

44th Annual Election Law Seminar for County Election Officials

August 10 - 12, 2026 - Round Rock, Texas



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Scott Wiedmann
Director

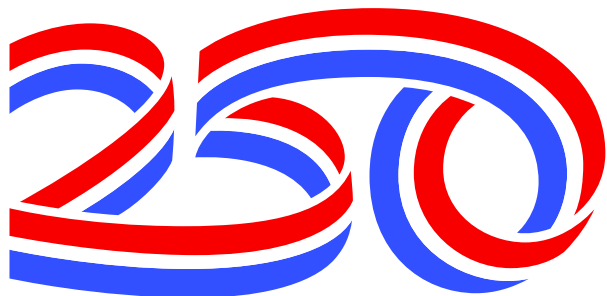


Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

UOCAVA - Passed in 1986

Allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office.

AMERICA



FVAP Administers UOCAVA on behalf of the Secretary of War.

FVAP Responsibilities

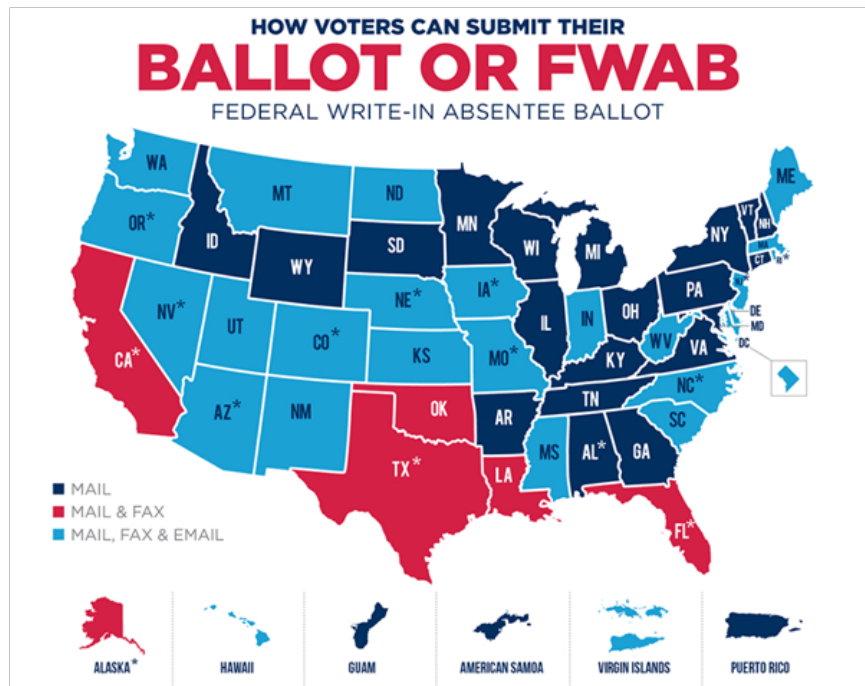
UOCAVA

- ✓ Training
 - Installation and Unit Voting Assistance Officers
 - Embassy and Consulate Staff
 - Federal Government Agencies
- ✓ Maintain voter resources
 - Forms
 - Voting Assistance Guide
 - FVAP.gov Website
 - Online Assistants for Form Completion
- ✓ Reports to Congress
- ✓ Code of Federal Regulations Title 32, Part 233
- ✓ DOW Instruction 1000.04
- ✓ Data Collection
- ✓ Waiver Requests
- ✓ Ensure State and Local Election Official Awareness



State Responsibilities and Requirements

UOCAVA



States and/or Localities Must:

- ✓ Transmit requested *UOCAVA* ballots by the 45th day prior to elections for federal office
- ✓ Offer electronic option for transmitting blank ballots
- ✓ Provide a free access system for voters to verify receipt of ballot
- ✓ Notify voter if, and why, a registration or ballot request is rejected

Reminders:

- ✓ *UOCAVA* voters exempt from ID requirements
- ✓ Satisfying residency requirements is left to the states
- ✓ Last address in the United States remains the valid address for voting purposes
- ✓ Military Spouses have a choice where to align their residency – prior physical presence not required
- ✓ All election materials sent to *UOCAVA* voters are postage free

UOCAVA Statistics

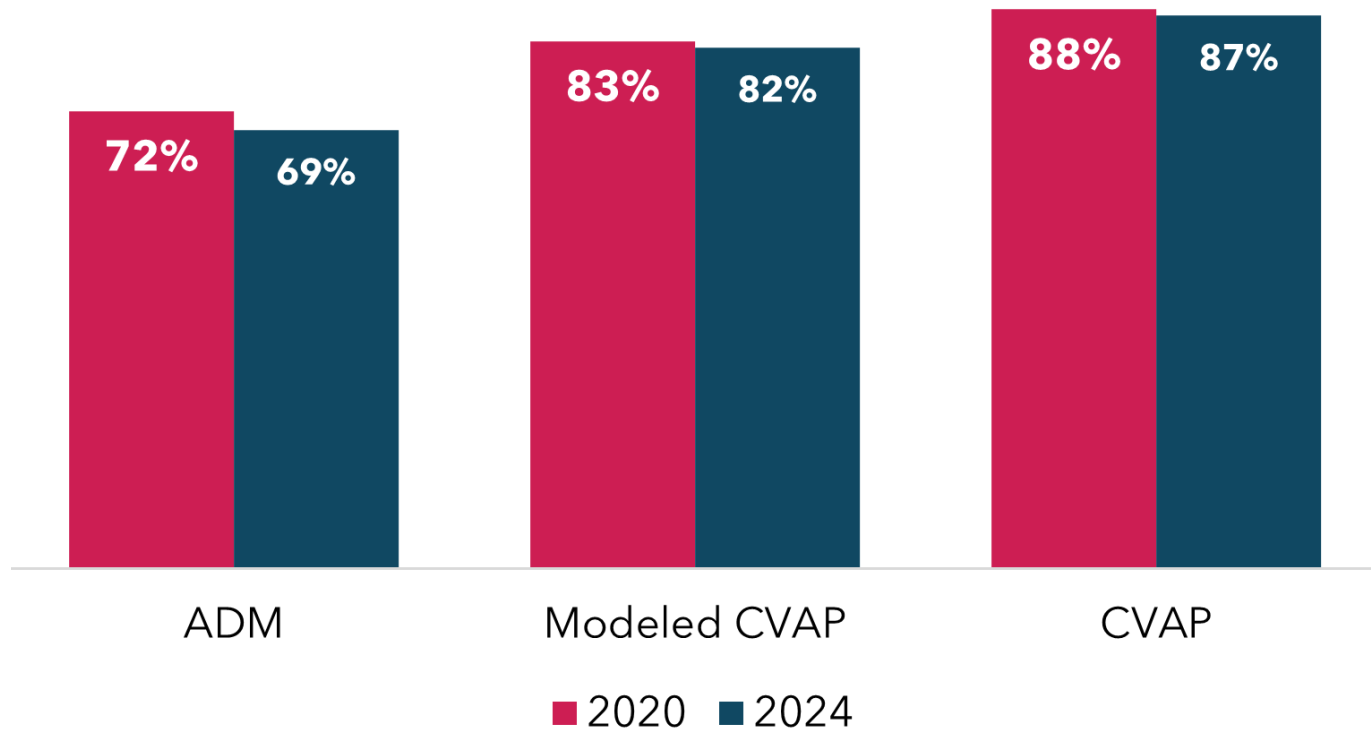
In 2024: **1,364,124** registered and eligible **UOCAVA** voters
39.8% Service members (541,871) / 58.3% overseas citizens (806,193)
UOCAVA Ballots Transmitted: 1,327,324 and Returned 806,743

In 2020: **1,253,629** registered and eligible **UOCAVA** voters
42.3% Service members (528,328) / 57.4% overseas citizens (717,134)
UOCAVA Ballots Transmitted: 1,249,601 and Returned 911,614

Data source: 2020 and 2024 Election Administration and Voting Survey, Section B, EAC,
<https://www.eac.gov/research-and-data/studies-and-reports>

2024 State of the Military Voter

Voter Registration Rates

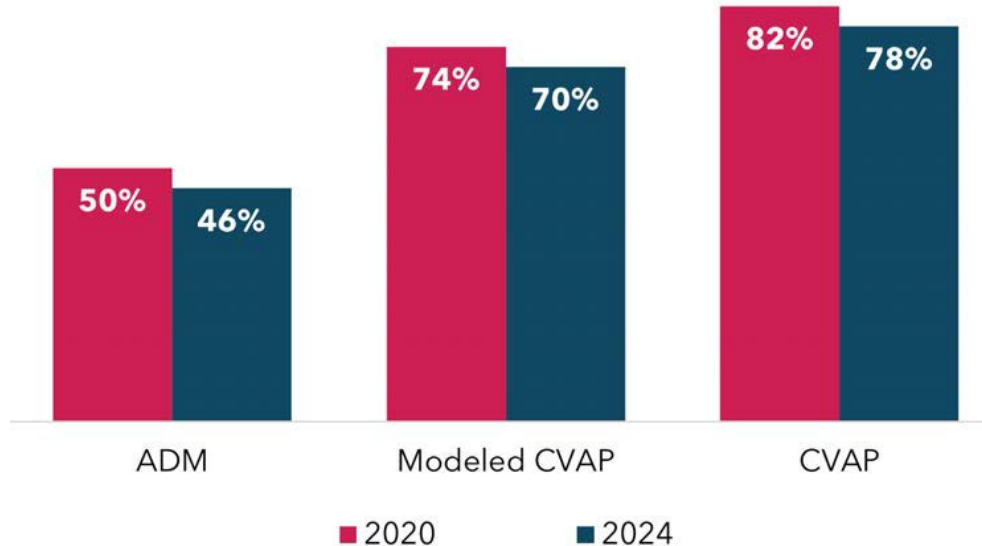


ADM – Active-Duty Military; CVAP – Civilian Voting Age Population / Source: FVAP Report to Congress

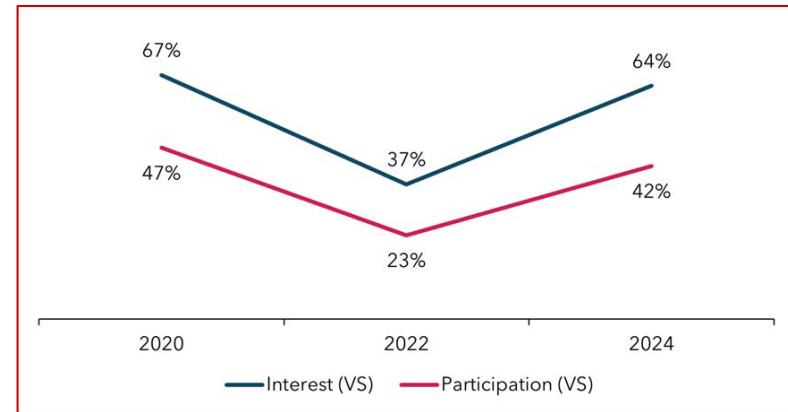
2024 State of the Military Voter

Voter Participation Rates and Interest

**Slightly Fewer than Half of Military Members Voted in 2024
[25% Voted Absentee]**



Interest in the Election



ADM – Active-Duty Military; CVAP – Civilian Voting Age Population / Source: FVAP Report to Congress

2024 State of the Military Voter

Voting Assistance Makes the Difference

For the seventh cycle in a row, military members who got assistance from FVAP or VAOs were more likely to return their ballot than those who didn't get assistance

 **2024**

 **2012**  **2014**  **2016**  **2018**  **2020**  **2022**

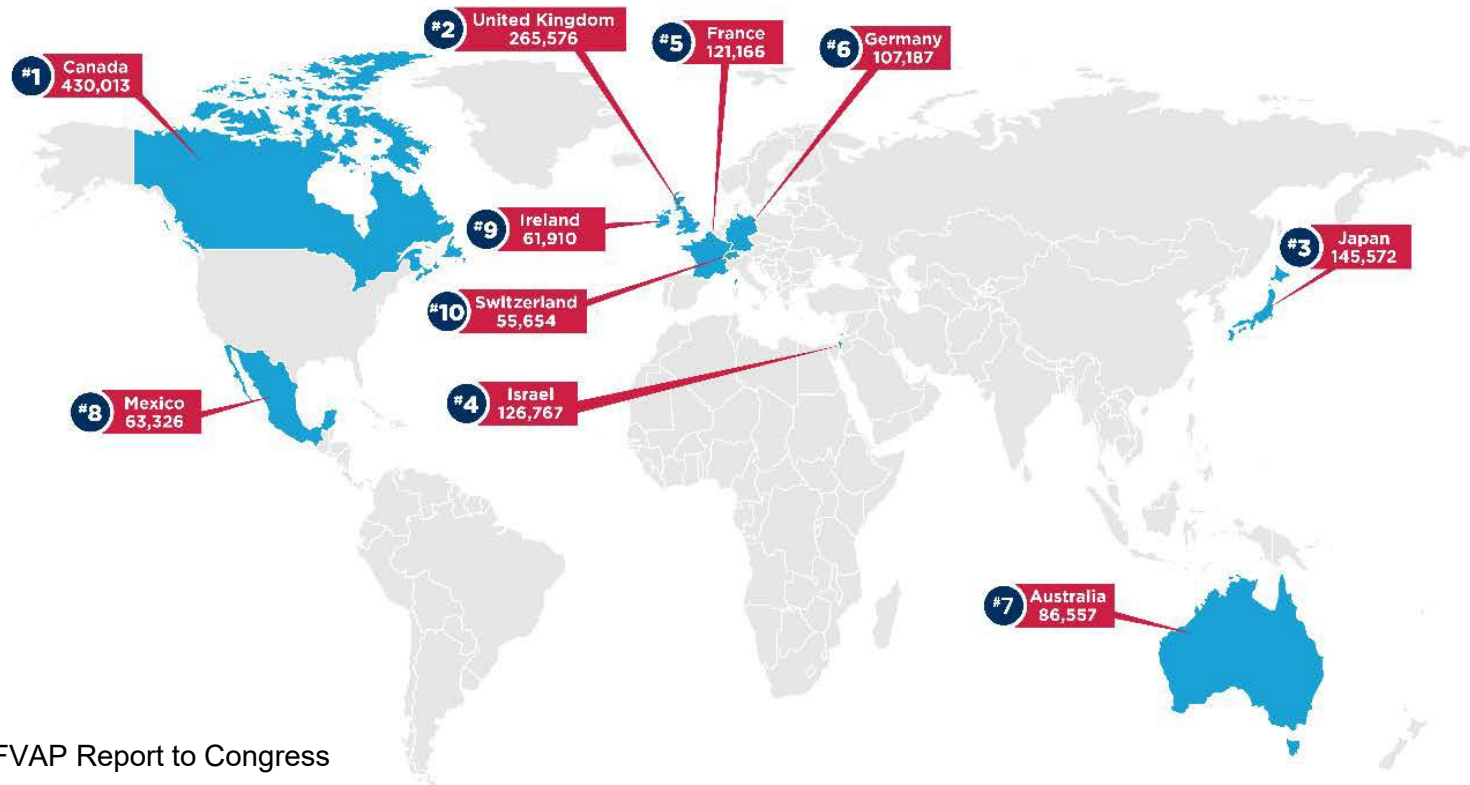


More than two out of three military absentee voters were aware of FVAP

Source: FVAP Report to Congress

2024 Overseas Citizen Population Analysis

FVAP Estimates 3.3 Million U.S. Citizens Living Overseas

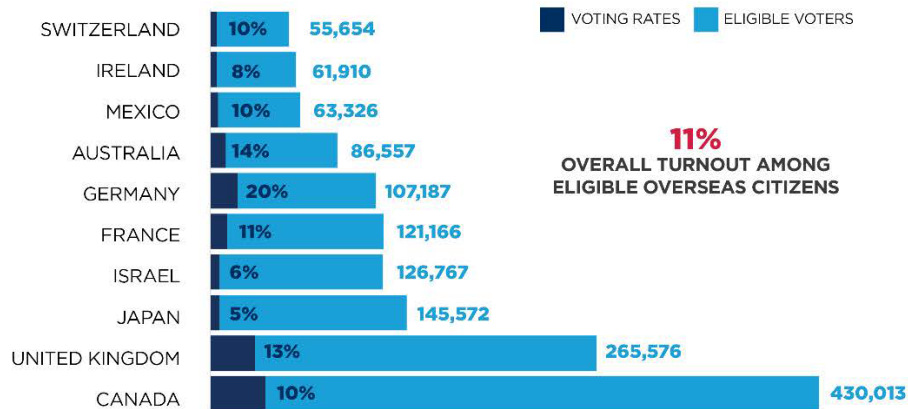


Source: FVAP Report to Congress

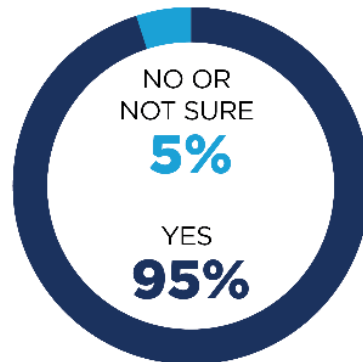
2024 Overseas Citizen Population Analysis

Estimated Participation Among U.S. Citizens Living Overseas

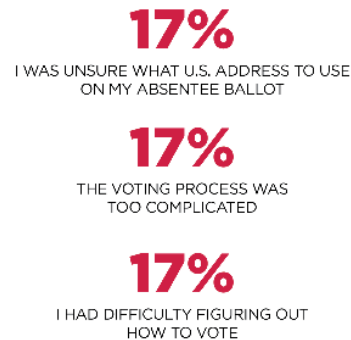
Turnout by Country



Returned Ballot



Main Difficulties



Source: FVAP Report to Congress

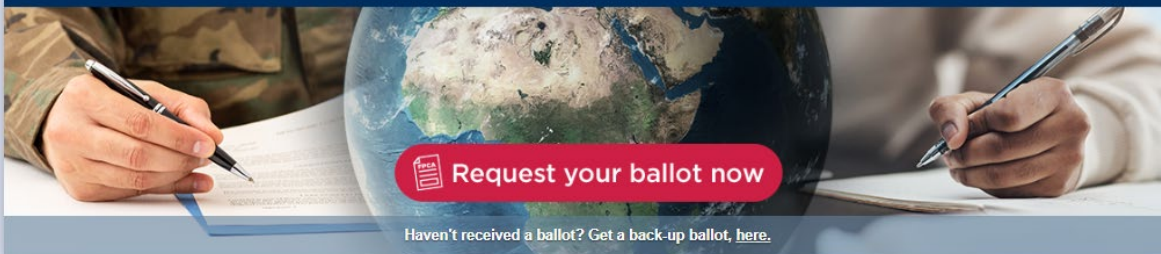
FVAP Resources for **Voters** and **Election Officials**



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Military and overseas citizens can vote. Wherever they are.



Haven't received a ballot? Get a back-up ballot, [here](#).

Looking for something specific? Select your state to:

- See your state's guidelines
- See election dates and deadlines
- Find your election office
- Check the status of your voted ballot

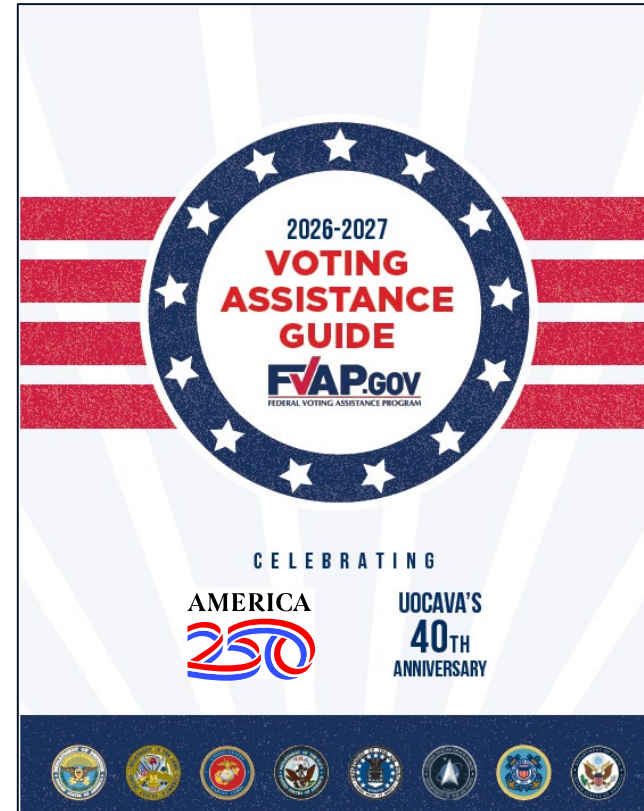
Select your state



Determine your state of voting residence if you're
a [Service member and family](#) or an [overseas citizen](#).

FVAP Resources – Voting Assistance Guide

- ✓ Coordinated with all 55 States and territories
 - Contact information
 - Dates/Deadlines
 - State specific requirements
- ✓ Distributed to military installations, Consulates, and Embassies worldwide
- ✓ Standardization of the *Voting Assistance Guide* into plain language to better support VAOs in the field and individual voters who visit FVAP.gov: **92% VAOs found it useful. (2024)**



FVAP Resources – Federal Post Card Application

- ✓ Same form as in 2024
- ✓ Previous versions should still be accepted
- ✓ State requirements referenced

***Used for both
Registration & Ballot
Request***

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request
Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Print clearly in blue or black ink, please see back for instructions.

This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your state's guidelines at FVAP.gov.

1. Who are you? Pick one.
I request an absentee ballot for all elections ☐ I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine "OR" ☐ I am an eligible spouse or dependent. ☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return. ☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my intent to return is uncertain, to vote AND: ☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States. ☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.

Last name Suffix (Jr., II) Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐

First name Previous names (if applicable)

Middle name Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Social Security Number Driver's license or State ID#

2. What is your address in the U.S. state or territory where you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot?
Your voting materials will not be sent to this address. See instructions on the other side of form.

Street address Apt. #

City, town, village State

County ZIP

3. Where are you now? You MUST give your CURRENT address to receive your voting materials.
Your mailing address. (Different from above) Your mail forwarding address. (If different from mailing address)

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you about your request.
Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not use a Defense Switched Network (DSN) number.

Email: Phone:

Alternate email: Fax:

5. What are your preferences for upcoming elections?
A. How do you want to receive ☐ Mail ☐ Email or online ☐ B. What is your political party for primary elections?

6. What additional information must you provide?
Puerto Rico and Vermont require more information, see back for instructions. Additional state guidelines may be found at FVAP.gov. You may also use this space to clarify your voter information.

7. You must read and sign this statement.
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:
■ The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
■ I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
■ I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
■ I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

Sign here ☒ Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY)

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 76 (Rev. 10/2013), GSA No. 3374-0000, 5010-104-000-9002

[illegible]

- 2024 Usage Nationwide**
20,065 FWABs counted
7,795 Not Counted

Data source: 2024 Election Administration and Voting Survey, Section B, EAC, <https://www.eac.gov/research-and-data/studies-and-reports>

Overseas Postal Delivery and Return



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overseas Postal Delivery

Military Mail Delivery



USPS Responsibility

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DEPARTMENT

Any Town, USA

U.S. POST OFFICE

Local Post Office

USPS International Gateway, Chicago

USPS Processing
& Distribution Centers



DoD Responsibility



Commercial Contract/Pay

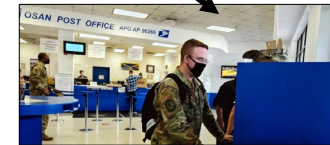
Military Air Base



Command Controlled Transportation



Forward Deployed Unit



Military Post Office



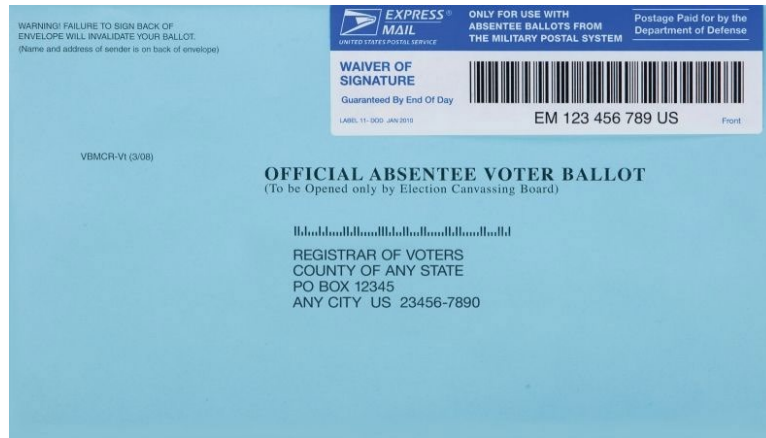
Overseas Postal Delivery

Label 11-DoD



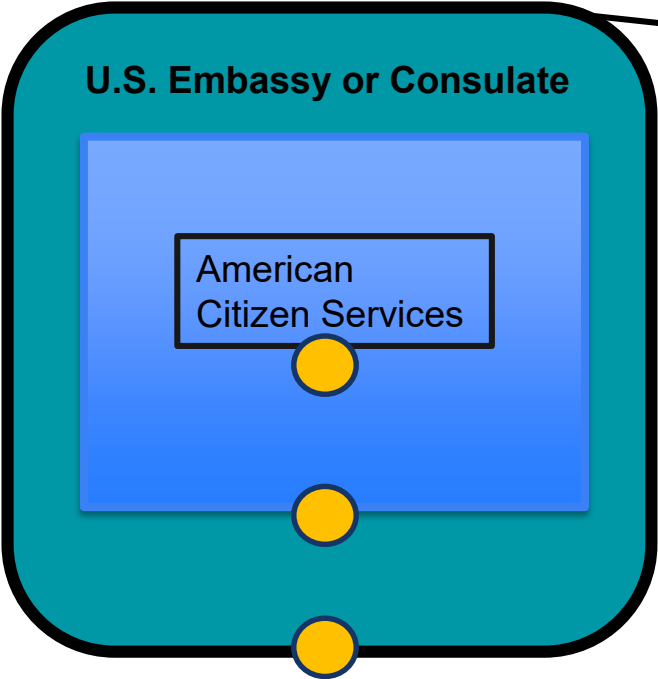
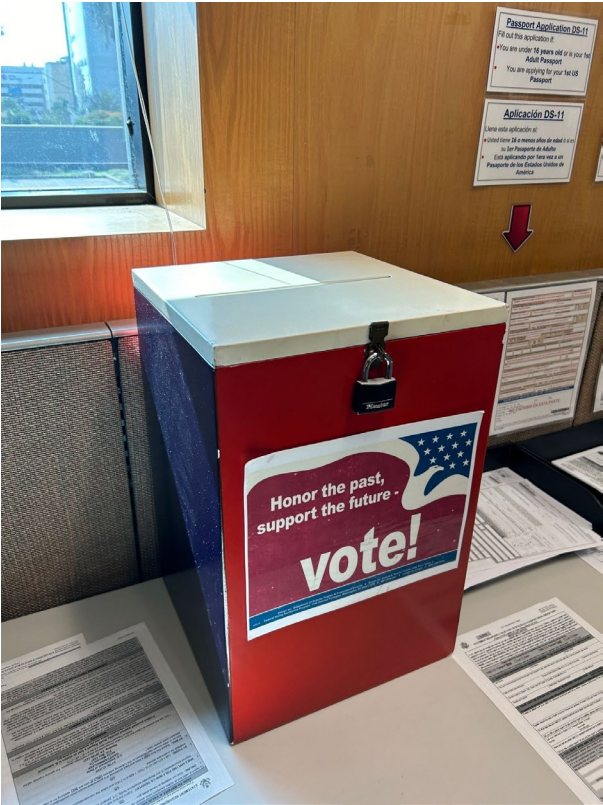
Military Postal Service Agency 2024

- ✓ September – November – 38,821 ballots from overseas military to election offices
- ✓ Average time from voter to Election Office 5.8 calendar days
- ✓ 1607 ballots from election offices were Undeliverable As Addressed
 - 769 redirected
 - 838 were returned to sender



Overseas Postal Delivery

Non- Military Ballot return methods



DPM
Registration

BALBOGOT3654591

2024-03-15
DATE OF REGISTRATION

NAME OF SENDER
Unclassified
CLASSIFICATION
BOGOT
OFFICE SYMBOL OF SENDER

USPS Election
ADDRESSEE
Foreign Service Citizen Ballot
IDENTIFICATION

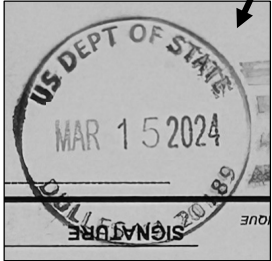
Electronically Generated
DS-0007
10-2021
DO NOT REUSE NUMBER MUST BE UNIQUE

SIGNATURE

MAR 15 2024

US DEPT OF STATE

cut hereX



Overseas Postal Delivery

- Local Country Mail
- Commercial Parcel Services



Third-party voting assistance organizations



FVAP 2026

November 3, 2026 General Election

Things to consider leading up to an election!

- ✓ Review UOCAVA address formatting for military and overseas citizens
- ✓ Coordinate envelope design, drop-offs and pick-ups with local postal officials
- ✓ Leverage FVAP.gov for your new staff or a refresher for current staff
- ✓ Let FVAP know when your address changes!

Military Voter Example

PFC John Doe
PSC 3 Box 4120
APO AE 09021

Overseas Citizen Example

MR THOMAS CLARK
117 RUSSELL DRIVE
LONDON W1P 6HQ
UNITED KINGDOM

FVAP 2026 Prep - Customer Service

Emailing to [.mil] addresses:

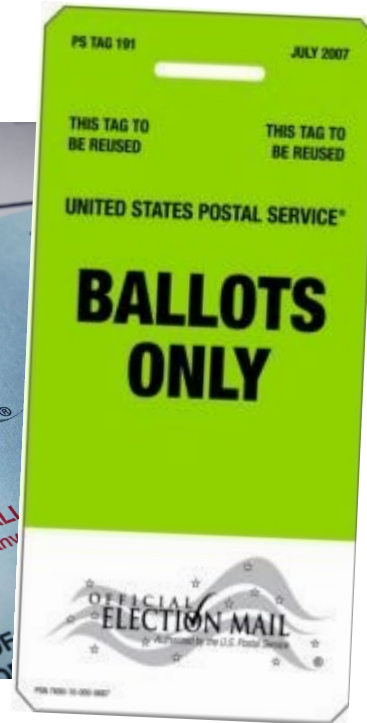
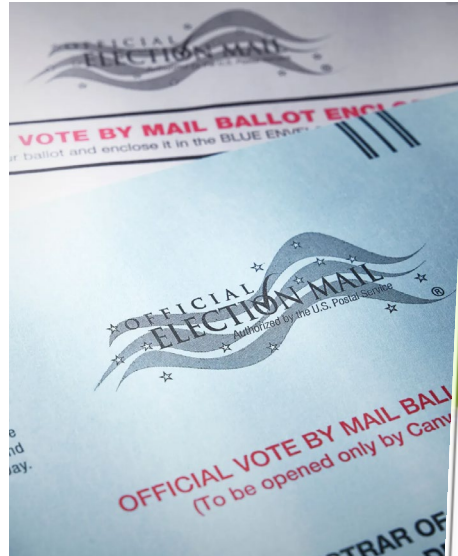
- ✓ Heightened security concerns
- ✓ Attachments may be removed – recommend sending second email without the attachment
- ✓ Hyperlinks disabled
 - Separate links in email body
 - Clearly identify your contact information
- ✓ Bouncebacks
 - Be aware
 - Ask for private email, if necessary/possible



FVAP 2026

November 3, 2026 General Election

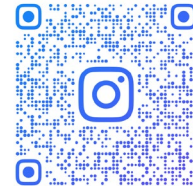
#UOCAVASaturday



Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



@FVAP



@FVAPGOV

Voter Emphasis Weeks 2026

- June 29 – July 4 - **Armed Forces Voters Week**
Overseas Citizens Voters Week
- August 3 – 9 - **Military Spouse Week**
- September 28 – October 4 - **Absentee Voting Week**



2024 Armed Forces Voters Week - Camp Pendleton, CA

MILITARY
ONE SOURCE

**Ballots Beyond Borders:
Military Spouses and
Absentee Voting**



FVAP Call Center

- ✓ 36,000 inquiries in 2024
- ✓ 12,000+ inquiries in 2022
- ✓ Available Monday – Friday
- ✓ 7:30am – 4:00pm Eastern Time
- ✓ **1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**
- ✓ vote@fvap.gov



State & Local Engagement



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Election Official Page at FVAP.gov

Process resources and outreach materials for you and your staff:

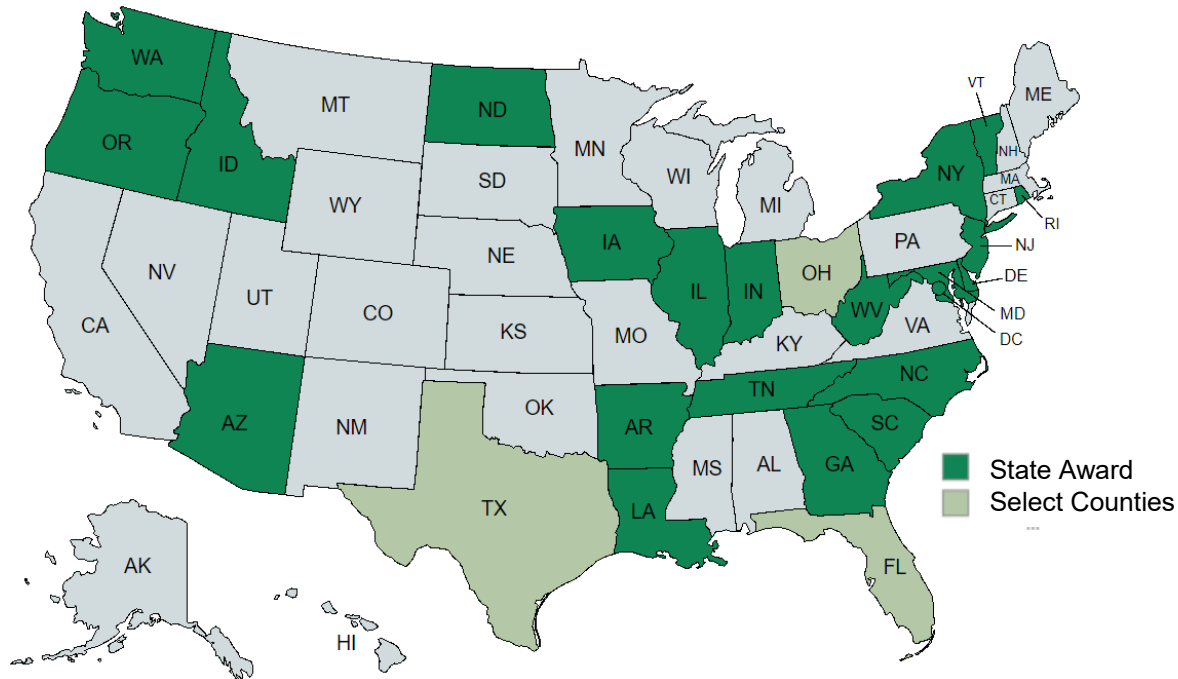
- ✓ UOCAVA 30-Minute Training Module
- ✓ Outreach Materials and Graphics for Social Media
- ✓ UOCAVA Mailing Envelope Templates
- ✓ Quarterly Newsletter

The screenshot displays the FVAP.gov website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Election Forms and Materials, Voting Assistance Guide, FAQs, Links, Contact, and Translate. Below this is a search bar with the text "Looking for Something?" and a "Search" button. The main navigation menu includes: Military Voter, Overseas Citizen Voter, Voting Assistance Officers, Election Officials (selected), and General Information. The left sidebar contains a list of resources: Election Officials (checked), Serving UOCAVA Voters, Processing Voting Forms And Materials, Sending Ballots, Communicating With Voters, FVAP Resources, Rules And Regulations, Training, UOCAVA Undue Hardship Waivers, Grant Programs, EASE Grant Program, EASE 2 Grant Program, Policy Briefs, and Policy Letters. The main content area is titled "For Election Officials" and contains several sections: "These resources provide State and local election officials with the information and tools needed to assist voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). UOCAVA citizens are absent U.S. citizens who are active members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marines, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States." "The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) supports UOCAVA citizens and election officials by providing necessary absentee voting forms, materials, training and guidance." "UOCAVA Voting Process" "In this section you will find an overview of the UOCAVA absentee voting process and the steps necessary to assist voters covered by UOCAVA." "Training" "We created a guided educational training for election officials interested in learning more about the UOCAVA absentee voting process. The guided training module covers an introduction and FAQs about the UOCAVA absentee voting process." "Outreach Materials" "We have created a variety of outreach materials that your office may find helpful in its own efforts to inform and communicate with UOCAVA citizens from your jurisdiction. These materials include a communications toolkit specifically for election officials, infographics, fact sheets, and videos. You are welcome to publish the materials on your own communication channels." "Voter Alerts" "As an election official, you can subscribe to alerts that we send voters to inform them of election dates, important deadlines, changes to State laws that could affect them and other important absentee voting information." "Grant Program" "In 2011, and again in 2013, we offered research grants to States and localities to research improving services provided to military and overseas voters. The resulting data from the grant program will help to identify and improve the true nature of the entire voting experience for military and overseas voters." "Policy Briefs" "In support of its mission to improve the absentee voting process for UOCAVA citizens, FVAP tracks and researches policy developments that may have implications for military and overseas voters. FVAP develops and shares policy briefs to inform State election officials and legislators about the potential impacts."

FVAP EASE Grants

Goal: increase the percentage of ballots successfully returned by voters covered by UOCAVA.

- ✓ Funding used for:
 - Transmission of blank ballots to voters
 - Digital Signature using a DoD Common Access Card
 - Outbound mail tracking
- ✓ FVAP awarded almost 25 million dollars in grant funding directly to states and localities.



Legislative Assistance

- ✓ Legislative monitoring for UOCAVA Voter Awareness:
 - Changes to window for return of ballot materials
 - Changes in authorized methods of ballot return
 - Section 6 requirements on the FPCA/FWAB
 - General impacts to *UOCAVA* voters
- ✓ Priorities for enactment:
 - Explore use of Digital Signatures using DoD Common Access Card (CAC) or Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card
 - Removal of existing FPCA/FWAB Section 6 requirements
- ✓ How FVAP can help:
 - Update information to UOCAVA voters when changes occur to absentee voting processes
 - Serve as a resource responding to requests for feedback or impact of *UOCAVA*-related legislation





Cooperative Agreement

Overseas Voting Initiative (OVI)

- ✓ Election officials who are committed to ensuring election access for military and overseas citizen voters
- ✓ Helping states and election jurisdictions to create policies and practices that assist UOCAVA voters
- ✓ Research
 - Policy
 - Technology
- ✓ Data Standardization



With more than
3,000,000
ELIGIBLE OVERSEAS
voters
we must examine ways to
simplify and *improve*
their access to exercising their
right to
vote.

There are **197,989**
active duty, reserve & national guard
U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS
currently deployed.



MORE THAN
2.8 million
U.S. civilians live and work overseas.

30 election officials
who make up the working group are
committed to ensuring election access
for military and overseas citizen voters
and have taken up the challenge of guaranteeing that these
U.S. citizens' votes count.



Thank You!

More information:

FVAP.gov

vote@fvap.gov

1-800-438-VOTE(8683)

DSN: 425-1584

@FVAP Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



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