

ELECTION OFFICIAL NEWS

Military and Overseas Voting

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

Danger Pay/Combat Zone Information

Several states allow faxing and or emailing of balloting materials to and from areas declared hostile fire zones, imminent danger pay areas, or combat zones.

The Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation, DoD 7000.14-R, Volume 7, section 10, contains the current listing of designated hostile fire areas and imminent danger pay areas. This section is available online at: www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/07a/07a_10.pdf.

Information about combat zone locations is available on the Internal Revenue Service website at:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html>

State Voter Registration Verification Websites

The Federal Voting Assistance Program encourages the states to make available to military and overseas citizens online tools that allow voters to check their registration status. These sites allow voters the ability to promptly know if they are registered with their jurisdiction and provide them with the opportunity to take timely corrective measures if necessary. Where possible, taking security of the individual's personal data into consideration, valuable information for military and overseas citizens would include current mailing address and a depiction of the choices available on the ballot.

Twenty-four states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico currently have voter registration verification websites which provide some level of information to the military, their families, and U.S. citizens residing overseas.

Mailing Primary Ballots

With Presidential Primaries still taking place, and the majority of state primaries yet to come, remember to mail absentee ballots to military and overseas voters as soon as possible. The Federal Voting Assistance Program recommends mailing ballots at least 45 days prior to the deadline for receipt of voted absentee ballots. This will help to ensure that military and overseas voters have sufficient time to receive, vote, and return their absentee ballots in time for their vote to be received by the state deadline and counted. Utilize electronic alternatives like faxing or emailing if allowed by state law. If your state allows for the use of a state write-in absentee ballot, use it as soon as you suspect regular ballots may be mailed out late. Some states and localities do this for every election to provide the maximum time for ballot to go out and come back. Follow up with the regular ballot when it becomes available.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Danger Pay Information

Verification Websites

Primary Ballot Mailing

2008 Survey



Visit the FVAP Website!

Have you checked the local election official section of the FVAP Website? Go to www.fvap.gov and see how much useful information there is for you!

2008 Post-Election Survey

Each presidential election year, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) conducts post-election surveys as required by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*. These surveys help determine voter participation by military and overseas citizens in the electoral process and assist us in evaluating and improving our program. This survey is not the same as the election day survey conducted by the United States Election Assistance Commission.

Local election officials of various jurisdictions and size in each state will be selected at random to participate in the November survey. Those selected to take the survey will be provided with the information requested on the survey to track information throughout the election year, such as the number of Federal Post Card Application forms received, ballots issued, instances where ballots are not counted and why and number of Federal Write In Absentee Ballot received and counted.

To make tracking information easier, a data collection spreadsheet will be available to those selected to take the survey on our website at www.fvap.gov under the heading "Local Election Official Information." We will also e-mail the spreadsheet to participants for whom we have an e-mail address. Maintaining the tracking spreadsheet form throughout the year will greatly decrease the time it takes to complete the actual 2008 Local Election Official Post-Election Voting Survey after the election.

If contacted to take the survey, we strongly encourage you to participate, as your responses will play a very important part in improving the absentee voting process for military and overseas absentee voters. If you have any questions or comments regarding the data collection spreadsheet, survey, or how to maintain the data leading up to November 4th, please contact Ms. Erin E. St. Pierre at 1-800-438-8683 or erin.stpierre@fvap.ncr.gov. Thank you in advance for your participation.

FVAP Contact Information

Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov
Toll free number: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)
Fax: 703-696-1352
Website: www.fvap.gov

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1777 N. Kent St., Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209-1262