

**Inside this issue:**

Reminders for Upcoming Election	<b>2</b>
FVAP Website	<b>2</b>
Post- Election Survey headed Your Way	<b>3</b>
State Department Reaches out to Voters	<b>4</b>

**Recent News:**

Arizona announced a new web-based voting system for overseas voters to securely submit their voted ballots for the upcoming General Election. More information can be found at [www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov) by clicking on the "Military & Overseas Voter" icon.

**Voting Assistance**

**Officers' "To Do" List**

- Remind citizens to vote and return any absentee ballots regardless of when they receive it up to election day.
- International toll-free fax numbers are available at: <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/toll-free-fax/index.html>.
- Visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) more often to keep current on news and updates for UOCAVA citizens.
- Check the updates to the *Voting Assistance Guide* from the FVAP website and ensure your hard copy of the *Guide* is up to date. updated.

## The Election is Upon Us

The following explains the three possible scenarios citizens face within days of the elections and guidance for the VAO for assisting the citizen:

**Scenario 1. The citizen has received the state ballot:** Vote and return it immediately! When mailing the voted ballot, the citizen should ask the mail clerk to hand stamp the ballot envelope so that a date is clearly visible. The dated postmark will help ensure that the Local Election Official can make a proper determination of timely mailing. Many states that allow late counting of ballots require the ballot envelope has been mailed on or before Election Day. In addition, FVAP recommends that the citizens always vote and return their regular state absentee ballot, regardless of the day it is received, as long as it is mailed by Election Day.

**Scenario 2. The citizen has not received the requested ballot:** If the citizen is a Uniformed Service voter or overseas and has requested the absentee ballot, but has not received the regular state ballot, the citizen may be qualified to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The citizen should obtain a FWAB now, vote it, fax it (if allowed by the state) and mail it immediately! The citizen can obtain the FWAB from the Voting Assistance Officer (VAO), at a US Embassy or Consulate or American organization overseas such as Democrats Abroad or Republicans Abroad.

**Important note:** If the citizen receives the state absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, he or she should vote and return the state ballot up to and including Election Day.

The citizen should contact his or her VAO to determine registration status and what options are provided by the state or county according to the VAG and infor-

mation obtained from the FVAP website. Additionally for many states, the citizen can check his or her registration status online at <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links/index.html>.

The VAO may email FVAP or the voter's local election official providing the voter information (below) to obtain the status of the ballot. Further steps will be determined at that point.

Information needed when emailing to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov):

The Subject of the email should include the State name and a short description of the problem (e.g. Voter from North Carolina has not received Ballot).

The email should include as much of the following information as possible: The voter's full name, DOB, last four digits of the SSN, the complete address in the county and state where he or she claims residence, the county the FPCA was mailed to, the voter's fax number, email address and phone number, and the address where the citizen asked to mail the ballot.

**Scenario 3. The citizen has not registered or requested an absentee ballot:** In some states there may still be time for action. The citizen should contact the VAO to determine, using the VAG and the FVAP website, if the registration is still open and what methods the state allows for expediting FPCA and ballot delivery.

The citizen should obtain and complete an FPCA, fax or email it (if state/county allows), and mail the hardcopy immediately to the LEO. If the state/county allows faxing and or emailing the blank and the voted ballot, the citizen should request it on the FPCA and provide email and fax numbers as required.

## Reminds for the Upcoming Election

**Late Counting:** The following states allow extended counting of absentee ballots for the November 4, 2008 general election: Alaska, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. All require the ballot to be voted and mailed no later than the day of the election. See the October issue of this newsletter, or visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for State-by-State specific requirements.

**The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** should be used if the requested state absentee ballot has not arrived in time to allow the voter to return it by the state deadline for counting. If the voter has yet to receive his or her state absentee ballot have them fill out and mail in the FWAB now. However, FVAP recommends that citizens always vote and return their regular state absentee ballot, regardless of when they receive it up to and including Election Day. See the October issue of this newsletter or the FVAP website for State-by-State Ballot Return Deadlines.

**Postmark:** When mailing your voted ballot, please ask the mail clerk to hand stamp the ballot envelope so that a date is clearly visible. The dated postmark will help ensure that the Local Election Official can make a proper determination of timely mailing. Generally, if a state allows late counting of ballots, the ballot envelope must have been mailed on or before Election Day

**Affidavit, Notary or Witness:** The following states require an affidavit, notary or witness on the ballot return envelope for both the state issued ballot and the FWAB: Alabama, Alaska, Guam Louisiana, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin. Refer to the State-by-State Instructions at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to determine if your state requires the voted ballot to be postmarked.

Questions regarding absentee voting should be referred to your Voting Assistance Officer or refer to the *2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide* at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

## FVAP Website

At times it may be difficult for VAOs to assist all unit members and eligible family members one-on-one in completing the FPCA. VAOs should encourage voters to visit the FVAP website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Log on today and you will find:

- Information on absentee voting, including a list of "Frequently Asked Questions".
- The Voting Assistance Officer section gives you access to forms, instructions on how to order materials, copies of current and past newsletters, and much more.
- Links to state election sites where the citizen can read about upcoming state elections and gain access to candidate information. It is another great way for them to stay informed with local issues. Select the *links* section from the "Reference Center".
- Citizens can access our automated FPCA tool from the "Quick Links" section on the home page.
- The online alternative version of the FPCA, which is accepted by all states including the District of

Columbia, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Guam does not accept the OF-PCA). Citizens can print it, fill it out, and mail it to their local election official.

- A list of international toll free phone and fax numbers to contact the FVAP.
- Information on communicating with elected officials, including local, state, and federal offices, and tips for telephoning or writing their elected officials.
- Information for Armed Forces Recruiting Offices, including information on the *National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)* and voter registration information for military recruiters. Select Military Recruiter Information from the "Reference Center".
- Links to the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, National Governor's association, and many more.

## Post-Election Survey Headed Your Way

Each Presidential election year, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) conducts surveys to determine voter participation in the electoral process and to evaluate our program. This survey is not the same as the Election Day survey conducted by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

There are six populations that make up the FVAP Post-Election Survey. These include the following: Uniformed Services members, Federal civilians overseas, non-Federal overseas citizens, Unit Voting Assistance Officers, Department of State Voting Assistance Officers and U.S. local election officials will receive surveys during the week of November 2, 2008.

If you receive one of these surveys in the mail, we encourage you to take a few minutes and fill out either the paper questionnaire or respond via the Internet. Instructions for Internet response will be provided in the survey package.

Your participation in this survey can play a very important part in improving the absentee voting process for Uniformed Service members and U.S. citizens overseas. We ask that you fill out and return the survey as soon as you receive it. If you have any questions or need any assistance regarding the survey, please contact Ms. Erin St. Pierre at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) or [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov). The FVAP thanks you in advance for your participation.

### Voting Action Officers

#### Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Ms. Elizabeth Gracon (202) 736-4986, fax: (202) 647-6201, [votinginfo@state.gov](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)  
 Deputy VAO: Mr. Tyler Mason (202)647-6129, fax: (202) 647-6201  
[http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info\\_2964.html](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](mailto:alton.c.perry@conus.army.mil), <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>  
 Navy: LT Jason Watkins (901) 874-6647, DSN: 882-6647, fax: (901) 874-6844,  
 DSN fax: 882-6844, [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil),  
[https://www.cnic.navy.mil/cnic\\_hq\\_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm](https://www.cnic.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](mailto: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](mailto:mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil),  
[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m\\_ra\\_home/MR/Personnel/Voting](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting)  
 Coast Guard: LTJG Frank Marcheski (202) 475-5382, fax: (202) 475-5927, [Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil](mailto:Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil)  
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cg122/PolicyStandards/Voting/default.asp>

**Links to the Services' websites are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).**

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**

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

Phone: 703-588-1584  
DSN: 425-1584

Toll-Free:  
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](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Comments or suggestions on this newsletter are welcomed and appreciated.

Website:  
[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

## State Department Reaches Out to Voters

- ☑ Weathering two hard rainstorms, Tokyo's ACS staff assisted more than 60 people register to vote during Community Friendship Day Celebration hosted by the US Embassy in Tokyo for the American and local communities at the Embassy Housing Compound (picture seen below).
- ☑ Embassy Amman has been providing voting assistance to the 20,000+ American Citizen resident and visitor community in this high interest Presidential election year.
- ☑ Hong Kong has been reaching out to American students and Johannesburg registered 50 new voters at their outreach event on July 4<sup>th</sup> (see picture below).



Voters help get registered in Tokyo!

US Citizens in Johannesburg celebrate the Fourth of July with voter registration.



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

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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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