

2010-11 Voting Assistance Guide



What's changed since the 2008-09 VAG?

Objectives for the new VAG:

- Make it easier to understand and use by *UOCAVA* citizens, Voting Assistance Officers, and volunteers.
- Create the overall layout in a logical order based on the *UOCAVA* absentee voting process.
- Eliminate redundancies and create a simple, easy-to-read and understandable language and flow.

Summary of changes for the new VAG:

The **Introduction** has been eliminated.

Chapter One

- Contains an overview of the absentee voting process, written in easy-to-understand language.
- Contains the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), along with their specific mailing instructions.
- Contains the Electronic Transmission Cover Sheet, along with an overview of electronic transmission.

Chapter Two

- Contains State-specific instructions for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 4 U.S. territories detailing how to complete and submit both the FPCA and the FWAB.
- Instructions for Uniformed Services and Civilians outside the U.S. have been consolidated into one set of directions, with exceptions noted when applicable.
- Shaded State-specific examples of the FPCA are no longer included.
- Information on electronic transmission of FPCAs, ballots, and FWABs are included in the State instructions specific to those forms. Transmission options that differ between Uniformed Services and Overseas Citizens are noted in the instructions for that Block.
- Specific step-by-step instructions on the FWAB were added to all the State instructions (similar to the FPCA).

- A “Follow Up” section has been added for the States to inform voters on how to follow up on the status of their registration/ballot request (FPCA).

Chapter Three is now a resource (guidance) for Voting Assistance Officers.

Appendices:

In the process of making the *VAG* simpler and more voter-oriented, the appendices section has been changed to Handouts. There are now four handouts after Chapter 3 instead of appendices as described below:

- Appendix A, UOCAVA, was removed (available online).
- Appendix B is now part of Chapter 1 of the new *VAG*. It is an overview of electronic transmission of voting materials including the Electronic Transmission Service cover sheet and directions for its use.
- Appendix C and D, Frequently Asked Questions, are now two handouts included after Chapter 3.
- Appendix E, US Embassy and Consulate email addresses, is now a handout after Chapter 3. Additionally, we have added a statement from the Department of State about absentee voting support that embassies and consulates may be able to provide to overseas citizens.
- Appendix F and G, the FPCA and FWAB instruction and forms, are now included in Chapter 1.
- Appendix H, Ordering Voting Materials, is now in Chapter Three.
- Appendix I, Primary and General Election dates by State and by month, is now a handout after Chapter 3.

We want your feedback! If the *2010-11 Voting Assistance Guide* was helpful to you or if you ran into problems or have questions, please contact FVAP at 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584 or at vote@fvap.ncr.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at: www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. Include your ideas for further improving the *Guide* for the 2012-13 edition.