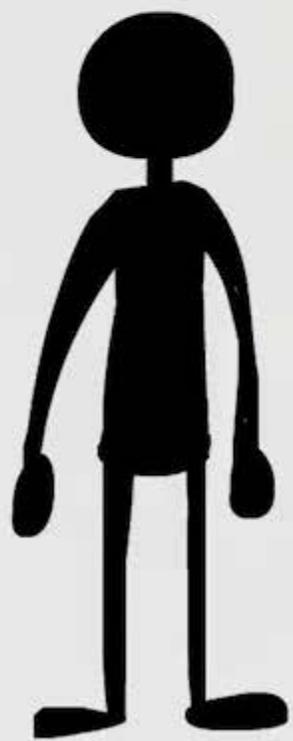


Federal Voting Assistance Program

Meghan Kelly
State Legislative Affairs Specialist



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UOCAVA

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* of 1986, or *UOCAVA*, allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal office.

Citizens covered under *UOCAVA* include:

1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.
3. U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories.

Note: Uniformed Service members and their eligible family members residing in their voting jurisdictions are not covered under *UOCAVA*.

UOCAVA Amendments

Help America Vote Act (HAVA), 2002

- Required states to notify voters the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request



Military and Overseas Empowerment (MOVE) Act, 2009

- Requires states to make voter registration and absentee ballot applications available electronically
- Requires ballots to be sent 45 days prior to an election
- Ballot applications good for one election cycle

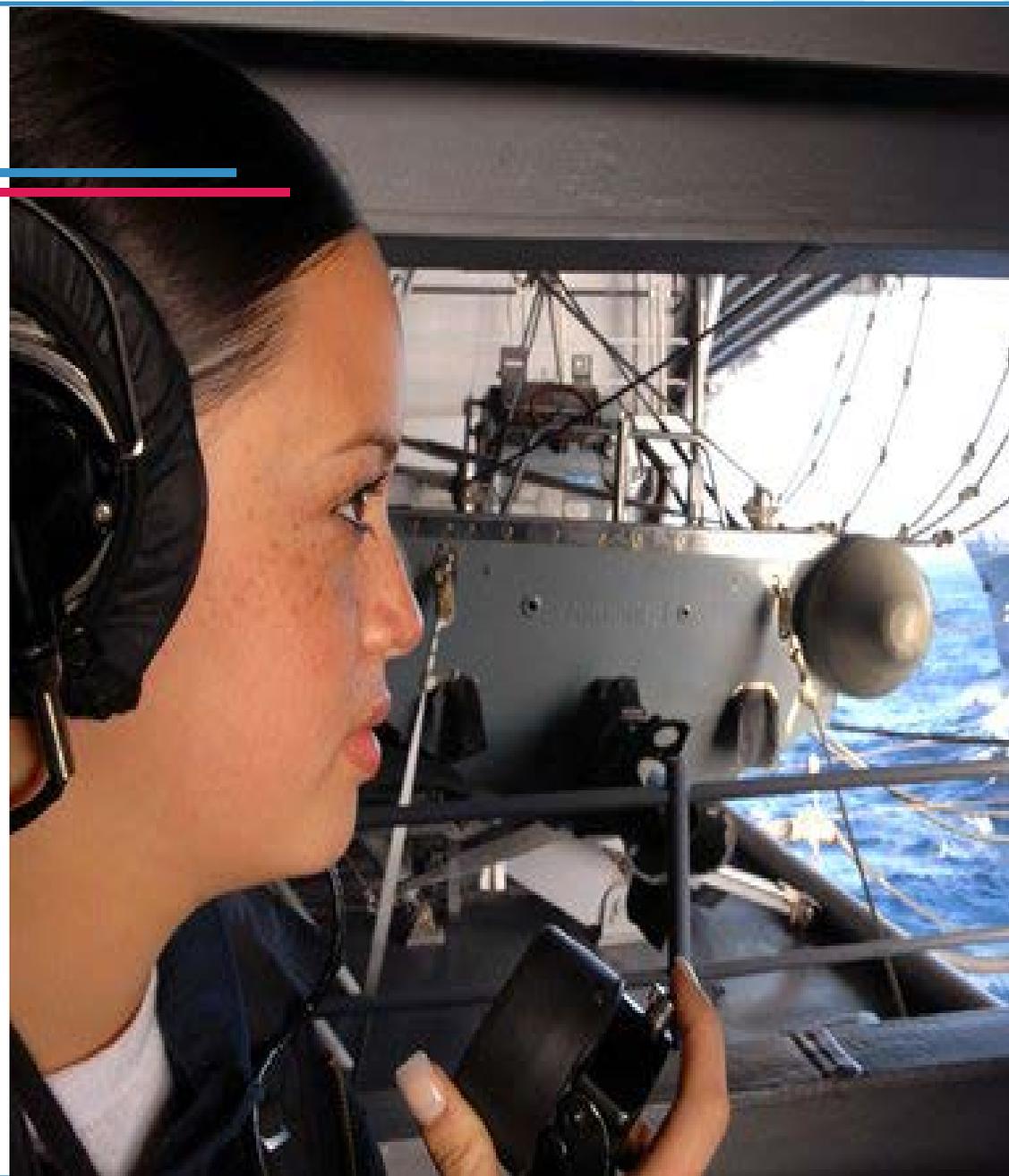


Who are our voters?

More than 4.3 million U.S. citizens living, studying, and working overseas

1.3 million absent members of the Uniformed Services and Merchant Marines

700,000 plus eligible family members of the Uniformed Services and Merchant Marines



FVAP Responsibilities



FVAP

- Training
 - IVAOs &VAOs
 - Embassies
- Maintain voter resources
 - VAG
 - Website
 - Online Assistant
- Report to Congress
- DOD Instruction
- Data Collection
- Waiver Requests

FVAP Voting Assistance



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UOCAVA Voting Process

Application

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

Classification: I am a member of the uniformed services or a member of the family of a member of the uniformed services... I am a member of the family of a member of the uniformed services... I am a member of the family of a member of the uniformed services...

Political Party: I do not wish to indicate a political party... I am a member of the following political party...

Your legal name: Last name Middle name First name

Address: Street Apt. # P.O. Box

City: State: Zip:

U.S. address for voting purposes: Street Apt. # P.O. Box

City: State: Zip:

Additional requirements for your State: I am a member of the following political party... I am a member of the following political party... I am a member of the following political party...

Local Election Office



State Ballot

TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE CIRCLE NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.

- Use a black or blue pen (not red) or a black pencil to mark your ballot.
- If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.
- To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval, and write in the candidate's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate.

CONGRESSIONAL	LEGISLATIVE	NONPARTISAN
UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Marco Rubio REP <input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth S. Biick DEM <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander Andrew Bellier IST <input type="checkbox"/> Sergio DeCelles CPA <input type="checkbox"/> Sue Adelman MFL <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Ray Riggs MFL <input type="checkbox"/> Bobbie Doss MFL <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Tyler MFL <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie O'Neil MFL <input type="checkbox"/> Loren Jerome Amberg MFL <input type="checkbox"/> [Blank] 	STATE SENATOR, 64TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neil Almer REP <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Edwards NFI COUNTY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEMBER UNIVERSAL PORT AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Henri E. Sullivan REP <input type="checkbox"/> Robert "Bob" Jenkins DEM MEMBER UNIVERSAL PORT AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 4 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Deschiff REP <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Gebelt INT 	MEMBER SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jordan <input type="checkbox"/> Michael L. Kepp SUPERVISOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BREVARD COUNTY, GROUP 2 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Court <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Mikolaj SUPERVISOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BREVARD COUNTY, GROUP 4 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delaine Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> RM Sule CITY OF TITUSVILLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COUNCIL SEAT 1 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Kellen Sunor <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Secor COUNCIL SEAT 2 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> RM Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Pearce
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 64TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra "Sandy" Adams REP <input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Kramer DEM <input type="checkbox"/> [Blank] 	MEMBER UNIVERSAL PORT AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 5 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rindberg REP <input type="checkbox"/> Peter "Pat" Hickok DEM 	NONPARTISAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shall Justice Charles T. Canady of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Scott, Gov. REP <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Carroll, Lt. Gov. REP <input type="checkbox"/> Mike DeWine, Gov. DEM

Back Up Ballot

Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

President/Vice President: _____

U.S. Senator(s): _____

U.S. Representative/Delégate*/Resident Commissioner(s): _____

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

Addendum

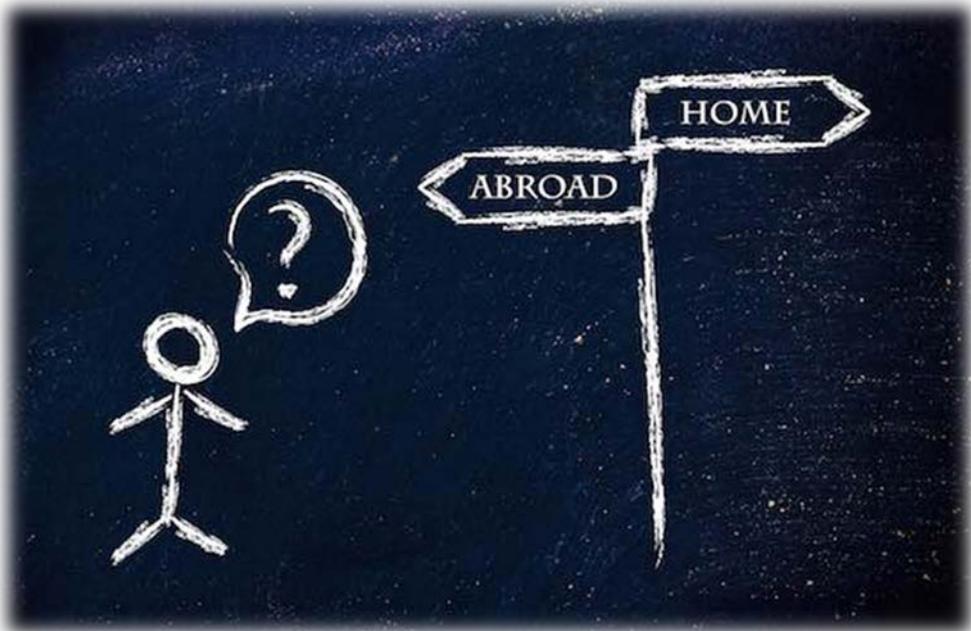
Some states allow the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for officers other than Federal officers. Consult your state section in the Voting Absentee Guide on FPCA for the details of your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for officers other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please include in the space provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example, Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.

Office / Ballot Initiative	Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Title

Source: Form 100, Rev. 06/2015

Educating to Address Complexity

Virginia Specific...



FPCA & FWAB Submission

- **Block 9: Overseas Citizens** required to add name of employer, or spouses/dependent's employer. If not, overseas voters will receive a federal ballot only

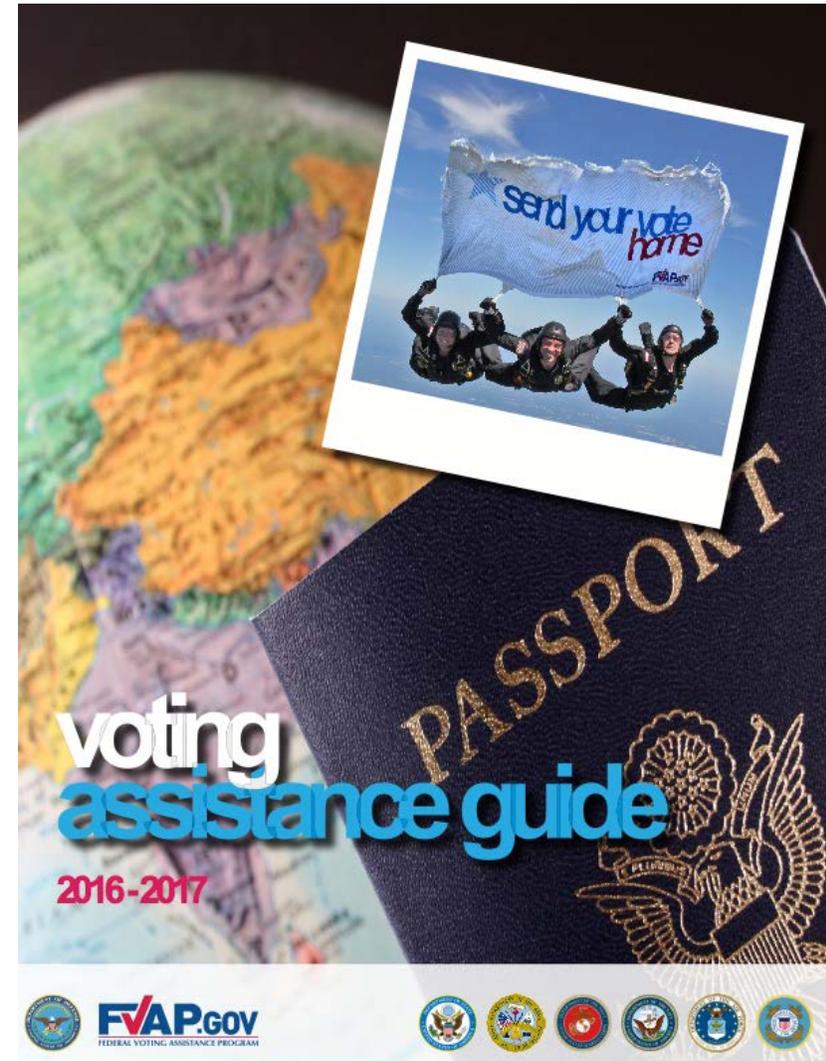
How does FVAP provide voting assistance?

- **Informs Election Officials about tips and new information**
- **Provides tools and resources to voters and VAOs**
- **Reduce as many obstacles as possible**



Tool: Voting Assistance Guide

- New coordination procedures
- Standardized content
- Plain language principles



Tool: FVAP.GOV



- **Individualized User Experience**
- **Online tools**
- **Training modules**
- **Outreach materials**



Tool: Public Service Announcements



“Checkboxes”

New spot produced for:

- **First-time voters**
- **Military spouses**
- **Overseas citizens**



2014 Post-Election Research

Better Data = Better Elections



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2014 Post-Election Quantitative Surveys



- **Post-election surveys:**
 - **Active Duty Military**
 - **Unit Voting Assistance Officers**
 - **Department of State Voting Assistance Officers**
 - **Local Election Officials-Qualitative**
- **Joint survey effort with Election Assistance Commission**

Military Voters: Reasons Did Not Vote



	First-time Potential Voters	All Other ADM
Not registered to vote	11%	13%
Did not know how to get absentee ballot	25%	11%
Absentee ballot arrived too late	5%	4%
Absentee ballot did not arrive at all	13%	17%
Absentee voting process too complicated	10%	10%
Commander did not allow time during duty hours to vote	3%	1%
Other	33%	45%

Military Voters: Absentee Voting Behavior



	Total ADM
Requested a ballot	17%
Did not request, but automatically received a ballot	10%
Did not request, but <i>expected</i> to receive a ballot	17%
Did not need a ballot	56%
[Requested ballot] Used FPCA	30%
[Requested ballot] Used a State or local form	44%
[Requested ballot] Received ballot	76%
[Requested or automatically received ballot] Completed and returned ballot	58%
[Requested ballot, did not receive ballot] Used FWAB	11%

Military Voters: Opinions on Voting

Statement	Percent “Agree” & “Strongly agree”
It is not appropriate for members of the military to vote.	7%
I was confident that my ballot would be counted.	33%

Civic Duty:

- Of those ADM who felt voting was a *civic duty*, 44% reported voting in the 2014 election.
- Of those ADM who felt voting was a *choice*, 10% reported voting in the 2014 election.

Tool: Public Service Announcements



Virginia & UOCAVA



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Virginia Is For Lovers.... & Election Data



National Level Analysis

	2014 National UOCAVA Rates	2014 Virginia Rates	2012 National UOCAVA Rates	2012 Virginia Rates
Return Rate	35.6%	82.5%	69.2%	83.6%
Rejection Rate	5.5%	6.8%	5.6%	5.6%
Military Rej. Rate	5.7%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
Overseas Civ. Rej. Rate	4.8%	9.1%	5.7%	5.7%
FPCA Rejection Rate	2.3%	0.0%	-	-
FWAB Rejection Rate	25.9%	18.0%	23.1%	8.2%
Undeliverable Rate	3.7%	0.2%	1.4%	1.4%



VA Data





VA Data



Tips for Election Officials



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Tips for Election Officials

- ★ Reach Out to Military Installations in your area

Tips for Election Officials

★ ★ Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

***TESTING* Your FPCA has been accepted!**

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

- ✓ ***FPCA has been Accepted!***
- ✓ ***How long their FPCA will be good for***
- ✓ ***Status Check***
- ✓ ***Contact Info***

Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:

The Department has accepted your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and will send you a ballot or information of how to access your ballot at least 45 days before each election in which you are eligible to vote. The Department will notify you by email once your ballot has been sent or is available online.

Your FPCA is valid through December 31 the year following the next General Election.

You can check the status of your FPCA and/or your ballot by selecting the appropriate items in the "Voter Portal" at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

Please contact the office if you do not receive your ballot in a timely manner or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections
New Castle County Office
Carvel State Office Bldg
820 N French St Ste 400
Wilmington DE 19801
Email: absentee@state.de.us
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 20160322085901444196

Tips for Election Officials

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

TESTING Your absentee ballot has been received!

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:

The Department received your absentee ballot on 03/22/2016 for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

You can check the status of your ballot by selecting the appropriate items in the "Voter Portal" at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

The Department will let you know whether or not your ballot was counted following the election. If it was not counted, we will tell you why. Ballots received on time are in most instances counted.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections
New Castle County Office
Carvel State Office Bldg
820 N French St Ste 400
Wilmington DE 19801
Email: absentee@state.de.us
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 100268808-W-N-212820



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

TESTING Your absentee ballot has been counted!

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear MARCIA MARY SHOLL:

The Department has counted your absentee ballot for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections
New Castle County Office
Carvel State Office Bldg
820 N French St Ste 400
Wilmington DE 19801
Email: absentee@state.de.us
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 100475719-W-N-212821

**Ballot Received
& Ballot Counted!**

Tips for Election Officials

★ ★ Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!



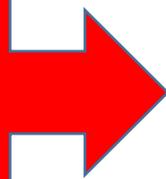
Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

***TESTING* Your absentee ballot was not counted!**

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

✓ Reason
ballot
was not
counted!



Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:

The Department did not count your absentee ballot for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

Reason: Oath was not signed

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Department of Elections
New Castle County Office
Carvel State Office Bldg
820 N French St Ste 400
Wilmington DE 19801
Email: absentee@state.de.us
Phone: (302) 577-3464

Transaction ID: 100268808-W-N-212820

Emailing .mil Addresses

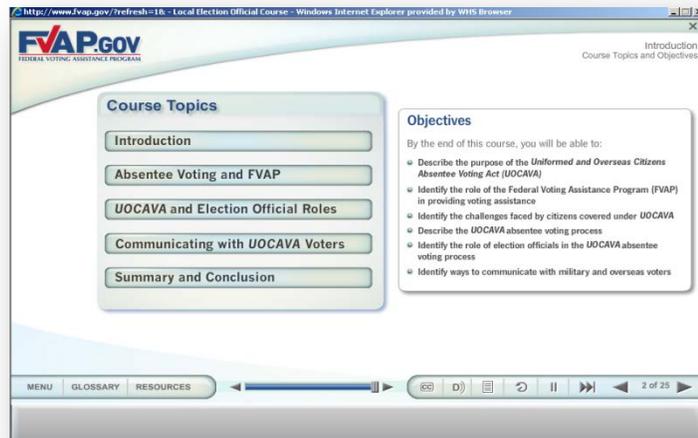
- ★ ★
 - **Heightened security concerns**
 - **Hyperlinks disabled**
 - **Separate links in email body**
 - **Clearly identify LEO contact information**
 - **Bouncebacks**
 - **Be aware**
 - **Ask for private email, if necessary**



Additional Resources

Don't Forget About FVAP Resources Tailor Made Just for You!

- Electronic Transmission Service
- Address Lookup Service
- “UOCAVA 101” Training



FVAP can help!

An FVAP official, or the FVAP Director, may be available to visit your State to provide training on how best to assist UOCAVA voters. You could learn how to process forms, what resources FVAP has available to help you, and how best to communicate with these voters outside your jurisdiction.

To request that FVAP attend a conference in your State to provide UOCAVA training, send an email to Vote@FVAP.gov with conference details.



Additionally, FVAP suggests that you practice the following:

- Confirm receipt and acceptance of the absentee ballot via email or post card.
- Provide notification of FPCA acceptance and resolution of a FVAB submission to the voter and guidelines for re-sending or updating the forms if applicable.
- Provide an annual review of your State's contact information on FVAP.gov to ensure it's current. Create and use a UOCAVA-specific email address.
- Visit nearby military installations and build a working relationship with the Voting Assistance Officers.

**The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) requires that the 55 States and territories allow certain groups of citizens to register and vote absentee in federal elections. States and territories may have supplementary laws and requirements.

UOCAVA requires State officials to:

- permit absent Uniformed Services and overseas citizen voters to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for federal office;
- use the official post card form (prescribed under section 20301) as a simultaneous registration and absentee ballot application;
- accept and process, with respect to any election for federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application and absentee ballot application from an absent Uniformed Services or overseas citizen voter, if the application is received by the appropriate State election official not less than 30 days before the election; (state law may allow for a shorter period)
- provide UOCAVA voters with an option to request and receive voter registration and absentee ballot applications by electronic transmission and establish electronic transmission options for delivery of blank absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters;
- transmit requested absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters no later than 45 days before an election for a federal office, when the request has been received by that date, except where an undue hardship waiver is approved by the Department of Defense for that election;
- take steps to ensure that electronic transmission procedures to protect the security of the balloting process and that the privacy of the identity and personal data of UOCAVA voters using the procedures (in accordance with section 20302(e)(6));
- permit absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (in accordance with section 20303) in general, special, primary and runoff elections for federal office;
- accept otherwise valid voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, voted ballots, or Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots without regard to State notarization requirements, or restrictions on paper type, or envelope type; and
- allow UOCAVA voters to track the receipt of their absentee ballots.

** These requirements are part of the UOCAVA and provided here only for easier reference by election officials. For more information, view the full Act at FVAP.gov.

CONTACT FVAP

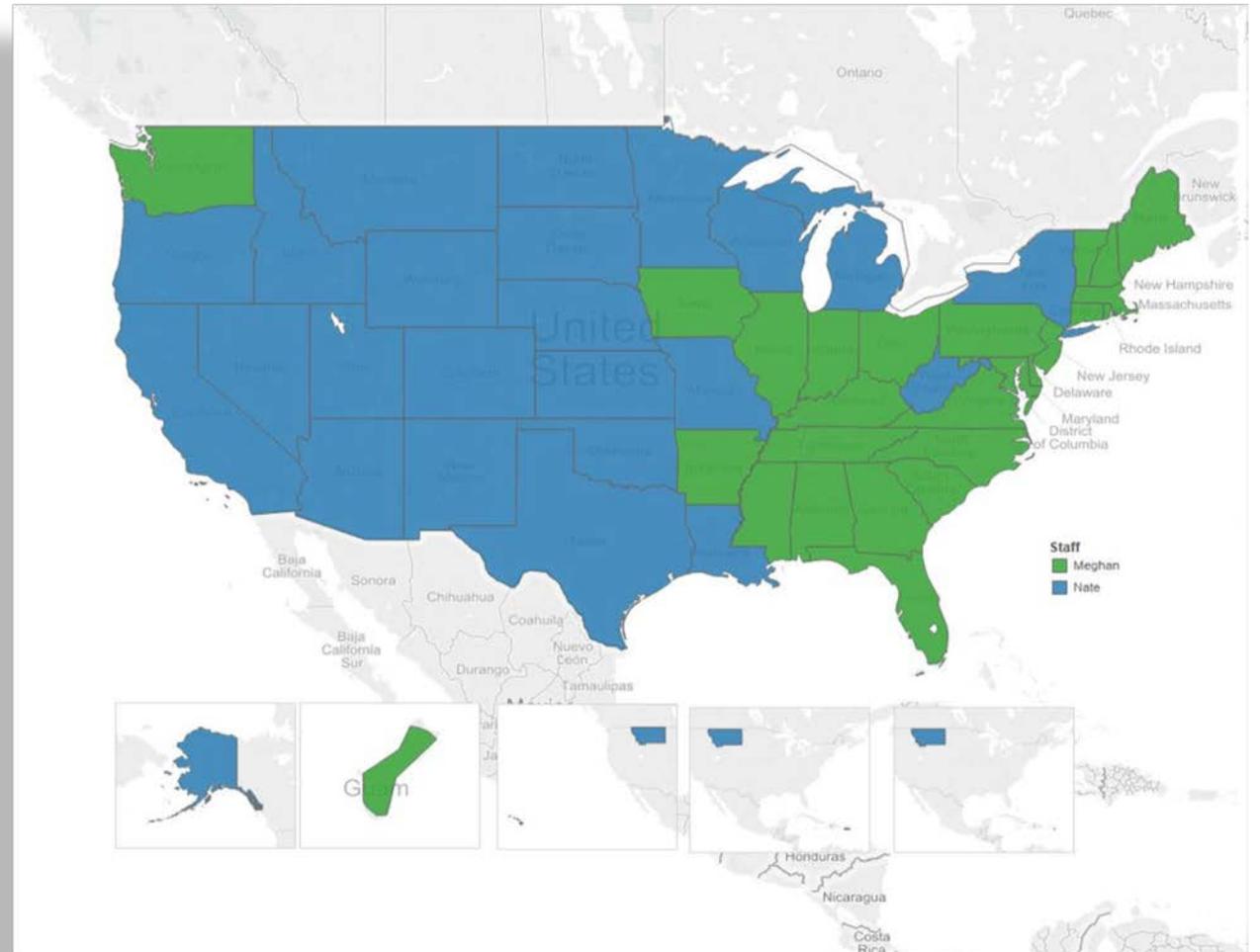
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET Phone: 1-800-438-VOTE (8883) | DSN: 425-1584 | Email: vote@fvap.gov
Go to FVAP.gov and click on "contact" to find where to send your election materials. Media inquiries: media@fvap.gov
Facebook.com/DoDFVAP and Twitter @FVAP

Legislative Trends



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FVAP State Legislative Affairs

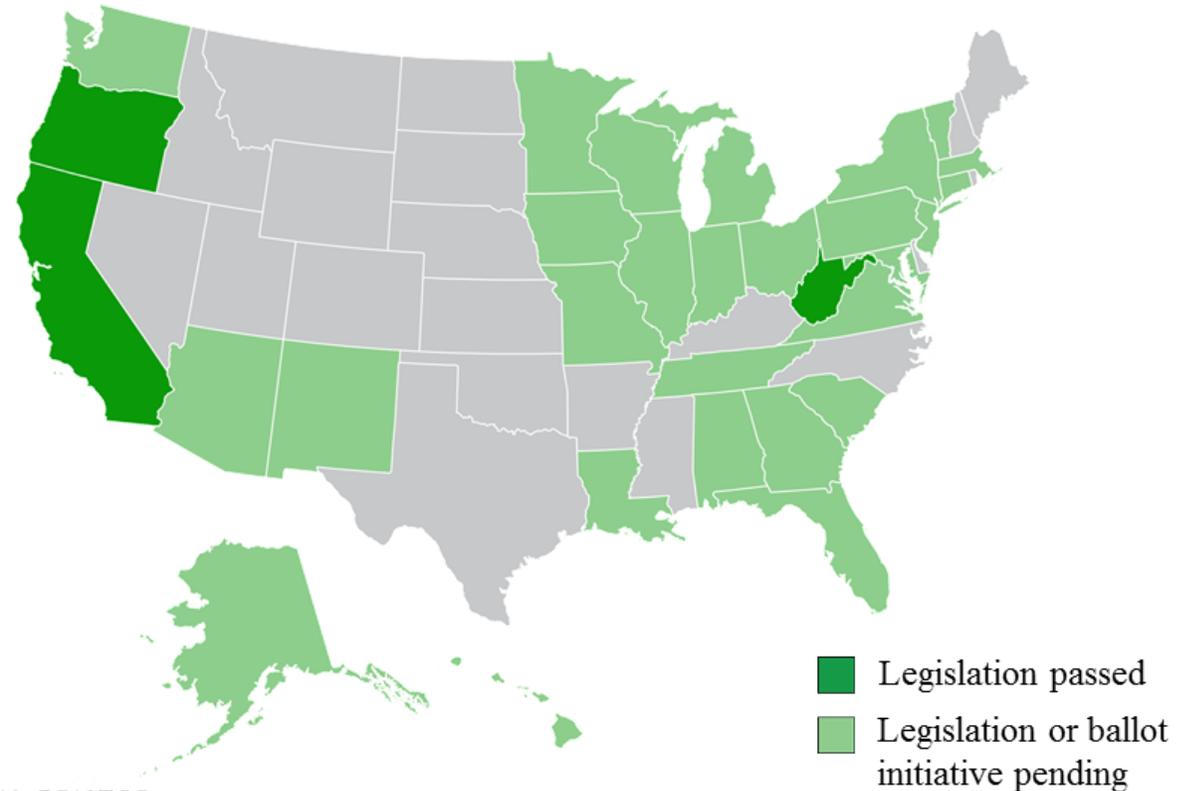


Automatic Registration



- OR, CA, & WV adopted
- Potential impact on UOCAVA?
 - Unknowing registration
 - Impact on registration status in another state
 - Tax implications?
 - Receiving ballot?

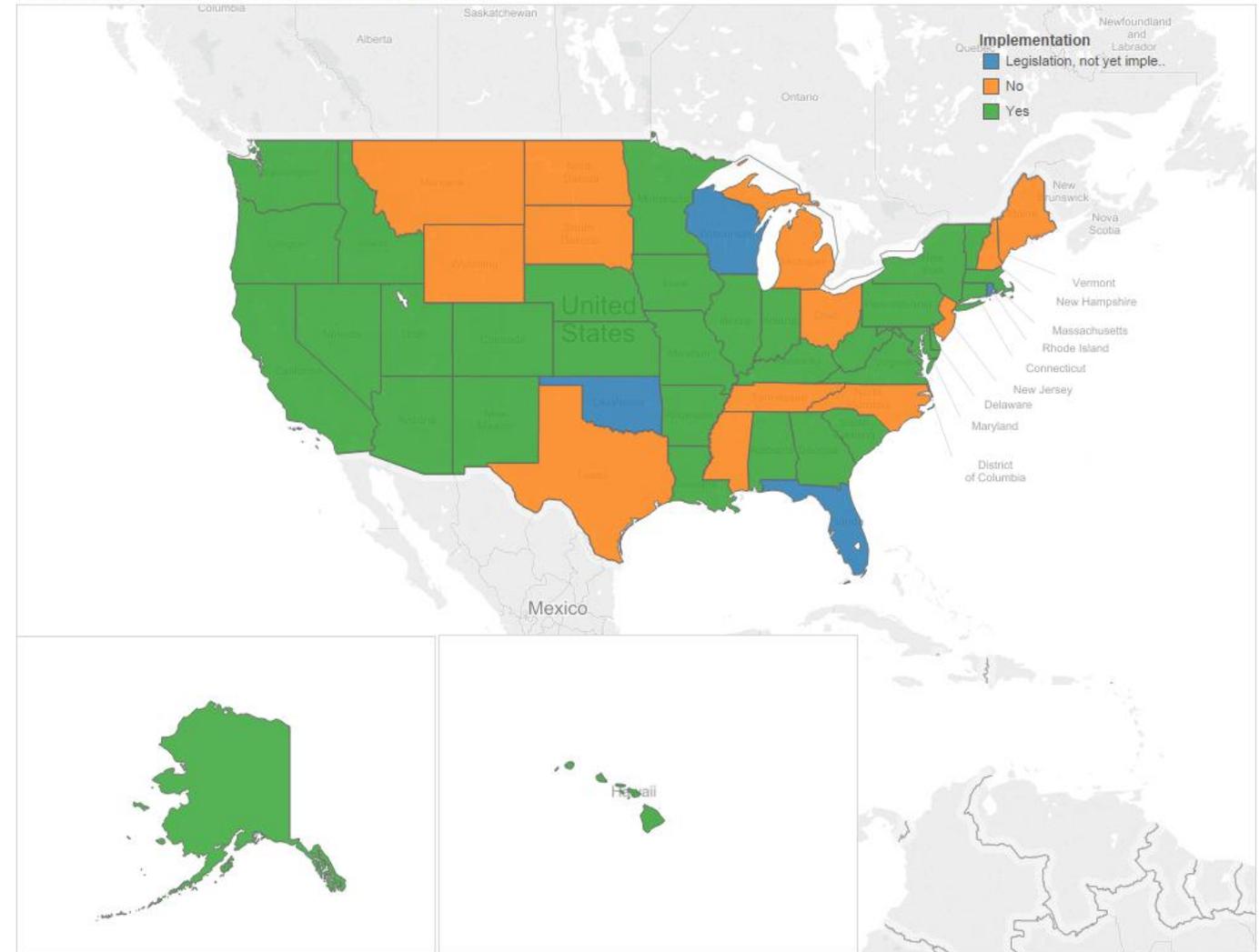
States Considering Automatic Voter Registration



Online Registration

- 31 states and D.C. offer online registration
- Classification for UOCAVA?
 - FVAP inventory ongoing

Online Registration in the States (NCSL), April 2016



Conclusion



Questions?

Meghan.kelly@fvap.gov

(571) 372-0742

FVAP.gov

1800-438-VOTE (8683)

Connect with us:



@FVAP



Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



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