



# Voting Information News

October 2008 vs Vol. 18, No. 10

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

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## Voting Assistance Officers' "To Do" This Month:

Remember that Overseas Voters Week is October 12 -18,, 2008! Encourager personnel and their families to vote and return their absentee ballots. If they have not received their state absentee ballot, provide them with the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and instruct them in its use. Aim for 100% contact and availability of the FWAB for these citizens.

Ensure people know how to get in contact with you for absentee voting assistance. Set aside time to assist those with absentee voting questions. Don't forget the Federal Voting Assistance Program is here to help you if you cannot find the information you need locally.

(Continued on next page)

## Coverage of the 2008 Presidential Debates Available to All Citizens at Home and Abroad

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has joined with the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) to make the 2008 election debates more valuable to Americans abroad. DebateWatch is the CPD's nonpartisan, international program that brings U.S. citizens together to watch and discuss this fall's presidential and vice presidential debates.

All across the world, citizens will meet in schools, libraries, theaters, hotels, civic auditoriums, homes, and elsewhere to watch the debates on television or the Internet, or listen to them on the radio. At the end of each debate and before commentary begins, the facilitator will turn off the broadcast and lead participants in a discussion about the debate, the candidates, and the upcoming election. After finishing their discussion, participants may log on to the CPD's website, [www.debates.org](http://www.debates.org), to fill out a voluntary survey and provide feedback to the CPD. If you would like to learn more about DebateWatch or register to organize one of these meetings, please see [www.debates.org](http://www.debates.org) or email [debatewatch@debates.org](mailto:debatewatch@debates.org).

Presidential debates are a permanent part of every Presidential general election, Debates provide a means for viewers and listeners to become informed about the candidates' positions on the issues. The CPD's primary purpose is to

sponsor and produce debates for the United States presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization sponsored all the presidential debates since 1988.

For the 2008 general election, CPD teamed up with Myspace to create a new website, [www.MyDebates.org](http://www.MyDebates.org). The website which will be operational in early September will try and enhance the educational value of the debates while engaging new audiences. The CPD believes, "the Internet can be used to personalize the debates in a way that allows for in-depth examination by individual citizens and joint discussion with others." The new website will include tools for citizens to make scorecards of important issues and help track the issues throughout the debates. Voters can submit questions for possible inclusion in the town meeting debate via [www.MyDebates.org](http://www.MyDebates.org). This new venture plans to offer unprecedented access and flexibility in following these debates through forums that discuss numerous topics.

More information about the CPD and MyDebates.org can be found at [www.debates.org](http://www.debates.org).

**The schedules for this fall's debates are as follows:** (Information current as of 5 Aug 08)

First presidential debate	Friday, September 26
Vice-presidential debate	Thursday, October 2
Second presidential debate	Tuesday, October 7
Third presidential debate	Wednesday, October 15

All debates will begin at 9 pm E.T., and will be carried by international media outlets. The debates will have a single moderator and last for 90 minutes.

## “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](http://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.

## State Ballot Return Deadlines!

Below is a list of General Election Deadlines for Overseas Citizens and Military stationed in the US and abroad. States appearing twice on the list are indicated with an asterisk. Please also be aware of states with postmark deadlines.

### November 3:

Mississippi\*, Overseas Citizens and Stateside Military, 5pm  
North Carolina, 5pm

### November 4:

Alabama, 12pm  
American Samoa, 1:30pm  
Arizona, 7pm  
Colorado, 7pm  
Connecticut, COP  
Delaware, 8pm  
Florida\*, Stateside Military, 7pm  
Guam, 8pm  
Hawaii, COP  
Idaho, 8pm  
Indiana, COP  
Kentucky, COP  
Louisiana  
Maine, 8pm  
Massachusetts\*, Stateside Military, 8pm  
Michigan, 8pm  
Minnesota, COP  
Mississippi\*, Overseas Military, 7pm  
Missouri, 7pm  
Montana, 8pm  
Nebraska, COP  
Nevada, 7pm  
New Hampshire, 5pm  
New Jersey, COP  
New Mexico, COP  
Ohio\*, Stateside Military, COP  
Oklahoma, 7pm  
Puerto Rico, 3pm  
Rhode Island, 9pm  
South Carolina, COP  
South Dakota, COP  
Tennessee, COP  
Texas\*, Stateside Military, COP  
Virginia, 7pm  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin\*, Overseas Citizens, COP  
Wyoming, COP

### November 7:

Georgia, postmarked by Nov. 4  
North Dakota

### November 10:

Iowa, 12pm, postmarked by Nov. 3  
Texas\*, Overseas Citizens and Stateside Military, in delivery by Nov. 4

### November 11:

New York\*, Overseas Citizens, postmarked by Nov. 3  
Pennsylvania, postmarked by Nov. 3

### November 14:

Alaska\*, Stateside Military  
Arkansas, 5pm  
District of Columbia  
Florida\*, Overseas Citizens and Overseas Military, 7pm  
Ohio\*, Overseas Citizens and Overseas Military  
Virgin Islands  
Wisconsin\*, Military, 5pm, postmarked by Nov. 4  
Massachusetts\*, Overseas Citizens and Overseas Military, postmarked Nov. 4

### November 17:

New York\*, Military, postmarked by Nov. 3

### November 18:

Illinois, postmarked by Nov. 3  
Utah, 12pm, postmarked by Nov. 3

### November 19:

Alaska\*, Overseas Citizens and Overseas Military

### November 25:

Washington, oath sign/dated by Nov. 4

“COP” Stands for Close Of Polls.

**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.

## Missouri to allow alternatives to certain *UOCAVA* citizens

Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan has declared that voters in Federal service who are eligible to receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay, or who are located in a combat zone as designated by the IRS (<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html>) may return their voted ballots by fax or email. This declaration applies to both the August 5, 2008 state primary election and the November 4, 2008 general election.

Under Missouri election law, a person in Federal service includes:

- a. Members of the armed forces of the United States, while in active service, and their spouses and dependents;
- b. Active members of the merchant marine of the United States and their spouses and dependents;
- c. Civilian employees of the United States government working outside the boundaries of the United States, and their spouses and dependents;
- d. Active members of religious or welfare organizations assisting servicemen, and their spouses and dependents;
- e. Persons who have been honorably discharged from the armed forces or who have terminated their service or employment in any group mentioned in this section within sixty days of an election, and their spouses and dependents.

Missouri does not allow citizens to receive their blank absentee ballots by fax or email. Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters. For information on your precinct, candidates, and elections, visit the Missouri Secretary of State website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/>. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the FVAP at 1-800-438-8683 or [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

### 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](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)  
**Deputy VAO:** Ms. Elizabeth Gracon, (202) 736-4986, 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 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu), fax: (901) 874-6844, DSN fax: 882-6844, [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil), [http://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic\\_hq\\_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm](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](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) 475-5375, fax: (202) 475-5927, [Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil](mailto:Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil), [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\\_Assistance.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm)

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

(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](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Comments or  
suggestions on this  
newsletter are welcome  
and appreciated.

Website:

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

# **Vote!**

## **Pennsylvania –**

### **Now allowing more alternatives to the by mail process**

Pennsylvania Secretary of State, Pedro Cortes has declared that all UOCAVA voters who are eligible to receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay, or who are located in a combat zone as designated by the IRS (<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0..id=108331.00.html>) may receive their blank ballots by fax. This declaration will apply to the November 4, 2008 general election.

If you receive the blank ballot by fax, you may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) return envelope and security envelope on the FVAP's website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) to return your ballot in secret so it will be counted. Pennsylvania law does not allow you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Pennsylvania state policy also allows UOCAVA citizens to return the voted ballot by first class mail, express mail or overnight mail. Insert the voted ballot into the inner envelope provided or into the security envelope if you are using the FWAB. Then insert the inner envelope or security envelope into the outer envelope or return envelope (if you are using the FWAB). If using express or overnight mail, then insert the outer or return envelope into the overnight mail package and return it to your county board of elections.

For information on your precinct, candidates, and elections, visit the Pennsylvania Secretary of State website at <http://www.votespa.com/>. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the FVAP at 1-800-438-8683 or [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

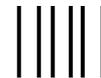
### **Absentee Voting Week - October 12 to 18, 2008**

FVAP has designated October 12 to October 18, 2008 as Absentee Voting Week. Overseas voters should vote and return their state absentee ballot or the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) during this week. If you receive your state absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return the state ballot up to and including Election Day.

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

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**

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1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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