



# **The U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

**The Honorable Thomas Hicks, Chairman**



# EAC's Chartering Legislation - Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

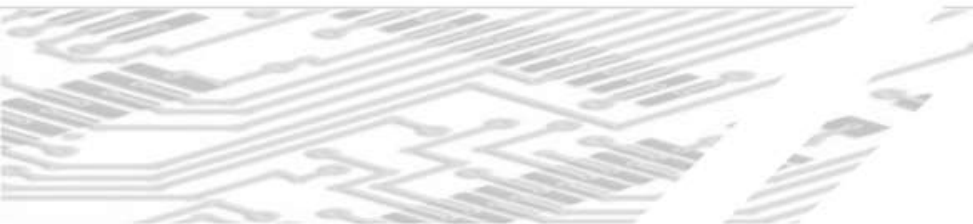
---

- HAVA enacted by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process.
- HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the contested 2000 presidential election.
- HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration.
- HAVA Provides Funding to Help States
  - Meet The New Standards
  - Replace Voting Systems
  - Improve Election Administration



# U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

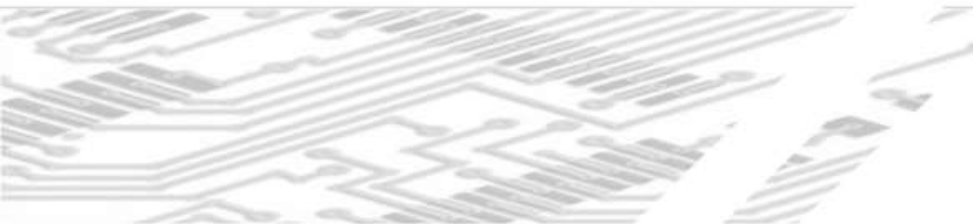
- Established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
  - Signed into law by President George W. Bush, Oct. 29, 2002
  - EAC opened its doors on April 5, 2004
- Independent, Bipartisan Commission
- Consists of Four commissioners
  - Two commissioners from each political party
  - Presidential appointees that are approved by the senate
  - First four commissioners sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2003



# U.S. Election Assistance Commission

## Leadership

- Nominated by the President and Confirmed by the U.S. Senate
- Current Commissioners sworn into office Jan 13, 2015
  - Thomas Hicks, Chairman - [thicks@eac.gov](mailto:thicks@eac.gov)
  - Matthew Masterson, Vice-Chairman - [mmasterson@eac.gov](mailto:mmasterson@eac.gov)
  - Christy McCormick - [cmccormick@eac.gov](mailto:cmccormick@eac.gov)



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

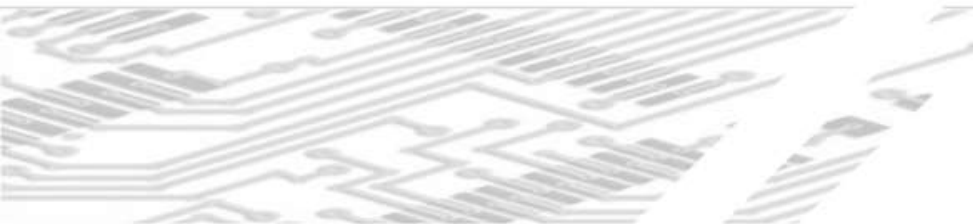


[havainfo@eac.gov](mailto:havainfo@eac.gov)

# Help America Vote Act

## **New Programs and Procedures under HAVA**

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures



# HAVA & EAC

---

## **HAVA Established EAC to:**

- Distribute HAVA Funds to States for New Voting Equipment
- Create Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)
- Operate a voting system testing and certification program
- Research and develop guidance to meet HAVA requirements
- Assist the states regarding HAVA compliance
- Maintain the National Mail Voter Registration Form
- Administer a National Clearinghouse on Election Administration
  - Shared Best Practices
  - Information for Voters
  - Other Resources to Improve Elections



# Military & Overseas Voters – The Law

## **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)**

- Act provides the legal framework which ensures that military and overseas voters can vote.
- U.S. citizens covered by UOCAVA are
  - Active members of the Uniformed Services
  - The Merchant Marine
  - The commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - The above's eligible family members and
  - U.S. citizens residing outside the United States



# Military & Overseas Voters – The Law

## **HAVA-EAC-UOCAVA Interactions**

- single state office to provide information on registration and absentee ballots.
- Report on absentee ballots transmitted and received after general elections
- Extension of period covered by single absentee ballot application
- Prohibition of refusal of voter registration and absentee ballot for early submission





# Military & Overseas Voters – The Law

## **The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE)**

- This amended *UOCAVA* and other statutes by providing greater protections for:
  - Service Members,
  - Eligible family members of service members
  - and other overseas citizens
- Two Important Provisions:
  - MOVE Act requires States to send absentee ballots to *UOCAVA* voters at least 45 days before federal elections.
  - Allows *UOCAVA* voters to submit their ballots electronically



# Military & Overseas Voters

## More Resources

- Federal Post Card Application FPCA
- Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- Partnerships between state and local election officials and local military installations
- <https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter/overview>



# Working Together for American Voters



# Working Together – Policy Working Group

## **Voter Communication**

- Use plain language
- Make effective user-friendly ballot return envelopes
- Communicate to voters when the ballot application is accepted
- Provide information to voters about what is on the ballot

## **Federal Post Card application**

- Treat the FCPA as a permanent request for voter registration
- Establish a default validity period for the FPCA mail ballot request

## **Online Voter Registration**

- States that provide online voter registration should incorporate online registration for overseas and military voters

## **Improved Engagement with U.S. Military Community**

- Establish partnerships between state and local election officials and local military installations



# Working Together – EAVS Section B Working Group

## What is it?

- \$3.2 million initiative to improve the return rate of overseas absentee ballots
- Partnering with FVAP and working within two working groups on best practices and successful programs.



## Who is on it?

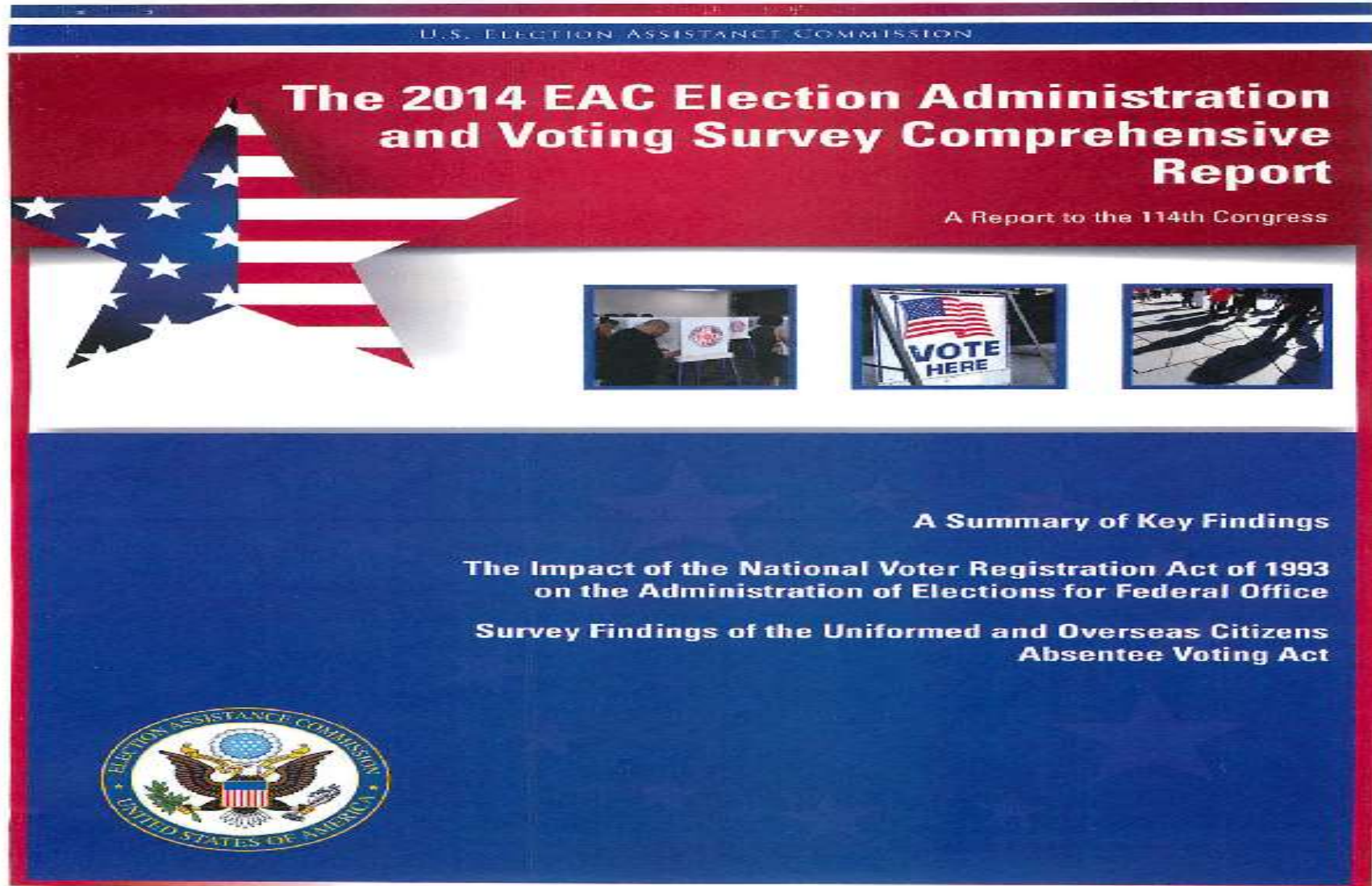
- State, local and Federal government officials

## What are its 2016 Goals

- Clarify language and Instructions for 2016
- Develop Roadmap for the Future
- Understand the role of data standardization
- Look to transactional election data for voter success metrics



# Election Administration Voting Survey



# #BEREADY16

**Election  
Security  
Preparedness**

**Accessibility**

**Preparing for  
Election Day**

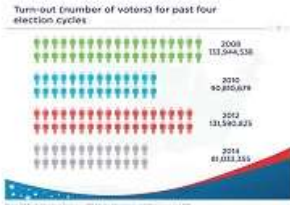
**Managing  
Election  
Technology**

**Election  
Official &  
Voter Toolkit**

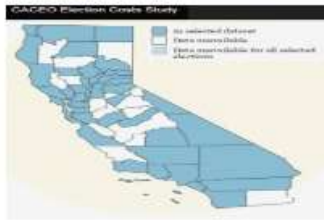
# #BEREADY16

## Election Data Visualizations From Around the Country

### EAC Election Administration and Voting Survey



### California Election Costs



### Colorado

**See -- Change**

The groundbreaking ACT platform expands the range of Colorado election data.

**Interactive maps**

- Voter registration statistics
- Voter registration by ethnicity
- Voter turnout by party affiliation
- Election cost statistics
- Vote method and ballot statistics
- Legal requirements & activities

### Denver County, CO

**Denver Votes!**

**Turn-Out**

72% of the 2,519 mailed ballots

271,418 Total Votes Cast

76,000 more than 2012

112,231 more than 2012

**2014 Colorado Election Model**

Let us help you to develop better practices and standards

Voter Service & Polling Centers | Voter Registration Opportunities

## 45 Before 45

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) are working together to help ensure the successful delivery and counting of ballots from military and overseas voters in the 2016 Presidential Election and beyond. Read the press release.

Also see 5 Things U.S. Military, Overseas Citizens Need to Know to Vote Absentee (*in PDF*) 9-26-16



## Election Official & Voter Toolkit

As the EAC continues to work to serve election officials and voters across the country one of our major areas of focus is providing and sharing resources to help election officials plan for and voters vote in elections. Here you will find apps and trusted tools designed and tested with local election officials to assist in running effective elections.

### Toolkit Resources

**Voting Information Project Tools**

Voting Information Project helps voters find information about their elections with collaborative, open-source tools.

**Civic Engagement Toolkit for Election Officials**

Tested resources that any election official can use for the 2016 General Election and beyond.

**Voting Technology Project Election Management Toolkit**

This website offers tools based on the expertise of election administrators, business managers, and social science researchers that can help election administrators plan and conduct elections.

### Polling Place Optimization Calculators

**Line Optimization and Poll Worker Management**

**Poll Worker and Machine Optimization**

**Line Optimization**





# #BEREADY16

---

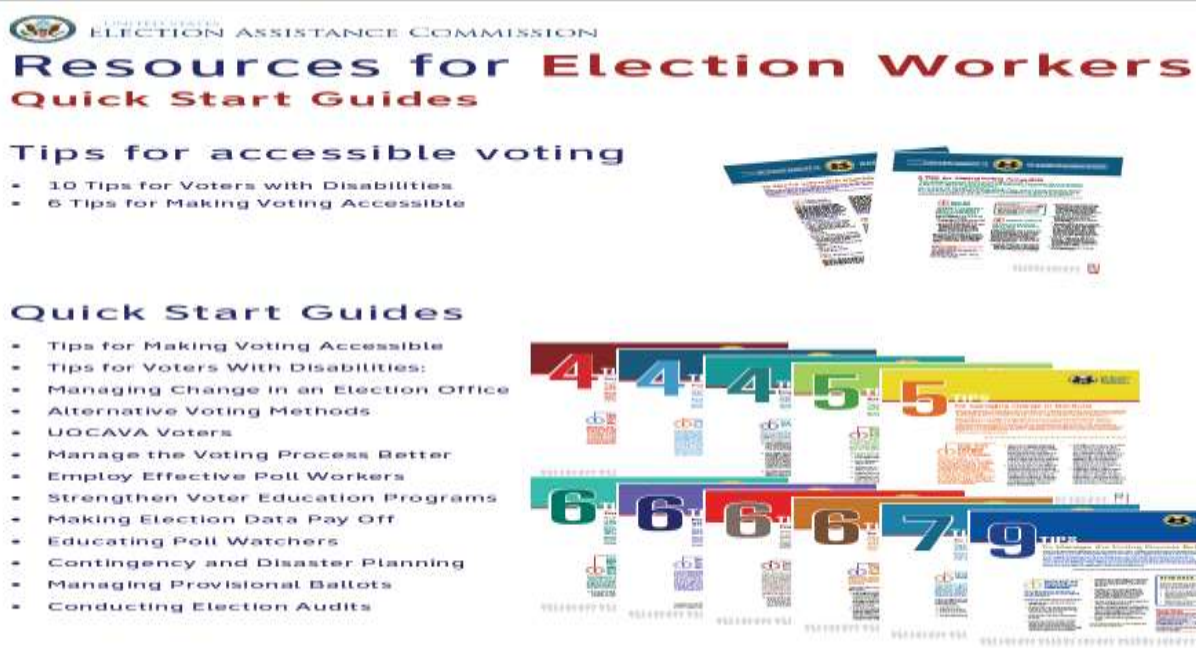
**Interview with Matt  
Boehmer, Director  
FVAP, on election  
readiness**



# Quick Tips & Guides

## Quick Tips

- Guides to aid in the election process



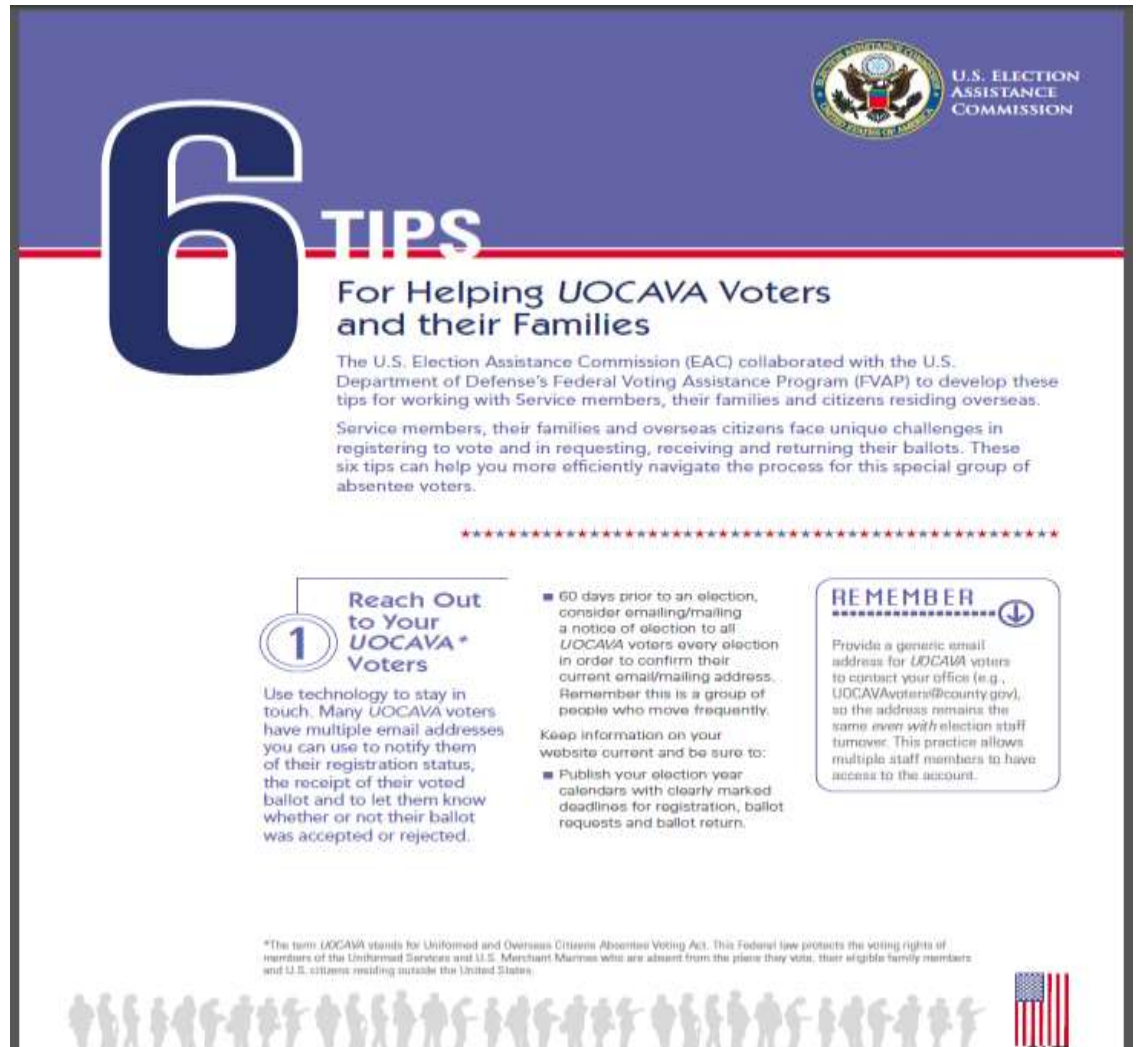
**ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**  
**Resources for Election Workers**  
**Quick Start Guides**

**Tips for accessible voting**

- 10 Tips for Voters with Disabilities
- 6 Tips for Making Voting Accessible

**Quick Start Guides**

- Tips for Making Voting Accessible
- Tips for Voters With Disabilities:
- Managing Change in an Election Office
- Alternative Voting Methods
- UOCAVA Voters
- Manage the Voting Process Better
- Employ Effective Poll Workers
- Strengthen Voter Education Programs
- Making Election Data Pay Off
- Educating Poll Watchers
- Contingency and Disaster Planning
- Managing Provisional Ballots
- Conducting Election Audits



**6 TIPS**  
**For Helping UOCAVA Voters and their Families**

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) collaborated with the U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to develop these tips for working with Service members, their families and citizens residing overseas.

Service members, their families and overseas citizens face unique challenges in registering to vote and in requesting, receiving and returning their ballots. These six tips can help you more efficiently navigate the process for this special group of absentee voters.

\*\*\*\*\*

**1 Reach Out to Your UOCAVA\* Voters**

Use technology to stay in touch. Many UOCAVA voters have multiple email addresses you can use to notify them of their registration status, the receipt of their voted ballot and to let them know whether or not their ballot was accepted or rejected.

- 60 days prior to an election, consider emailing/mailling a notice of election to all UOCAVA voters every election in order to confirm their current email/mailling address. Remember this is a group of people who move frequently.

Keep information on your website current and be sure to:

- Publish your election year calendars with clearly marked deadlines for registration, ballot requests and ballot return.

**REMEMBER**

Provide a generic email address for UOCAVA voters to contact your office (e.g., UOCAVAvoters@county.gov), so the address remains the same even with election staff turnover. This practice allows multiple staff members to have access to the account.

\*The term UOCAVA stands for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. This Federal law protects the voting rights of members of the Uniformed Services and U.S. Merchant Marine who are absent from the place they vote, their eligible family members and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.



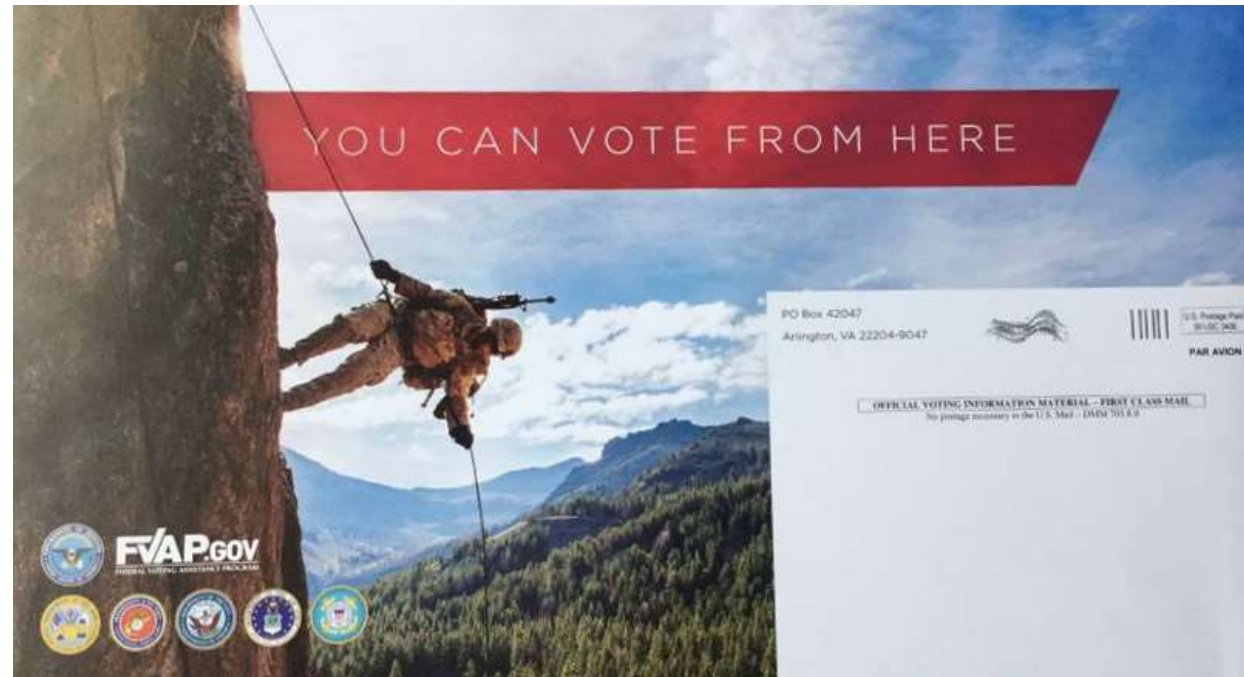
# FVAP.GOV

- Federal agency assigned within the [Department of Defense](#) (DoD) to assist and educate voter on their right to vote.
- Anywhere in the world
- beyond

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Contact, Links, FAQs, Election Materials, News, and Subscribe. The main header features the FVAP logo and the tagline "Voting assistance for Service members, their families and overseas citizens". Below the header is a navigation menu with options: Home, Military Voter, Overseas Citizen Voter, Voting Assistance Offices, Election Official, and General Information. The main content area is divided into several sections: "Voters Start Here" with a dropdown menu for "Select a State"; "Help a Voter" with links for "Voting Assistance Officers" and "Election Officials"; a large banner image of service members holding a "send your vote home" banner; "Upcoming Election Dates" listing events like "Mississippi - CD 1 Special Election Runoff" on June 2nd; "Quick Links" for downloading FPCA, election materials, and finding voting offices; and "Latest FVAP News" with recent articles. A "Contact FVAP" button is prominently displayed. At the bottom, a banner reads "EVERY VOTE counts" and "Voting Absentee is easy using FVAP's online assistants. Be absent but accounted for."



# FVAP.GOV



GENERAL ELECTION | NOVEMBER 8, 2016

## Here's your step-by-step absentee voter guide:

- 1**  
Fill out an FPCA\* at [FVAP.gov/vote](http://FVAP.gov/vote) to register and request your ballot.  
**WHEN?**  
Send your FPCA by **August 1, 2016** (or later depending on your State). Find your specific deadline at [FVAP.gov/vote](http://FVAP.gov/vote).
- 2**  
Fill out and send in your ballot when it arrives.  
**RECOMMENDED MAILING DEADLINE:**  
→ Stateside? **November 1, 2016**    → Outside the U.S.? **October 15, 2016**    → On a ship at sea? **October 10, 2016**

Didn't get your ballot in time? No worries.  
→ Get a *Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot* (FWAB) from [FVAP.gov/vote](http://FVAP.gov/vote).

Want to make sure your ballot was received?  
→ Check the status at [FVAP.gov/vote](http://FVAP.gov/vote).

\*As if you need another acronym, FPCA stands for Federal Post Card Application.



# Social Media

---



@EACgov  
@Redandblue2024



Facebook.com/eacgov1



BeReady@eac.gov  
listen@eac.gov



YouTube Channel:  
Election Assistance Commission

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



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



[havainfo@eac.gov](mailto:havainfo@eac.gov)



# Questions?



# Contact Us:

**Thomas Hicks**

Chairman

Phone: (301)563-3971

Email: [Thicks@eac.gov](mailto:Thicks@eac.gov)

**U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

Phone: 1-877-747-1471

Email: [havainfo@eac.gov](mailto:havainfo@eac.gov)