

AN FVAP UPDATE

JANUARY 2018



JEOLC JANUARY CONFERENCE

The Election Center hosted their Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee (JEOLC) meeting last week in Arlington, Virginia. FVAP was honored with an invitation to speak about our updates and preparations for the 2018 election cycle. Several of the topics briefed to those attending the meeting included active duty military participation and motivation rates during the 2016 election, voting assistance workshop benefits, and policy trends. The most pertinent information shared was on the importance of using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The 2016 survey findings from state election officials show that the best way to guarantee UOCAVA protections for all active duty military is through the use of the FPCA versus state registration forms as each state may treat the voters using these other forms differently. Based on this research, FVAP will continue to reinforce use of the FPCA to provide the simplicity, ease of use, and protections the FPCA grants to our UOCAVA voters during the 2018 election year.



FVAP is thankful for the strong relationships we have built over the years with local election officials. Their hard work and support of Election Center participants and their colleagues is a testament to the success of UOCAVA voters when voting absentee. Thank you for the opportunity to present and participate at JEOLC, see you next year!

VOTING IN THE MILITARY TRAINING VIDEO



Starting this month FVAP is proud to share a new "Voting in the Military" training video for Installation Voting Assistance Officers and Unit Voting Assistance Officers to use and share with Service members. FVAP research has long shown that digital media is increasingly effective with the younger demographic of Service members, those that are often voting for the first time on top of adjusting to a military career. This peer-to-peer tutorial style video is a six-minute training on how military members can communicate with you through the use of FVAP.gov, the FPCA, and the FWAB.

The full video is available on the [FVAP YouTube channel](#) and in the coming months we will share shorter, PSA style clips for social media posting.

A POLICY REMINDER FVAP works closely with state and local election officials to improve the voting process and experience for citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. With many state legislators gathering at their respective state capitals this time of year, we want to remind you that FVAP is available to provide resources when election policy and regulation changes affect UOCAVA voters. Research, data, and awareness tools are some of the resources we can share with your state legislators and offices. Additionally, FVAP may express its views on pending state legislation through an official letter. [Previously written letters](#) include topics relating to voter ID, witness requirements, and postal issues. Contact your state analyst for any questions or clarifications you'd like regarding UOCAVA policy: Nate Bacchus, nate.a.bacchus@fvap.gov or Meghan Kelly, meghan.kelly@fvap.gov. 

NEW OVERSEAS CITIZENS SURVEY IS UNDERWAY

In 2016, FVAP released the Overseas Citizen Population Analysis from the 2014 election which garnered lots of attention and questions. As part of its congressional reporting requirements, FVAP used data from foreign countries, U.S. Government administrative sources and academic studies to estimate the number of Americans eligible to vote in countries around the world. At the time of the survey, countries with the largest numbers of eligible U.S. voters (age 18 and older) were Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Japan and Australia. The survey results showed that of the estimated 5.7 million overseas citizens, 2.6 million were eligible to vote, but only four percent choose to vote during the 2014 election.

The reported voting rate raised many questions for continued investigation about overseas citizens and their motivation to vote. Armed with these new research questions, we released a second overseas citizen survey which is currently being fielded. We will release the results this fall. If a voter reaches out to you with questions about the survey they received, feel free to point them to our website and findings from the [2016 Overseas Citizen Survey](#).



DID YOU KNOW? In 2017 the Department of Defense realigned several components to provide more efficiency and support for the warfighter. With the realignment, FVAP joined the Defense Personnel and Family Support Center (DPFSC) and gained several new suitemates that include the [Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program](#), [Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve \(ESGR\)](#), the [Transition to Veterans Program Office \(TVPO\)](#), and the [Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program \(CAP\)](#). DPFSC is a team of professionals dedicated to administering programs that enhance readiness, resiliency, and reintegration. We are excited to work so closely with these great programs, please take a moment to read about them and how they may be beneficial to your state, local jurisdictions, and voters. 