

A roundup of voting news from the Department of Defense, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters, and those who assist voters.

Issue Highlights:

Fill out Your Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form Today! 1

What to Do about Late State Primaries 2

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Voting Assistance Officers' "To Do" This Month:

☑ Remember that Armed Forces Voters Week is August 31- September 7, 2008! Plan events for personnel and their families to register to vote and request absentee ballots. Aim for 100% contact and availability of the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form for these citizens.

☑ Read about what civilian Voting Assistance Officers did for Overseas Citizens Voters Week to get ideas about what to do for Armed Forces Voters Week (pages 3-4).

☑ Remind voters in your unit to complete their Voter Registration/Ballot Request Forms as soon as possible. Deadlines for registering and requesting ballots for the General Election are approaching!

Have You Registered to vote and Requested Your Absentee Ballot?

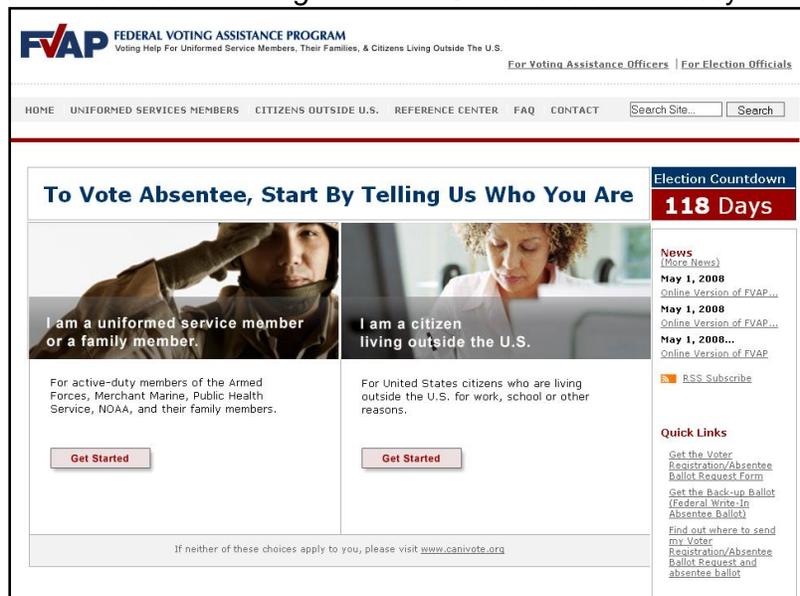
Want to vote in the upcoming General Election? To vote absentee as a Uniformed Service member, family member, or an overseas citizen, NOW is the time to register and request an absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008 election. To register and request an absentee ballot, just fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form (Federal Post Card Application, FPCA, SF 76) and send it to your local election office.

To fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, go to www.fvap.gov. You'll notice the website is comprehensively redesigned. Its design was based on user feedback and focus group studies and is very easy-to-use. The site has state-specific instructions for all 55 states and territories covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*

(UOCAVA). There, you'll find detailed and easy-to-follow instructions for filling out your Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, along with information on where to send it.

We also encourage you to use our new automated tool to fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form. Find it by clicking on the link in the Quick Links section of our homepage. This tool will guide you through completion of the form using only the specific information your state requires. In participating states and jurisdictions, you may also be able to send the Form to your local election office and receive your blank ballot via a secure server.

You can also pick up a Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form from your VAO or nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy.



The screenshot shows the FVAP website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "HOME", "UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBERS", "CITIZENS OUTSIDE U.S.", "REFERENCE CENTER", "FAQ", and "CONTACT". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large banner with the headline "To Vote Absentee, Start By Telling Us Who You Are". Below this, there are two columns of information. The left column is for "I am a uniformed service member or a family member" and the right column is for "I am a citizen living outside the U.S.". Each column has a "Get Started" button. To the right of the banner, there is an "Election Countdown" showing "118 Days" and a "News" section with links to "May 1, 2008" news items. At the bottom right, there is a "Quick Links" section with links to "Get the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request Form", "Get the Back-up Ballot (Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot)", and "Find out where to send my Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request and absentee ballot".

Check out our new FVAP homepage, seen above, at www.fvap.gov!

“To Do” This Month

(continued):

☑ Take an inventory of absentee voting materials to ensure that you have adequate supplies. Make sure that you have an ample supply of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186) for UOCAVA voters to use in the upcoming General Election.

☑ Visit the FVAP's website frequently for up-to-date information and resources from the Program, as well as links to other sites that are helpful in carrying out your duties as a VAO. Our website is completely redesigned. Check out the new FVAP website today: www.fvap.gov.

Resources for VAOs can be found by clicking “For Voting Assistance Officers” at the top.

NOTE: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

Be Prepared for Late State Primaries And the General Election!

While the Presidential Primaries have ended, many states still hold state primaries late into the summer. In these primaries, you can vote for your party's candidates for Federal offices, such as Senators and members of the House of Representatives. You may also be able to vote for state and local election officials.

Louisiana holds its congressional primary on October 4, 2008 and is just one of 18 states and territories holding late summer primaries. Due to these elections close proximity to the General Election, problems could potentially arise in getting military and overseas citizens their ballots in time for the General Election.

In order to ensure that military members, their dependents, and U.S. citizens residing overseas from these states and territories can vote in the General Election and have their vote counted, the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) and FVAP recommend these citizens use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for the November 4, 2008 election. The MPSA recommends that citizens voting from states and territories with late primaries mail the FWAB by October 7, 2008 from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) / Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) locations and by October 14, 2008 from all other overseas locations to ensure their ballot is received by local election offices in time for the November 4, 2008 General Election.

Hard copies of the FWAB are available at military installations from your Unit or Installation Voting

Assistance Officer, from the nearest Embassy or Consular office, and from many organizations of U.S. citizens overseas. An on-line version of the FWAB is available with easy-to-read instructions at www.fvap.gov.

States and territories with late primaries include: Alaska, Arizona, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Wisconsin, Washington, and Wyoming.

The screenshot shows the FVAP website interface. At the top, it says "FVAP FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" with the tagline "Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.". Below this is a navigation menu with "HOME", "UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBERS", "CITIZENS OUTSIDE U.S.", and "REFERENCE CENTER". The main content area is titled "Complete Back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot" and includes a "STEP 1" section: "Fill out the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and Ballot". It explains that the FWAB allows voters who have requested their ballot by their state deadline but not received it to vote. It lists instructions for various blocks: Block 1.a (select category), Block 1.b (Texas does not allow use for registration), Block 2.a (Name), Block 2.e (Date of Birth), Blocks 2.f and 2.g (Texas Driver's License, Social Security, or state voter registration), and Block 3.a through 3.e (street address).

Go to www.fvap.gov to download a FWAB and get the state-specific instructions you need to correctly complete your ballot!

Moving? Send your local election official an updated FPCA with your new address. Send us an email so you and your replacement can continue receiving this newsletter.

Overseas Citizens Voters Week around the World!

Voting Assistance Officers for the Department of State celebrated Overseas Citizens Voters Week and Independence Day by informing overseas citizens of their right to vote and how to execute it.

Sarah Horton, the Consul for the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique, set up a Voting Information Table at the city's Fourth of July community event. At the table, they had an instruction sheet on how to register and request a ballot, *Voting Assistance Guides*, Voter Registration/ Absentee Ballot Request Forms, and envelopes. Citizens who

filled out their Forms at the table could put them in the VOTE box. Ms. Horton took these Forms back to the Embassy and mailed them through the pouch.

The table was also stocked with absentee voting brochures and the Embassy's contact information. Many citizens used it as an opportunity to request an absentee ballot.

Ms. Horton will be setting up her table next month at the local American school's "Welcome Day."



Ms. Horton helps overseas citizens learn about voting and how to register and request absentee ballots.



The table provided American citizens in Maputo a great opportunity to start the absentee voting process!

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey (202) 736-4937, fax: (202) 647-6201, votinginfo@state.gov

Deputy VAO: Ms. Elizabeth Gracon, (202) 736-4986, fax: (202) 647-6201

http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info_2964.html

Service Voting Action Officers

Army: Mr. Alton Perry (703) 325-4530, DSN: 221-4530, fax: (703) 325-4532, DSN fax: 221-4532, alton.c.perry@conus.army.mil, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

Navy: LT Jason Watkins 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu), fax: (901) 874-6844, DSN fax: 882-6844, vote@navy.mil,

http://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic_hq_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm

Air Force: Mr. Gilbert D. Harrison, Jr. (210) 565-5000, toll free: 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), DSN: 665-5000, fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543, afpc/dpffofvotefund@randolph.af.mil, <http://www.afcrossroads.com/VoteFund/Vote/default.htm>

Marine Corps: Mr. David E. James (703) 784-9511, DSN: 278-9511, fax: (703) 784-9823, DSN fax: 278-9823, mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil,

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting

Coast Guard: LTJG Frank Marcheski (202) 475-5375, fax: (202) 475-5927, Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

Links to the Services' websites are available at www.fvap.gov.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

FAX:
(703) 696-1352
DSN 426-1352

Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or
suggestions on this
newsletter are welcome
and appreciated.

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

Overseas Voters' Week Events a Success!

The U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania also promoted voting among overseas citizens for the week. During Tirana's American Community Fourth of July Celebration at the Ambassador's Residence in Albania on July 5, 2008, U.S. Embassy employees, led by Abby Aronson (Consular Section Chief), set up a table where overseas citizens could get information about absentee voting and the materials they need to register and request absentee ballots. Setting up a Voting Information Table for the upcoming Armed Forces Voters Week, August 31- September 7, 2008, would be a great way to reach potential voters.



Tirana's U.S. Embassy employees have *Guides* and forms ready for overseas citizens.



Overseas citizens are enjoying the Fourth of July festivities while learning about absentee voting.

Remember: Armed Forces Voters Week!

August 31- September 7, 2008

Your Goal as a VAO:

Attaining 100% contact and availability of Voter Registration/Ballot Request Forms for all personnel and voting age dependents.

Share this issue of the *Voting Information News* with others!

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