

FVAP

Back to Basics & Beyond

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Date: August 24, 2021



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overview

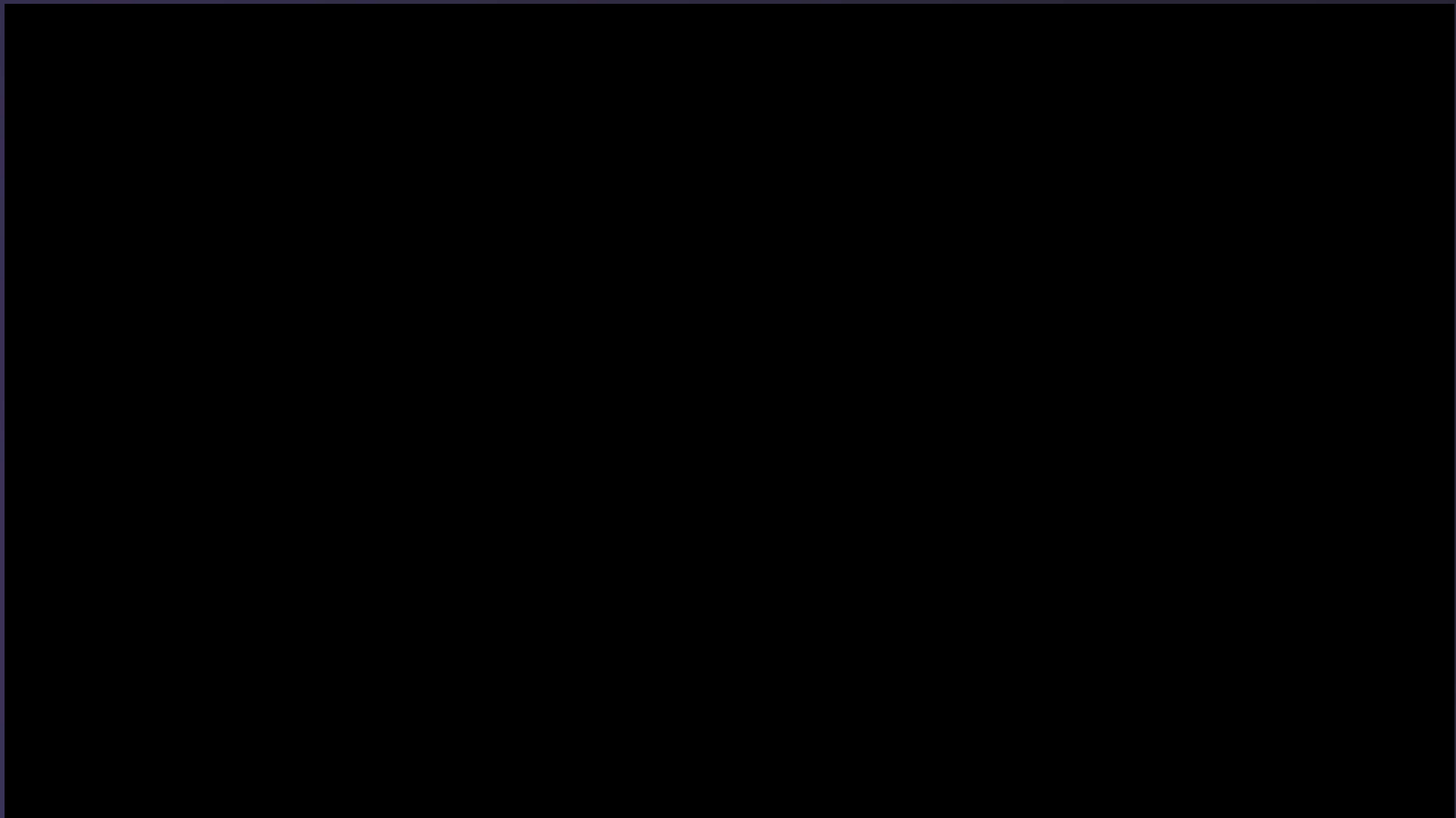
Agenda:

- ✓ Back to Basics: FVAP & UOCAVA
- ✓ FVAP Resources for Election Officials
- ✓ Maryland and UOCAVA Voters
- ✓ Federal Post Card Application
- ✓ Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- ✓ FVAP Call to Action 2022

Back to Basics:

FVAP & UOCAVA





FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Passed in 1986 and known as “*UOCAVA*”

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

*FVAP administers UOCAVA on
behalf of the Secretary of Defense*

- **2002** – The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) amended UOCAVA to require states to notify voters of the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request
- **2009** – The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) amended UOCAVA to require states to send requested absentee ballots 45 days prior to an election for federal office, and to provide those ballots electronically upon request.

FVAP Responsibilities



- Training
 - Installation and Unit Voting Action 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
- DOD Instruction 1000.04
- Data Collection
- Waiver Requests
- Ensure State and Local Election Official Awareness



State Responsibilities / Requirements



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

Information Saturation

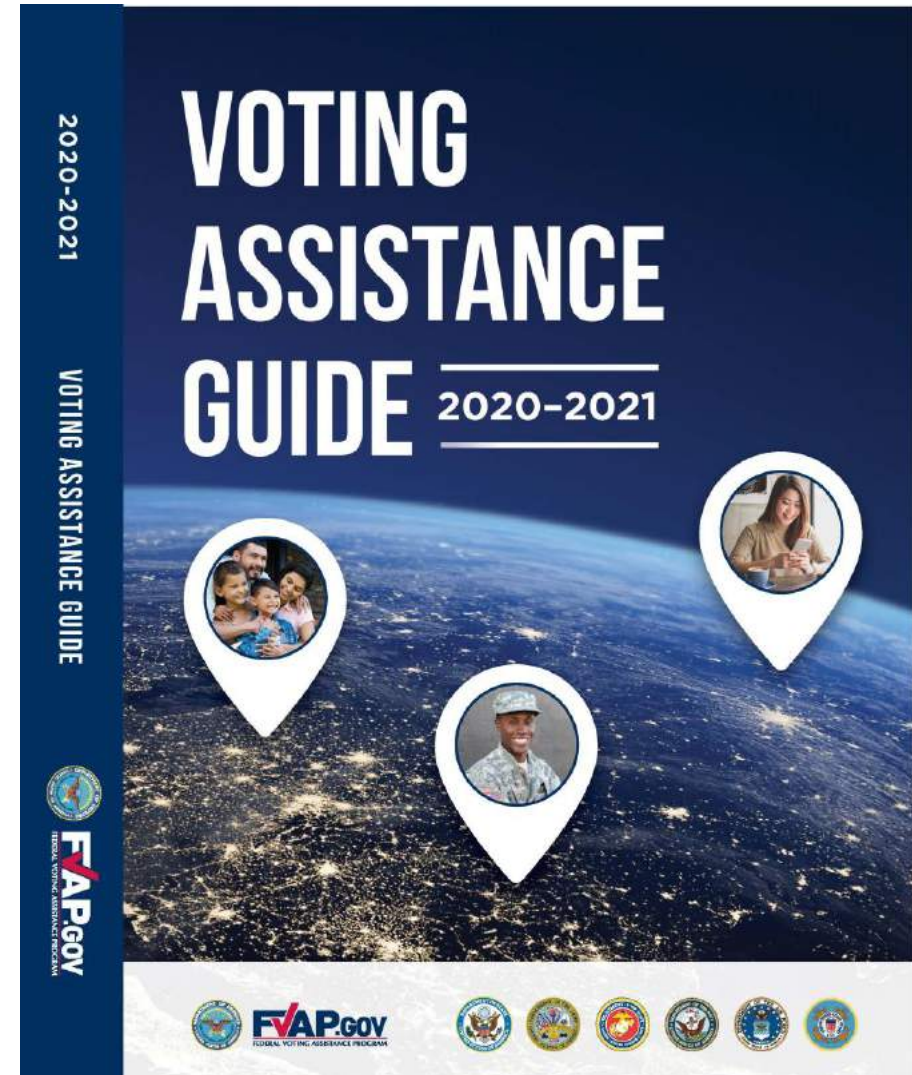
Through VAO Workshops, we train service members on where to find **UOCAVA** information on:

- ✓ Key state deadlines
- ✓ Changes to election information in particular states, like changes in submission methods or sharing emergency information that impacts elections
- ✓ Participation by state and local election officials
- ✓ Monthly distribution of upcoming elections to all active duty personnel



Voting Assistance Guide

- ✓ In coordination with all 55 States and territories
- ✓ 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: **89% VAOs found it useful.**



FVAP- Customer Service

Workshop Execution

JOIN FVAP at a VAO Training Workshop



© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

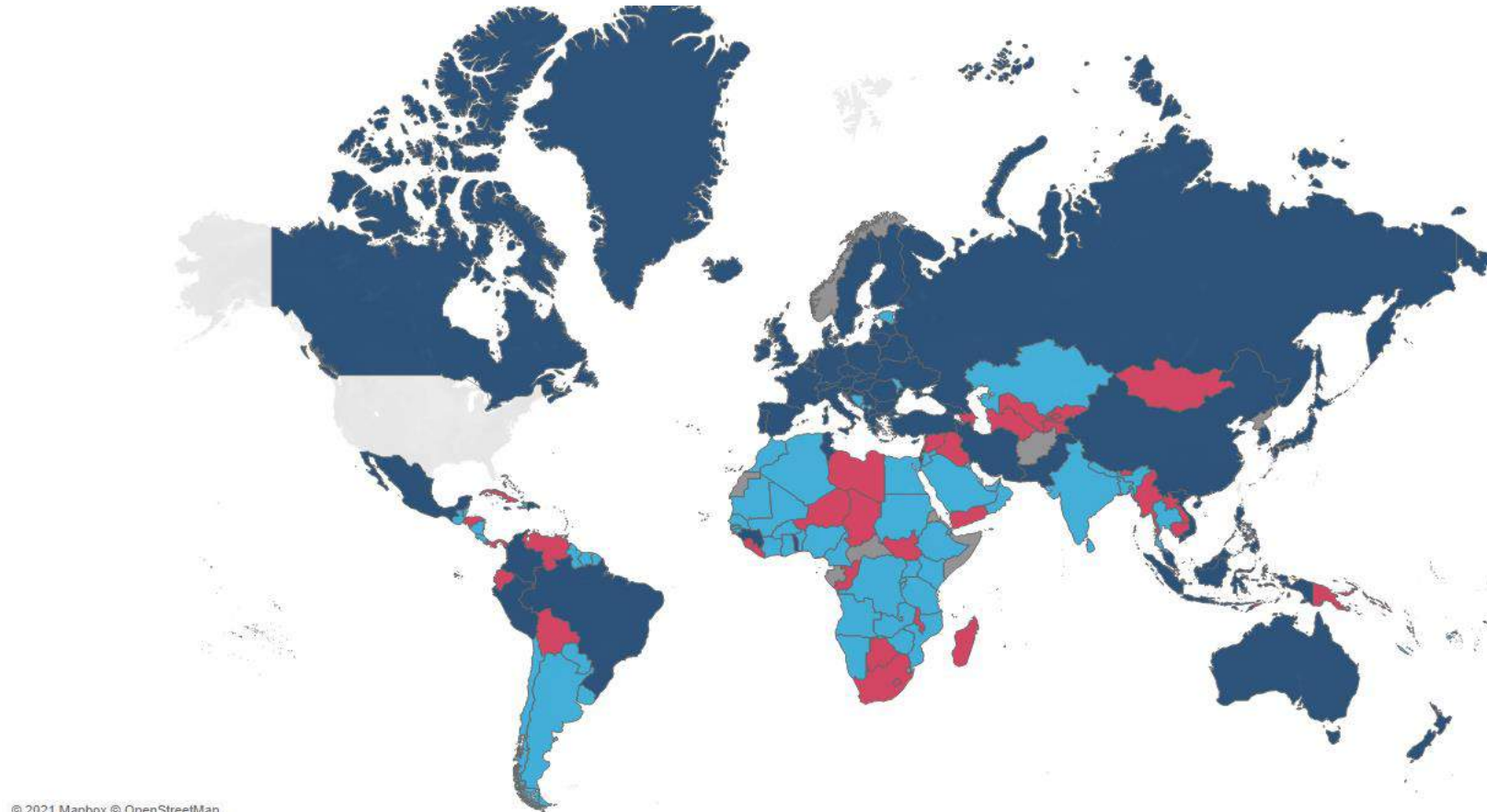
Workshop Type

- In-person
- Virtual



A screenshot of the FVAP.gov website. The header includes the FVAP.gov logo and navigation links: "Military Voter", "Overseas Citizen Voter", "Voting Assistance Officer", "Election Official", and "General Information". The main content area is titled "COVID-19 Updates" and contains text about the impact of the pandemic on elections. Below this is a section titled "Resources for Voters" with a list of links. At the bottom, there is a large red banner for the "FPCA" (Federal Post Card Application) with the text "HOW VOTERS CAN SUBMIT THEIR FPCA" and "FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION". Below the banner is a map of the United States with state abbreviations.

2020 International Postal Disruptions



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Postal service disruptions approaching the 45 day mark before the 2020 General Election

- Delivery delays
- Postal service resumed after being suspended, with delivery delays still likely
- Postal service suspended or unable to deliver by air and sea
- No Data

Maryland

UOCAVA Statistics



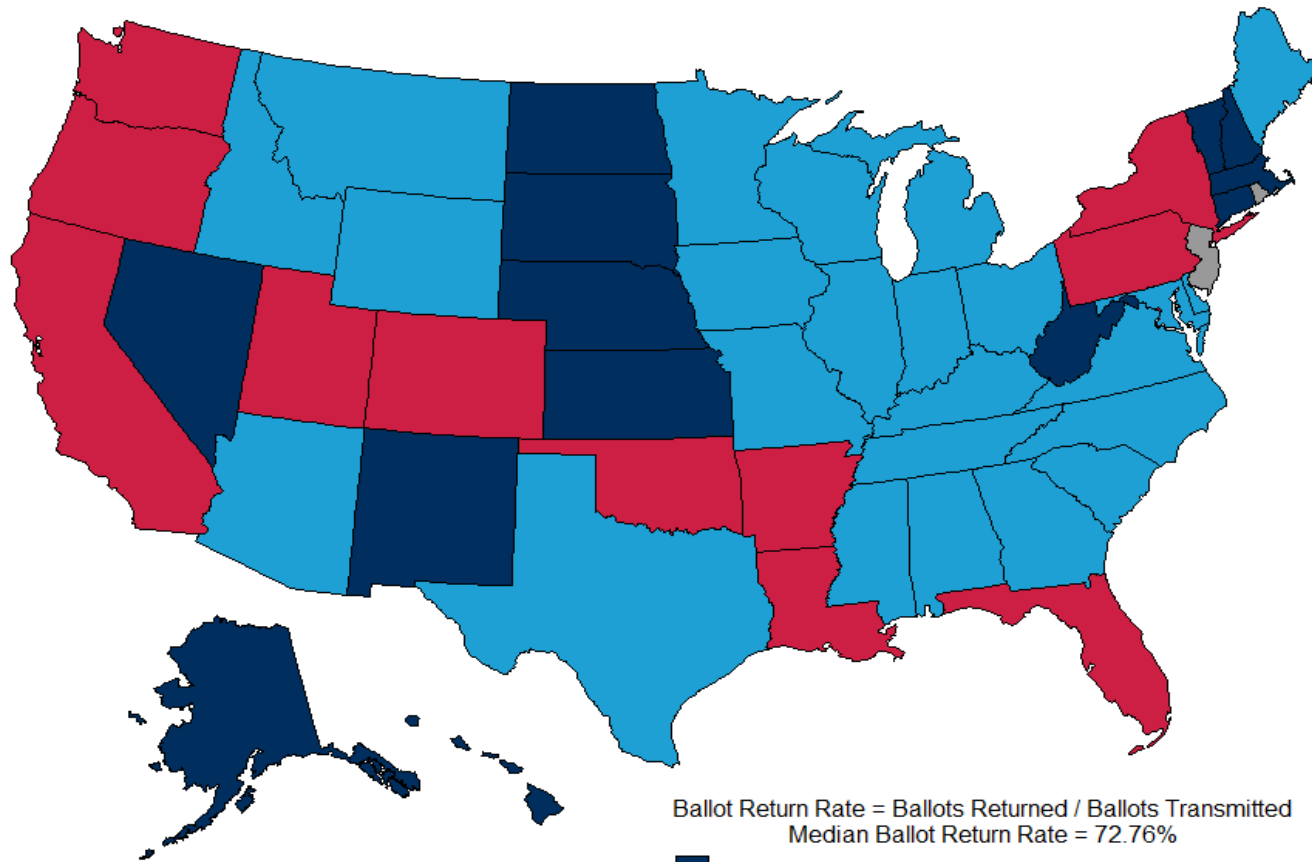
UOCAVA 2018 Numbers for Maryland

In 2018, Maryland had:

9,518 registered and eligible UOCAVA voters

Of this number, 23% were Service members (2,194)
and 77% were overseas citizens (7,324)

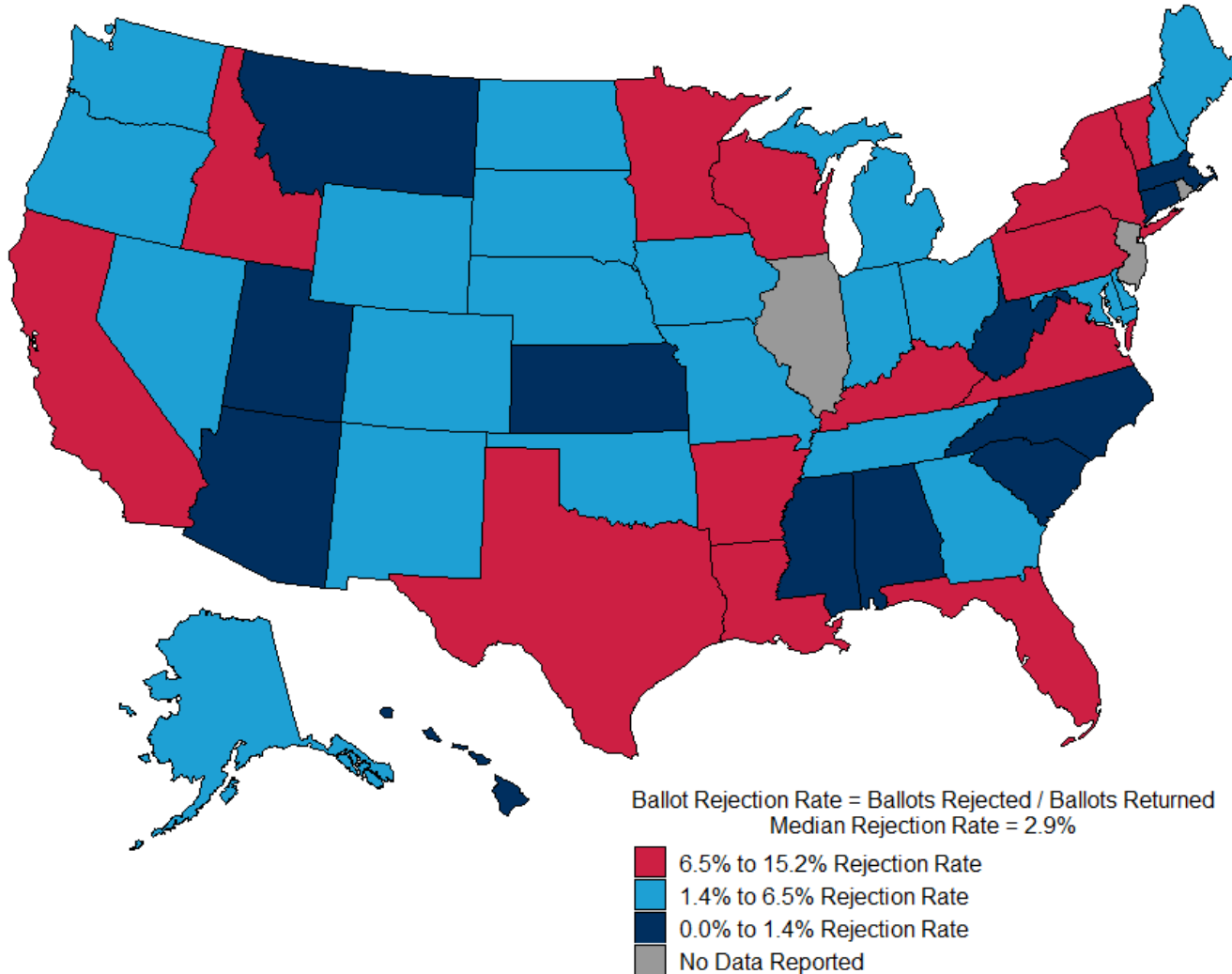
2018 UOCAVA Ballots Returned



In the 2018 General Election, Maryland transmitted 9,670 ballots to UOCAVA voters, and received a total of 6,637 returned ballots.

Data source: 2018 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC, Pg. 110

2018 UOCAVA Ballots Rejected



Maryland rejected a total of 197 returned ballots in the 2018 General Election.

Data source: 2018 Election Administration Voting Survey,
Section B, EAC, Pg. 110

Resources for the 2022 Election Cycle & Beyond



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**FVAP.GOV**
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Voting assistance for Service members,
their families and overseas citizens

Election Materials | Voting Assistance Guide | FAQs | Links | Contact

Looking for Something?

[Home](#) | [Military Voter](#) | [Overseas Citizen Voter](#) | [Voting Assistance Officer](#) | [Election Official](#) | [General Information](#)

Voters Start Here

Military and Overseas Citizens select your voting residence State

Select a State

Help a Voter

- ★ Voting Assistance Officers
- ☒ Election Officials

You Can Vote from Anywhere

when you're in the military or an American overseas

[Request an Absentee Ballot](#)

80 Days until the November 06 General Election

Upcoming Election Dates

Aug
21

[Wyoming](#) - State Primary
[Alaska](#) - State Primary

Quick Links

- [State Voting Guidelines](#)
- [Locate Your Election Official](#)

Latest FVAP News

July 31
[Check Out Our Latest SEO Newsletter](#)

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

- ✓ Updates considered every two years
- ✓ Federal Register public comment period
- ✓ Possible slight redesign for 2022
- ✓ 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.			
1. Who are you? Pick one.			
I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND:		<input type="checkbox"/> I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- <input type="checkbox"/> I am an eligible spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am an activated National Guard member on State orders. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and my return is uncertain. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.	
Last name	First name	Suffix (Jr., II)	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
Middle name	Previous names (if applicable)		
Social Security Number	Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY)		/ /
		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.			
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 applicable)	
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 is your voting preference? Select One.			
How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office?		What is your political party for primary elections?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email or online <input type="checkbox"/> Fax			
6. What additional information must you provide?			
The following need more information: Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. (Ex. Witness signature, proof of residency, etc.) You may also use this space to clarify your voter information. See the <i>Voting Assistance Guide</i> at FVAP.gov .			
7. You must read and sign this statement.			
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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 X		Today's date (MM/DD/YYYY) / /	
<small>This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 76 (Rev.09-2017), OMB No. 0704-0503</small>			

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

- ✓ Updates considered every two years
- ✓ Federal Register public comment period
- ✓ Slight update for 2022
- ✓ If both state ballot and FWAB are received, follow state procedures
- ✓ UOCAVA voters can use a FWAB well in advance of an election if necessary by noting the intended election date on the mailing envelope
- ✓ UOCAVA voters may vote by writing the name of a political party
- ✓ Can not be rejected based on the paper or envelope type it arrives in

**Voters need to be registered
before using a FWAB**

Voter Information

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Have you already registered and requested an absentee ballot?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Some States allow you to use this form to register and request ballots for future elections. Visit [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) for more details.

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

1. Who are you? Pick one.

For absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States.

- ☐ I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- ☐ I am an eligible spouse or dependent.
☐ I am an activated National Guard member on State orders.
☐ 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 return is uncertain.
☐ I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, and I have never lived in the United States.

Last name _____ Suffix (Jr., II) _____ Sex: ☐ Female
Middle name _____ Previous names (if applicable) _____
First 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.

St. address (No PO box)

City, town, village

County

3. Where are you now? You must give your CURRENT contact information

Your mailing address. (Different from above)

Your mail

4. What is your contact information? This is so election officials can reach you.

Provide the country code and area code with your phone and fax number. Do not

Email: _____ Phone: _____
Alternate email: _____ Fax: _____

5. What is your voting preference for future elections?

Do you want to register and request a ballot for all elections you are eligible to vote in? ☐ Yes ☐ No How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? ☐ Mail ☐ Email ☐ Fax

6. What additional information must you provide?

The following need more information: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands. You may also use this space to clarify your voter information. See the Voting Assistance Guide for more 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 am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of election), eligible to vote in the election for which I am requesting a ballot.
- I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualification; 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.
- In voting, I have marked and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to assist me in voting.

Sign here X

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous edition

Official Backup Ballot Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Vote by writing the NAME or PARTY of the candidates you choose. To find out about specific candidates and races go to [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).

Print clearly in blue or black ink.

Instructions

- This ballot can be used to vote for federal offices. If you are voting in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands you may vote for Delegate or Resident Commissioner. State laws vary about using the FWAB for other offices like Governor or Mayor. Learn more online at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).
- DO NOT write your name or identifying number (SSN, driver's license) on the ballot.
- Photocopy this page if you require additional room for candidates or ballot initiatives.

Federal offices

President and Vice President

U.S. Senator

U. S. Representative, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to Congress

Non-federal offices

Office

Candidate name

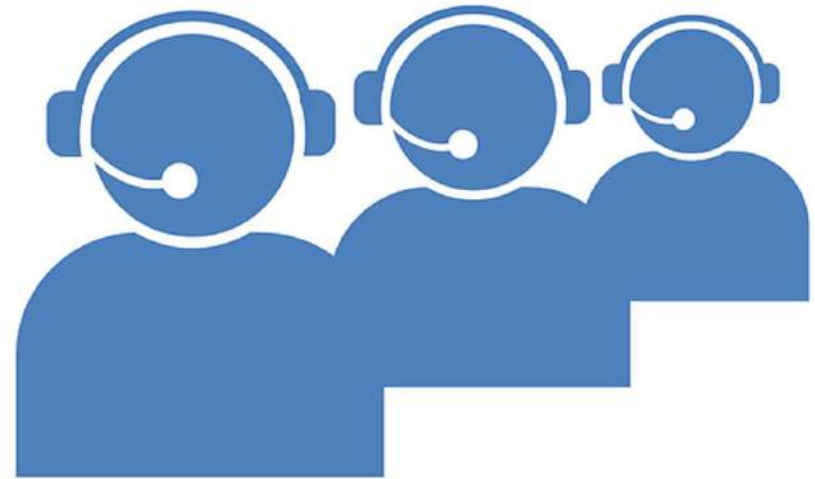
Political party

Ballot initiatives

FVAP Call Center

Our most popular resource

- ✓ 40,000+ inquires in 2016 (presidential)
- ✓ 13,000+ inquiries in 2018 (midterm)
- ✓ Available Monday – Friday
- ✓ 7:30am – 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time
- ✓ **1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**
- ✓ vote@fvap.gov



***Call center available to voters
and election officials!***

Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) Changes

ETS began in 1992 for Service members deployed in Operation Desert Shield/Storm to transmit their election materials. It currently offers:

- Forwarding of a voter's emailed election materials as a fax where state law allows fax, but not email, receipt

NOTE:

- Voters that have the ability to email or fax their election official directly, should do so
- FVAP will no longer forward emails between voters and local election officials where email receipt is accepted
- Voters encouraged to use cover sheet (with secrecy waiver for voted ballots)
- Hazardous Duty pay zones listed at FVAP.gov

States and localities should:

- Keep fax machines/fax servers operating 24/7 during election periods
- Have procedures for handling incoming faxed election materials



FVAP Call to Action

2022 & Beyond



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FVAP Call To Action 2022



@FVAP



Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



#UOCAVASaturday



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
GREAT BRITAIN

FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

 <p>Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com></p> <hr/> <p>*TESTING* Your absentee ballot has been received!</p> <hr/> <p>coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us> To: delawarehokie@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM</p> <p>Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:</p> <p>The Department received your absentee ballot on 03/22/2016 for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.</p> <p>You can check the status of your ballot by selecting the appropriate items in the "Voter Portal" at https://ivote.de.gov.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>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</p> <p>Transaction ID: 100268808-W-N-212820</p>	 <p>Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com></p> <hr/> <p>*TESTING* Your absentee ballot has been counted!</p> <hr/> <p>coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us> To: delawarehokie@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM</p> <p>Dear MARCIA MARY SHOLL:</p> <p>The Department has counted your absentee ballot for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.</p> <p>Please contact the office if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>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</p> <p>Transaction ID: 100475719-W-N-212821</p>
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***Ballot Received
& Ballot Counted!***

FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

Emailing to [.mil] addresses:

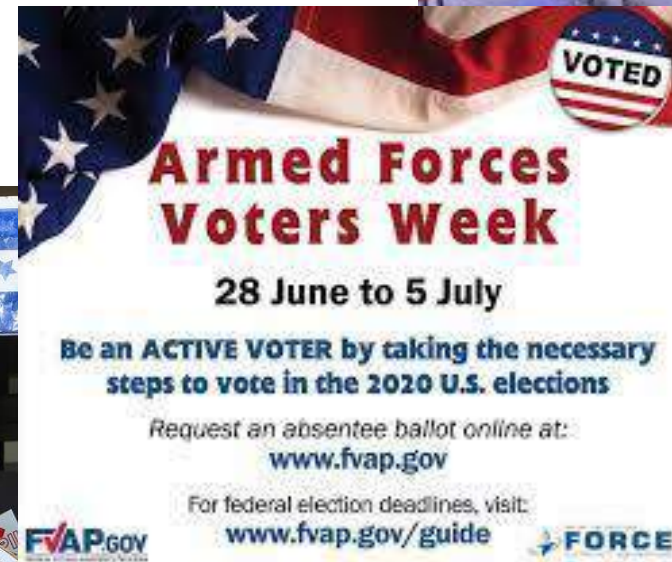
- Heightened security concerns
- Attachments may be removed – recommend sending second email without the attachment
- Hyperlinks disabled
 - Separate links in email body
 - Clearly identify your contact information
- Bouncebacks
 - Be aware
 - Ask for private email, if necessary/possible



FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

Voter Emphasis Weeks

- **Armed Forces Voters Week – Independence Day week**
- **Overseas Citizens Voters Week – Independence Day week**
- **Absentee Voting Week – Late September/early October**



What to watch for in 2021

- State Election Official Post-Election Voting survey
- FVAP availability for briefings to state and local election officials
- Public comment opportunity on proposed changes to FPCA and FWAB
- Updates to materials to include 2022 Voting Assistance Guide
- Continuing refinements to DoD Fax Service
- DoD proposal to remove itself from UOCAVA waiver process
- Release of FVAP EASE Grant Report to Congress
- Release of FVAP 2020 Report to Congress
- Release of FVAP 2020 Overseas Citizen Analysis
- Release of FVAP data standardization for Section B of the EAVS Survey
- Release of FVAP report on Military Ballot Tracking Project
- 2022 election cycle dates and deadlines

HOW TO VOTE FROM ANYWHERE IN
2 Simple Steps...
FOR U.S. MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

Did you know U.S. military members, their families and overseas citizens can exercise their right to vote from anywhere in the world?

HERE'S HOW:

STEP 1
FILL OUT THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA) AT FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT
WHEN?
Send it to your election office by **August 1*** (or later depending on your state) for the General Election on November 3, 2020.

STEP 2
FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES
WHEN?
By your recommended deadline:

Location	Deadline
on a ship at sea	October 5, 2020
outside the U.S.	October 13, 2020
stateside	October 27, 2020

Thank You!

More information:

FVAP.gov

vote@fvap.gov

Connect with us:

1 (800) 438-VOTE (8683)



@FVAP



Facebook.com/DoDFVAP



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