Email: vote@fvap.gov with updated contact information. SVAO will reach out to IVA Offices to confirm.
Jul 15	Distribute FPCAs to UOCAVA voters	Deadline for VAOs to distribute the FPCA (electronically or by hand) to UOCAVA voters they assist and encourage them to complete and submit to their local election official to apply to register and request an absentee ballot for the 2026 General Election.
Aug 3	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them that the November election is 90 days away and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Aug 3	Military Spouse Voters Week	VAOs should encourage all absentee military spouse voters to register to vote and submit and FPCA. Military Spouse Voters Week runs from August 3-10, 2026 . Share the FWAB video clip with voters.
Sept 1	FVAP Email Blast	FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5 th of each month. This email will remind them that the November election is 60 days away and will promote direct-to-voter training video.
Sept 4	IVA Office Outreach	IVA Office personnel should ensure the contact information for their office is correct as found on FVAP.gov: http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact/iva-offices . Email: vote@fvap.gov with updated contact information. FVAP/SVAO will reach out to IVA Offices to confirm.
Sept 19	Ballot Mailing Deadline	Deadline for States to send absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters. Voters should begin checking their mailboxes and email for their ballot. Vote and return your ballot upon receiving it.
Sept 21	Public Service Announcements	Run Service or base specific public service announcements with high ranking officials highlighting the importance of voting at base theaters or on AFN. Examples can be found on the FVAP Facebook page.
Sept 21	LES Statement	FVAP will ensure that a voting message encouraging Active Duty members to register and request an absentee ballot be added to the Leave and Earnings Statement for all DoD personnel.



Sept 28 Recommended Mailing Dates

Voters in Iraq, Afghanistan, ships at sea and other overseas locations without access to the military postal system should send voted ballots in now so they arrive in time to be counted.



Sept 28 Absentee Voting Week

VAOs should encourage all absentee voters to complete and return their absentee ballot. Absentee Voting Week runs from **September 28-October 4th**. Share the FWAB video clip with voters.

Sept 30 Measures of Effect and Performance

Deadline for VAOs and Installation Voter Assistance Office staff to submit metrics in the FVAP portal. SVAOs must submit metrics to FVAP by October 15th.

Oct 1 Command Emphasis Campaign

Release Voting Awareness/Emphasis messages via Commanders, Base Newspapers, electronic mail, etc. Messages may be obtained by VAOs through their SVAO/FVAP. Campaign should run in coordination with the Voting Emphasis Week.

Oct 1 VAO of the Quarter

Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 3rd Quarter 2026 VAO of the Quarter.

Oct 1 IVA Office Outreach

IVA Office personnel should ensure the contact information for their office is correct as found on FVAP.gov: <http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact/iva-offices>. Email: vote@fvap.gov with updated contact information. FVAP/SVAO will reach out to IVA Offices to confirm.

Oct 1 FVAP Email Blast

FVAP will send an email to all Uniformed Service members with active email addresses from by the 5th of each month. This email will remind them that the November election is 30 days away and to use the FWAB if they haven't received their requested ballot from election office. Will include link to FWAB-focused video.

Oct 4 30 days before Election Day

VAOs should encourage voters who have not received their requested absentee ballots to complete and submit the FWAB.

Oct 18 Recommended Mailing Dates

Voters in overseas military installations with access to the military postal system should send voted ballots in now so they arrive in time to be counted. – Use the 11-DOD Label to expedite the mail.

Oct 19 15 days before Election Day

VAOs should stress to voters to complete and return their absentee ballot. If voters have not received their requested absentee ballots, VAOs should encourage them to complete and submit the FWAB.



Oct 26 Recommended Mailing Dates

Stateside Uniformed Service members and their families should send voted ballots in now, so they arrive in time to be counted.



Nov 3 Election Day

VAOs should remind local voters to go to their polling place and vote. IVA Offices should ensure coverage to answer last minute questions and assist voters returning their ballots by fax or email (for States that allow these methods of ballot transmission).

Dec 31 Measures of Effect and Performance

Deadline for VAOs and Installation Voter Assistance Office staff to submit metrics in the FVAP portal. SVAOs must submit metrics to FVAP by January 15th.

2027

Jan 1 VAO of the Quarter

Deadline for SVAOs to submit nominations for the 4th Quarter 2026 VAO of the Quarter

Jan 4 Order Supplies

2028-2029 Voting Assistance Guides, FPCAs, FWABs, brochures and motivational posters are available. If the prior VAO did not leave materials behind, order materials through proper channels: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/materials>.

Jan 15 Distribute FPCAs to UOCAVA voters

Deadline for VAOs to distribute FPCAs to all UOCAVA voters and encourage them to complete and submit to their local election official to apply to register or to request an absentee ballot for all elections in 2027.

Jan 31 After Action Reports

All After Action Reports must be submitted to FVAP. VAOs should submit AARs in the format and timeline requested by their SVAO.



Ongoing Tasks	
Directory Information	The Major Command and Installation Voter Assistance Officers must maintain a directory of all local unit VAOs containing names, email addresses and office telephone numbers. This directory must be updated at least quarterly.
Website Information	Provide the name, mailing address, e-mail and office telephone number of Installation Voter Assistance Office and Installation Voter Assistance Officers on the installation website.
Public Affairs	VAOs must work with PAO to publicize primary elections and inform military personnel and their family members of their right to vote. Voting outreach efforts should be incorporated into military and family appreciation events such as air shows and open houses.
Training	VAOs must attend a training workshop or complete online training. More information regarding in person and online training can be found at http://www.fvap.gov/vao/training .
Voter Support	VAOs should make time in their schedules to help voters fill out Federal Postcard Applications or use the online wizards. With unit members voting in different States, voter support must remain an ongoing task.
News Releases	Sign up for the FVAP email updates to receive election news. You can sign up by emailing vote@fvap.gov or by visiting https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFVAP/subscribers/new .
VAO To-Do Lists	FVAP creates monthly to-do lists with recommended tasks for all VAOs. These lists can be obtained by contacting FVAP, your SVAO or IVAO.

VAOs should consult their service guidance for additional information on service-specific voting activities.

Key FVAP Resources for VAOs		
Website	FVAP.gov	Up-to-date <i>Voting Assistance Guide</i> and FPCA and FWAB online assistants
Email	vote@fvap.gov	Email FVAP with voting assistance questions
Telephone	1-800-438-VOTE (8683)	Call FVAP with voting assistance questions
Facebook	Facebook.com/DoDFVAP	FVAP and UOCAVA updates
X	x.com/FVAP	FVAP and UOCAVA updates

For Service specific Voting Action Plans visit <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/directives>.

