

ELECTION OFFICIAL NEWS

Military and Overseas Voting

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Voting in the Guard and Reserve

Upcoming Workshops

Express Mail

Memo from Secretary of Defense

Great News for UOCAVA Voters

What FVAP Can Do You

Voting at Home and Away: Helping Guard and Reserve Members Vote

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), in continued collaboration with Assistant Secretary Hall of the Office of Reserve Affairs sent a memorandum in December, 2007 to the Chiefs of the Reserves and National Guard. The memo reminded members of the National Guard and Reserves of their right to vote in all upcoming 2008 elections. The FVAP encouraged these citizen-soldiers to keep open communication with their local election office and to update local election officials with their current status and any address changes, particularly upon their immediate return from mobilization.

Remember: You can help, too! State and local election officials should reach out to all military personnel during and returning home from deployment and remind them to update their voter registration status. This will help to ensure that ballots are not sent to outdated addresses where these personnel are no longer present.

Upcoming Voting Assistance Workshops

The FVAP is continuing its efforts to educate Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) through our Voting Assistance Workshops help worldwide. These workshops teach VAOs about the absentee voting process and their role as Voting Assistance Officers and provides them with relevant materials and available resources. We continue to hold many of these workshops at military installations across the United States. State and local election officials are welcomed and encouraged to attend. The FVAP will contact you if there is a workshop coming to your area!

Use Express Mail for Ballots

When difficulties arise due to severe weather, printing issues, or candidates being added to and dropped from the primary ballot, express mail ballots to military and overseas citizens. This will help to ensure that ballots are received in enough time to vote and return them by the ballot receipt deadline.



Visit the FVAP Website!

Have you checked the local election official section of the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website? Go to www.fvap.gov and see how much useful information there is for a local election official!

Memo to Secretaries of Military Departments

The Secretary of Defense sent a memorandum on November 26, 2007 to Secretaries of the Military Departments, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and to the Commanders of the Combatant Commands about the "Opportunity to Vote in the 2008 Primary Elections." In this memo, Secretary Robert Gates encouraged the Department and the Services to support the voting assistance mission of: informing and educating U.S. citizens of the right to vote, fostering voting participation, and protecting the integrity of, and enhancing, the electoral process.

Great News for UOCAVA Voters!

The FVAP has great news for UOCAVA citizens voting in Colorado, Nevada, and Washington. Colorado and Nevada joined 24 other states in providing voter registration verification websites so that voters anywhere in world can check whether or not they have successfully registered to vote. Websites for Colorado and Nevada are: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/> and <http://sos.state.nv.us/elections/> respectively.

Washington successfully launched online voter registration for its citizens in the second week of January. Over 8,600 online registrations were submitted in the first week alone. Washington is the second state, after Arizona, to provide this feature. Registration provided at: www.secstate.wa.gov and/or www.vote.wa.gov.

What Can the FVAP Do for You?

We want to know how to better help you! Right now, the FVAP is monitoring ballots sent out to military and overseas citizens, finding up-to-date addresses for military citizens, and answering questions election officials have concerning voting. The FVAP now wants to know if there is more we can do to assist you to ensure that all military and overseas citizens are given the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Please send us your comments, questions, and suggestions! Use the contact listed information below.

FVAP Contact Information

Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov
Toll free number: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)
Office Fax: 703-696-1352
Website: www.fvap.gov

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1777 N. Kent St., Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209-1262