

What are my responsibilities as an Election Official?

Under UOCAVA, election officials are required to:

- **Process the FPCA and FWAB forms** according to state and federal law.
- **Notify voters** if their voter registration or absentee ballot request is rejected.
- **Send ballots to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days** prior to each federal election. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) amended UOCAVA to allow voters to receive a ballot electronically.
- **Accept voting materials** from UOCAVA voters by mail or electronically, depending on state law.

Who qualifies as a UOCAVA voter?

Specific groups of American citizens are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). These groups are :

- Members of the Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps)
- Members of the Merchant Marines
- Eligible family members of the above
- U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.



About the Pocket Guide

The **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)** requires states and territories to allow members of the military, military family members, and overseas citizens, to register and vote in all federal elections. UOCAVA, requires election officials to follow special procedures when serving military and overseas voters.

This pocket guide provides quick-reference information for election officials as well as links to additional resources. However, there are many federal resources available to help election officials serve voters covered under UOCAVA. More information about serving UOCAVA voters can be found at www.eac.gov/uocava and www.fvap.gov/eo.

Election Official Pocket Guide

Pocket Guide for Serving Military and Overseas Voters

Have questions?

Go to www.eac.gov/uocava or www.fvap.gov/eo for more information.



U.S. ELECTION
ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What is the EAC?

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 established the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)**. The EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission tasked with helping Americans vote. The EAC works to ensure all eligible Americans can vote independently, privately, and with confidence in the election system.

What is FVAP?

The **Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)** is a Department of Defense office that ensures UOCAVA voters are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully cast their balloting materials. Some of the resources provided by FVAP include forms for UOCAVA voters, state-specific resources, trainings for election officials, and toolkits for communicating with voters.

What is the FPCA?

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) serves as a **simultaneous voter registration application and absentee ballot request form**.

UOCAVA voters can use the FPCA as a single ballot request form for all federal elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. State laws vary on how long this request is valid beyond the initial year.

Every state can accept and send election materials by mail and many states allow voters to submit their FPCA electronically. See www.fvap.gov to see your state's submission guidelines.

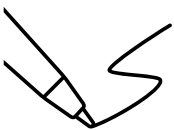


What is the FWAB?

The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is an emergency or "back-up" ballot available for citizens covered under UOCAVA. It is used to vote in any election for federal offices and as otherwise permitted by state law.

To be eligible to use the FWAB, UOCAVA voters must apply for a regular absentee ballot early enough so that the local election official receives the request at least 30 days before the election or before the state's ballot request deadline, whichever is later, and not have received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

Some states allow UOCAVA voters to use the FWAB as a voter registration application and ballot request. Find your state's information at www.fvap.gov.



What is a Voting Residence?

A voting residence is the address in the state in which a UOCAVA voter was last domiciled and continues to use for voting purposes, even if:

- The voter no longer owns property or has other ties to that state.
- The voter's intent to return to that state is uncertain.
- The voter's residence address is no longer a recognized residential address.
- Someone else is living at that address

Note: Voters can vote for federal offices without a change to their tax status, but voting for non-federal offices may result in state and local taxation.

For specific information for service members and eligible family members, go to www.fvap.gov.

