

FVAP

Back to Basics & Beyond

Presentation 2-01

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Minnesota 2022 County Election Administration Training Conference



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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overview

Agenda:

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



Back to Basics: FVAP & UOCAVA



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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

Military Spouse Residency Relief Act

2018 Amendment gave military spouses greater flexibility to align their residency with active duty sponsor. They may:

1. Retain sponsor's or Service member's residency or domicile
2. Keep their own separate but current and established residency or domicile
3. Take the appropriate steps to establish a new residency or domicile when moving

Complexities involved underscore importance of using FPCA to differentiate this group of voters



50 U.S. Code § 4025 - Guarantee of residency for military personnel and spouses of military personnel (amended December 31, 2018).

(b) Spouses - (2) the spouse of a servicemember may elect to use the same residence as the servicemember regardless of the date on which the marriage of the spouse and the servicemember occurred.

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



Minnesota

UOCAVA Statistics

2020



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UOCAVA 2020 Numbers for Minnesota

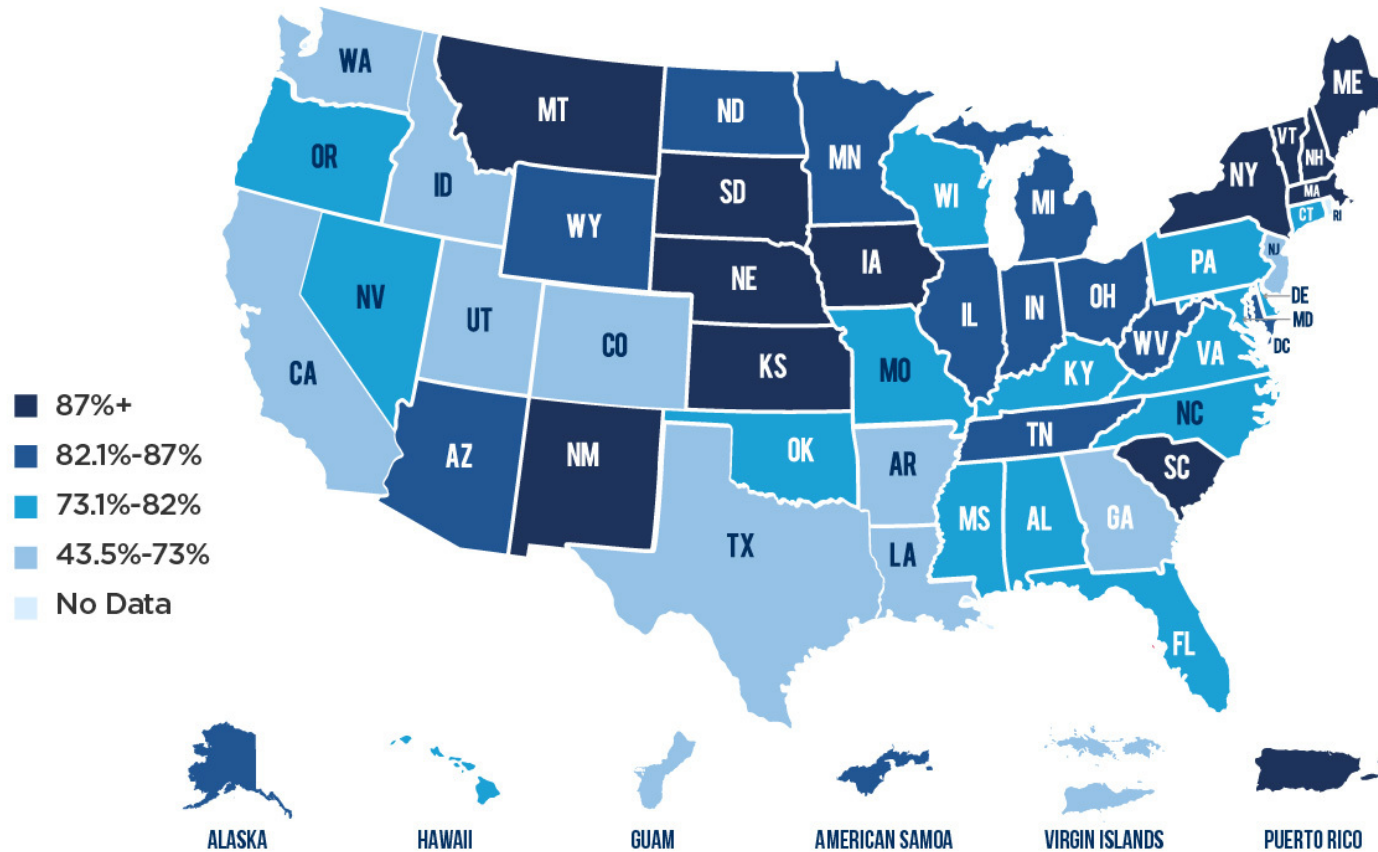
In 2020, Minnesota had:

19,243 registered and eligible UOCAVA voters

Of this number, 27% were Service members (5,230)

and 73% were overseas citizens (14,013)

2020 UOCAVA Ballots Returned

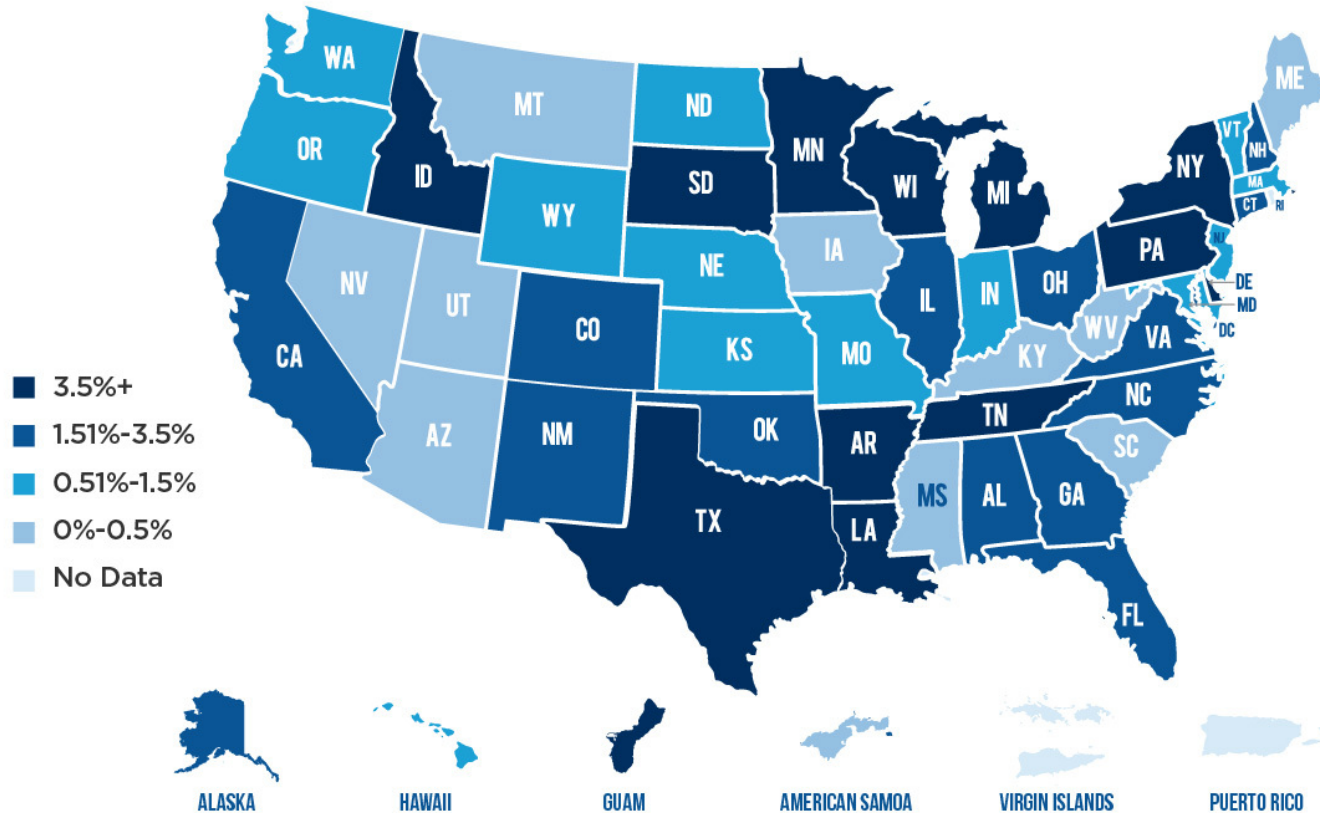


In the 2020 General Election, Minnesota transmitted 19,383 ballots to UOCAVA voters, and received a total of 15,943 returned ballots.

Ballot Return Rate = Ballots Returned (including FWABs)/Ballots Transmitted
Median Ballot Return Rate = 82.3%

Data source: 2020 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC, Pg. 198, https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/document_library/files/2020_EAVS_Report_Final_508c.pdf

2020 UOCAVA Ballots Rejected



Minnesota rejected a total of 536 returned ballots in the 2020 General Election.

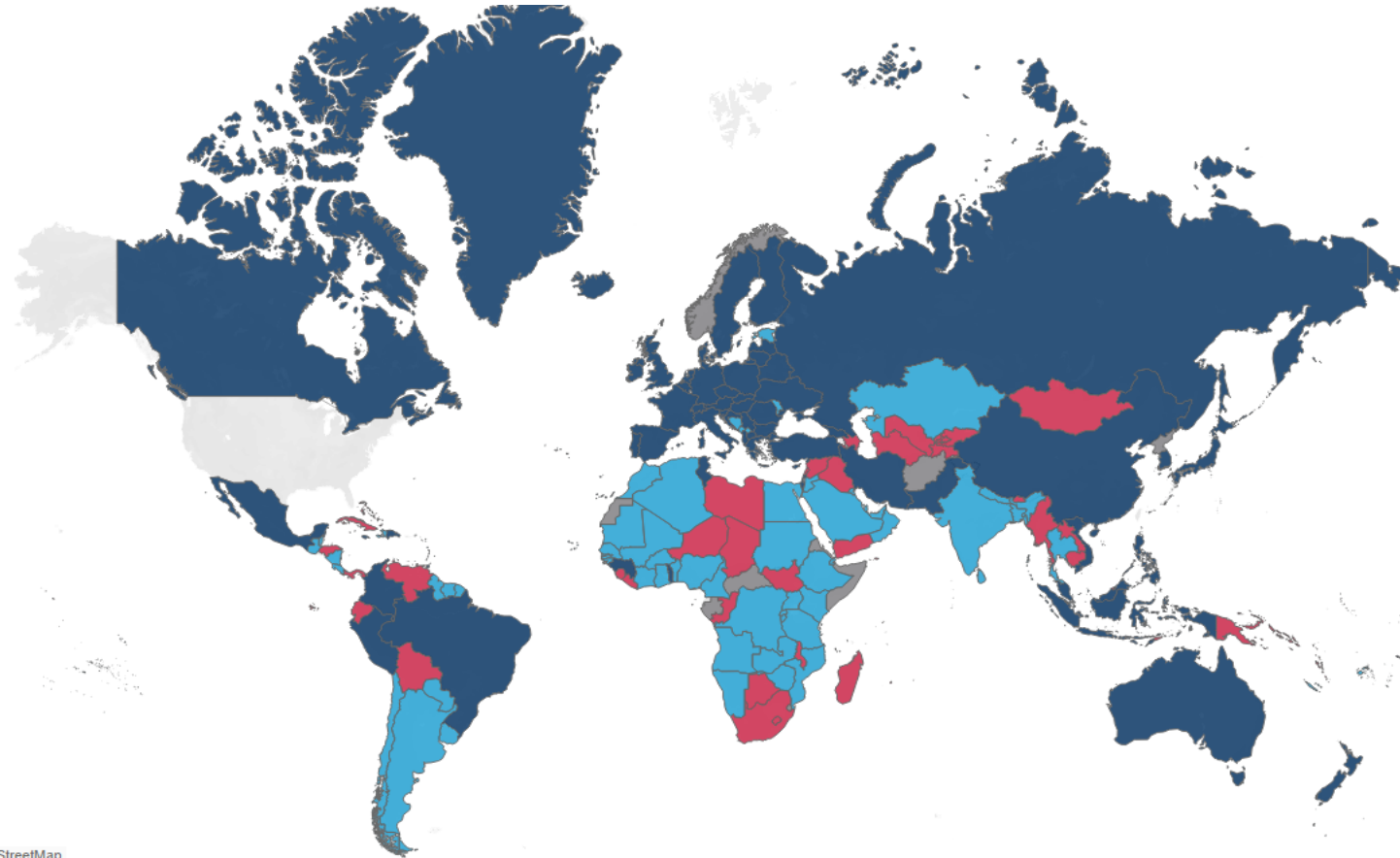
Ballot Rejection Rate = Ballots Rejected (including FWABs)/Ballots Returned
Median Rejection Rate = 1.7%

Data source: 2020 Election Administration Voting Survey, Section B, EAC, Pg. 198, https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/document_library/files/2020_EAVS_Report_Final_508c.pdf

Resources for the 2022 Election Cycle & Beyond



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



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
- ✓ Slight update 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)

This form is for absent Uniformed Service members, their families, and citizens residing outside the United States. It is used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update your contact information. See your state's guidelines at FVAP.gov.

Print clearly in blue or black ink, please see back for instructions.

1. Who are you? Pick one.
I request an absentee ballot for all elections I am on active duty in the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine -OR- I am an eligible spouse or dependent in which I am eligible to vote AND: 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 intent to return is uncertain. I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country, I have never lived in the United States.

Last name Suffix (Jr., II) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

First name Previous names (if applicable)

Middle 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. See instructions on the other side of form.

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 different from mailing address)

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 are your preferences for upcoming elections?
A. How do you want to receive voting materials from your election office? (Select One) Mail Email or online Fax
B. What is your political party for primary elections?

6. What additional information must you provide?
Puerto Rico and Vermont require more information, see back for instructions. Additional state guidelines may be found at FVAP.gov. You may also use this space to clarify your voter information.

7. You must read and sign this statement.
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

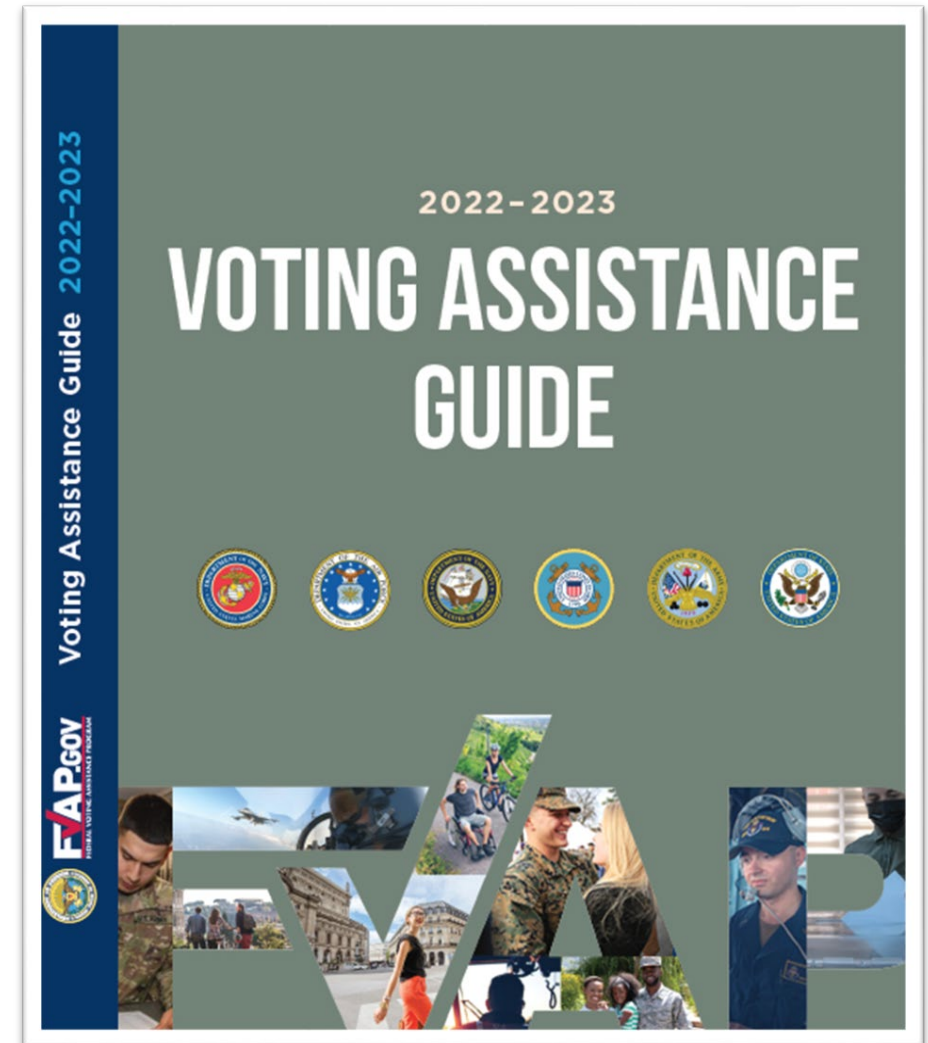
- The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the 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)

This information is for official use only. Any unauthorized release may be punishable by law. Previous editions are obsolete. Standard Form 76 (Rev. 09-2021), OMB No. 0704-0503, NSN 7540-00-643-5053

Voting Assistance Guide

- ✓ Coordinated 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 Call Center

Our most popular resource

- ✓ 40,000+ inquires in 2020 and 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



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FVAP Call To Action 2022

November 8, 2022 General Election



@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

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



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

TESTING Your absentee ballot has been received!

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear HOWARD GEORGE SHOLL JR:

The Department received your absentee ballot on 03/22/2016 for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

You can check the status of your ballot by selecting the appropriate items in the "Voter Portal" at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

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.

Sincerely,

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

Transaction ID: 100268808-W-N-212820



Howard Sholl <delawarehokie@gmail.com>

TESTING Your absentee ballot has been counted!

coe_noreply@state.de.us <coe_noreply@state.de.us>
To: delawarehokie@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Dear MARCIA MARY SHOLL:

The Department has counted your absentee ballot for the 04/26/2016 Presidential Primary Election.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Transaction ID: 100475719-W-N-212821

**Ballot Received
& Ballot Counted!**

FVAP Call to Action 2022 - Customer Service

Workshop Execution

JOIN FVAP at a VAO Training Workshop



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Workshop Type

- In-person
- Virtual



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U.S. ARMY

Thank You!

More information:

[FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov)

vote@fvap.gov

Connect with us:

[1 \(800\) 438-VOTE \(8683\)](tel:1800438VOTE8683)



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[Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP)



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