

Key Findings – FVAP 2010 Post Election Report

- **Military Voter Participation Up**
 - Military voter participation rates are up 21% over the 2006 election.
 - The 18-24 year old military voter participation rate increased 33% over 2006.
 - The age and gender adjusted military voter participation rate is just above that of the general population's – 46% compared to 45.5%.
 - 33% of military voters voted in person instead of by absentee ballot.
 - Military voter registration rates stayed at 77% from 2008 to 2010, while the national voter registration rate of 65%, dropped 8.5% from 2008.
- **Military Spouse Voter Participation Higher than General Electorate's**
 - For the first time with the 2010 election, military spouses were surveyed on their voting experience.
 - The military spouse voter participation rate in 2010 also exceeded that of the general population, when adjusted for age, 52% compared to 45.5%.
 - 57% of military spouse voters voted in person instead of by absentee ballot.
- **Absentee Ballot Delivery and Return Up**
 - 27% more military personnel received absentee ballots in 2010 than in 2006.
 - 24% more military personnel cast absentee ballots in 2010 than in 2006.
 - Unfortunately, the percentage of military voters who asked for an absentee ballot but never received it rose from 16% to 2008 to 29% in 2010. That represents more than 112,000 military voters who did not receive the absentee ballot they were expecting.
- **Awareness of Voting Assistance Programs Up**
 - Usage of the FVAP.gov website almost doubled in 2010 over 2006.
 - Online form downloads rose 52% over 2006, with online ballot deliveries increasing by almost 1,600% over 2008.
 - Compared to 2008, military voters were 23% more aware of FVAP.gov and Service-level voting assistance resources.
 - 18-24 year military voters were 55% to 87% more aware of those voting assistance resources in 2010 compared to 2008.
- **State and Local Election Jurisdiction Data Does not Provide the Full Picture**
 - FVAP local election official survey results roughly similar to data reported by States to the Election Assistance Commission.
 - But State and local jurisdiction data does not capture the 33% of military voters and 57% of military spouse voters who vote in person at polling places.
 - Nor does State and local data likely capture the 38% of military personnel and 73% of military spouses who say the register and request an absentee ballot with State and local forms, which doesn't identify them as military voters.
 - For example, local election jurisdictions reported only 118,000 military ballots returned, yet 392,000 military personnel and military spouses reported returning absentee ballots.