



# Voting Information News

November 2004 vs Vol. 14, No. 11

**A roundup of voting news from the 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:

✓ Remind citizens to vote and return any absentee ballots regardless of when they receive it up to election day.

✓ Refer to the October issue of this newsletter for State By State Ballot Return Deadlines and those that allow faxing of the voted ballot.

✓ International toll-free fax numbers are available at: <http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html>

✓ Visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for state election updates (such as, states/counties that now allow faxing of the voted ballot and additional states that allow late counting of ballots!)

✓ Include in reports to your superiors your voting assistance efforts – to include number of potential voters you assisted, number of voting materials you distributed and any other activities such as workshops, registration drives, Armed Forces Voters week, Absentee Voters Week, that you coordinated.

✓ You and many others have worked hard through these elections where best practices, novel ideas, and lessons learned have surfaced. Include these in your reports.

## Timely Reminders...

**Extended Counting:** The following states allow extended counting of absentee ballots for the November 2, 2004 general election: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Virgin Islands, Washington, and West Virginia. 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. 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, Minnesota (if you do not provide passport number), Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Utah (if no military postmark on or before election day), 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 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

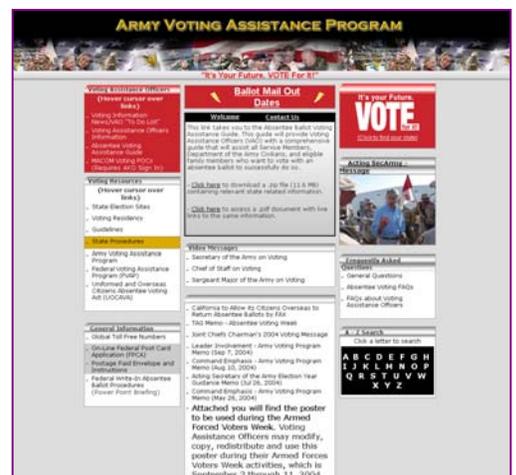
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Department of State U.S. Election 2004

Website:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections.html>



Army Voting Assistance Program

Website: [www.vote.army.mil](http://www.vote.army.mil)

# Only Days Before The Election!

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. Generally, if a state allows late counting of ballots, the ballot envelope must have 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, provided it is mailed by election day.

## Scenario 2. The citizen has not received the requested ballot:

If the citizen is overseas, has requested the absentee ballot, and 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) or at a US embassy or consulate or American organization overseas such as Democrats Abroad or Republicans Abroad. The September issue of this newsletter and Chapter 2 of the 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) provides guidance and explains the requirements for using the FWAB.

Important note: If the citizen receives the state absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, he or she should vote



Air Force "Airmen Votes" Website:

[www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/)

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 information obtained from the FVAP website.

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 Washington State 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 county the FPCA was mailed to, the complete address in the county where he or she claims residence, 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. ☑



Navy Voting Assistance Program  
Website: [www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap](http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap)  
(Select Navy Voting Information Center)

## Watch For Post-Election Survey Coming Your Way!

Each Presidential election year, the Federal Voting Assistance Program conducts surveys to determine voter participation in the electoral process and to evaluate our program.

Selected Uniformed Services members, Federal civilians overseas, non-Federal overseas citizens, Unit Voting Assistance Officers and U.S. local election officials will receive surveys during the week of November 2, 2004.

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. There will also be a survey sent by Internet only to Department of State Voting Assistance Officers.

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. FVAP thanks you in advance for your participation.

### Marine Corps Voting Assistance Program Website:

[https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra\\_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home](https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home)

### Coast Guard Voting Assistance Program Website:

[www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\\_Assistance.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm)

## Voting Action Officers

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

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov  
Deputy VAO: Ms. Linda Hoover, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** hooverlr@state.gov

### Service Voting Action Officers

**U.S. Dept. of the Army:** Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532  
**DSN fax:** 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,  
**http://www.vote.army.mil** or **https://www.vote.army.mil**

**U.S. Dept. of the Navy:** LT Bill Danzi **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672); **DSN:** 882-4606, **fax:** (901) 874-2054,  
**DSN fax:** 882-2054; **E-mail:** MILL\_navyvote@navy.mil, **http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap**

**U.S. Dept. of the Air Force:** Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-2338 (Mr. John Lowrance), **toll free:** 1-866-229-7074 (select option 4,  
then 6 from menu), **DSN:** 665-4369; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;  
**E-mail:** afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil;

**U.S. Marine Corps:** GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511; **fax:** (703) 784-9827,  
**DSN fax:** 278-9827; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil  
**https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra\_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home**

**U.S. Coast Guard:** YNCS Lori McNaught **tel:** (202)-267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;  
**E-mail:** LMcNaught@comdt.uscg.mil, **http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\_Assistance.htm**

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

