

What's Under the Hood in Military Voting?

**Overseas Vote Foundation Summit
January 27, 2012**

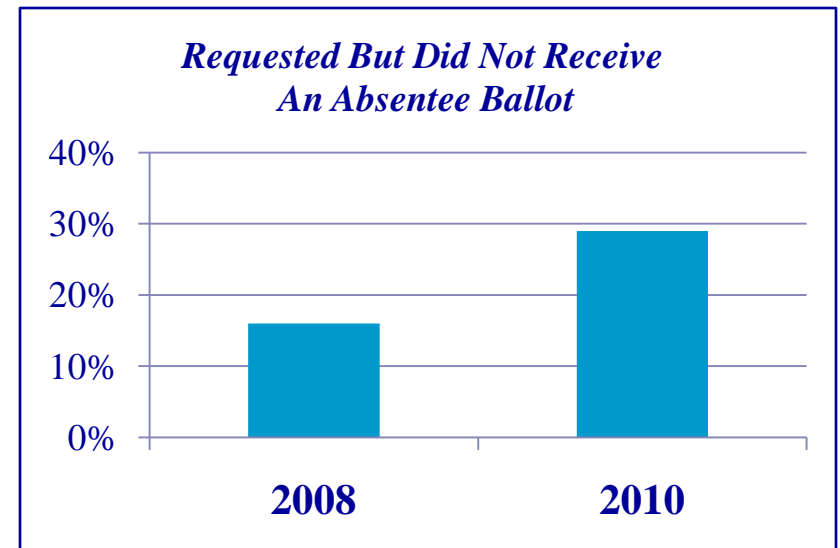
2010: Complex, but Encouraging Picture

Greater Number of Military Voters Received and Voted Their Ballots

- 21% higher voter participation rate (33% increase amongst 18-24)
- 27% more military voters received absentee ballots in 2010
- 24% more military cast their ballots

But significant number still did not receive their ballots:

- 2008 = 107,000 voters (16%)
- 2010 =
 - Over 112,000 voters (29%)
 - But 46,000 voters still voted



ADM Voter Registration

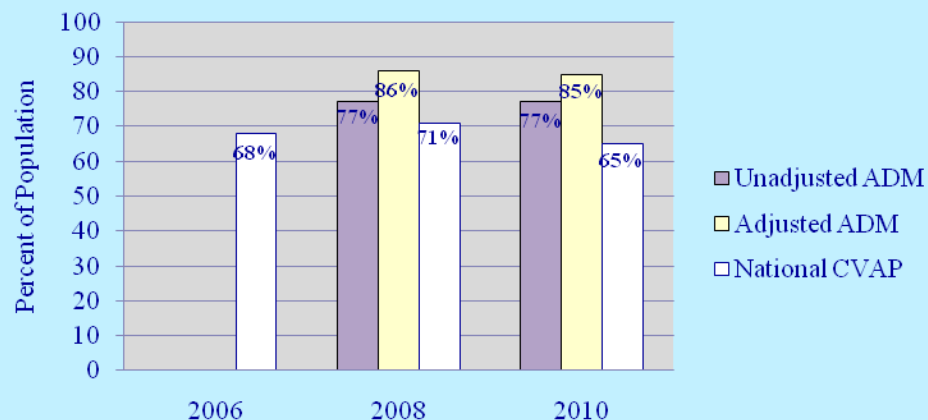
Voter Registration

- **National = 65%**
- **Military = 77% (before adjusting for age and gender)**

Registration Trends (2008-2010)

- **National declined 8%+**
- **Military remained constant**

Figure 4: Registration rates for unadjusted ADM, adjusted for age and gender ADM, national CVAP



	2006	2008	2010	Percent Change (08 to 10)
CVAP	67.6%	71%	65%	-8.5%
Unadjusted ADM	NA*	77%	77%	No change
Adjusted ADM	NA*	86%	85%	-1.2%

Active Duty Voter Participation

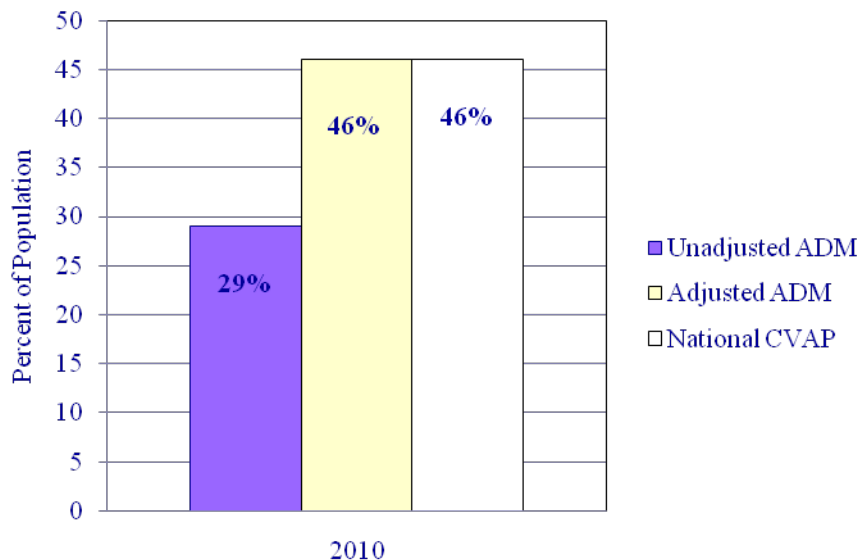
Voter Participation

- **National = 45.5%**
- **Military = 46% (after adjusting for age and gender)**

Participation Trends (2006-2010)

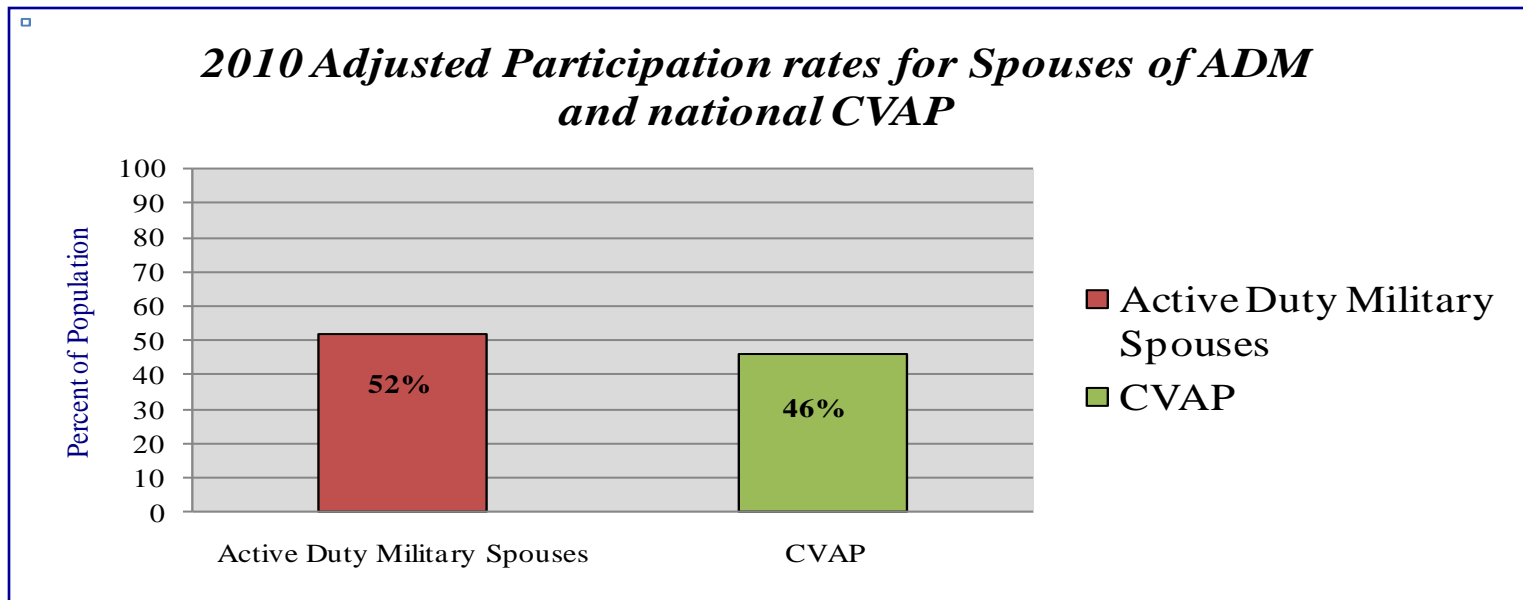
- **National declined 4.8%**
- **Military rose 21% (7% adjusted)**
- **18-24 year old rose 33%**

2010 Participation Rates for unadjusted ADM, adjusted for age and gender ADM, and national CVAP



	2006	2010	Percent Change (2006 to 2010)
CVAP	47.8%	45.5%	-4.8%
Unadjusted ADM	24.0%	29.0%	+21%
Adjusted ADM	43.0%	46.0%	+7.0%

Military Spouses



Military Spouse Voting Survey Showed Similarly Strong Participation

- 36% of military spouses voted in the 2010 election (52% adjusted)
- 45.5% voter participation rate nationally
- 57% of military spouse voters voted in person

The Problem is STILL Ballot Return

➤ **Overwhelming incidence of voting failure is in ballot return because ballots go out too late**

➤ **Absentee Ballot Return Rates:**

- **76%** = General Population
- **34%** = UOCAVA voters from LEO Survey
- **81%** = military voters from military survey

➤ **Absentee Ballot Delivery Failure Growing Problem**

- 12% returned as undeliverable
- 19% of ballots sent to overseas military returned undeliverable
- 29% of military requesting absentee ballots never received

2012 General Election Results – Military Voters			
Stage of voting process	Number of additional failures over general voting population	% of 2010 failure	% of 2008 failure
Registration Failure	9,166	4.6%	1.5%
Ballot Delivery Failure	39,020	19.4%	7.5%
Ballot Return Failure	151,090	75.1%	77.6%
Ballot Casting Failure	1,813	0.9%	13.4%
Total	201,089		266,540

Conflicts between LEO & Military/Spouse Surveys

- **How many ballots returned?**
 - LEOs reported 118,000 military ballots returned
 - Military & spouses reported 392,000 returning ballots
- **State and local data does not likely capture use of state and local forms by**
 - 38% (202,126) of military personnel
 - 73% (72,145) of military spouses
- **Late ballots**
 - 44% of LEOs report sending out 1st ballots <45-days prior
 - 16% (56,000) of ballots sent out <45-days prior

Significant Historical Variance between EAC and FVAP Data

FVAP Surveys

- Active Duty Military
- Military Dependents – First time ever
- Voting Assistance Officers
- Local Election Officials

Key Elements & Discoveries

- **FVAP surveys statistically weighted for:**
 - Voter demographics
 - Jurisdiction size
 - Non-response
- **Variance in same jurisdictions reporting same data**
 - **2008: >56,000** variance for only 23% of total jurisdictions
 - **2010: >54,000** variance for only 33% of total jurisdictions
 - Simple extrapolation =
 - **2008: 243,000**
 - **2010: 163,000**

2008 Post-Election Survey Variance

	# Ballots Sent to Military Voters	# of Ballots From Military Voters
FVAP	767,773	491,889
EAC	480,757	320,950
# Difference	287,016	170,939
% Difference	60%	53%

EAC and FVAP Data Complementary

FVAP's 2010 Totals are Similar to the EAC's When Adjusted

UOCAVA Voters	Active Duty	Spouse	Total Military	FVAP LEO	EAC States
Voted	459,155	247,635	706,790	n/a	n/a
Voting at Polls	-173,666	-141,011	-314,677	n/a	n/a
< 50 Miles from Polls but still absentee	- 30,245	-24,522	-54,767	n/a	n/a
Submitting Non-FPCA Ballots	-105,060	-74,157	-179,217	n/a	n/a
FWABs	-61,234	-7,429	-68,633	n/a	n/a
Total UOCAVA Ballots Returned	88,950	516	89,466	118,135	107,774

Concentration of UOCAVA Voters

LEO Concentration

- **50% of the ballots transmitted by 90 jurisdictions**
- **75% of the ballots transmitted by 315 jurisdictions**
- **Intra-State concentration**
 - Kalawao County 58% of Hawaii
 - New York City 28% of New York
 - Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco Counties 45% of California

State Concentration

- **California = 14.7%**
- **Florida = 12.3%**
- **Texas = 11.4%**
- **New York = 8.9%**
- **Washington = 8.7%**
- **Pennsylvania = 3.8%**

Six States = 59.7% of total UOCAVA ballots

Jurisdiction Size	Average # of UOCAVA Ballots Sent	% of Total Jurisdictions	Total # of UOCAVA Ballots Sent	% of Total UOCAVA Ballots Sent
<1,000	4.6	27%	9,094	1.34%
1,001-4,999	4.6	27%	9,048	1.33%
5,000-24,999	19	27%	37,259	5.51%
>25,000	534.6	16%	628,155	91.82%

[Home](#) > [Select Your State](#) > [What Would You Like to Do?](#) > [Get My Ballot Now](#)

Get My Ballot Now

Use New York's automated assistant to get a complete State ballot.

[Get Started](#)

or

Use FVAP's automated assistant to complete and print a back-up write-in ballot for Federal candidates.

[Get Started](#)

Important Dates for UOCAVA citizens

General Election: 11/02/2010

Registration: 10/08/2010

Request ballot by: 10/22/2010

Return ballot by: 11/09/2010*

*Postmarked by the day before the election

Resources:

[New York Absentee Voting Guidelines](#)

[New York State Election website](#)

Would you rather fill out the form by hand?

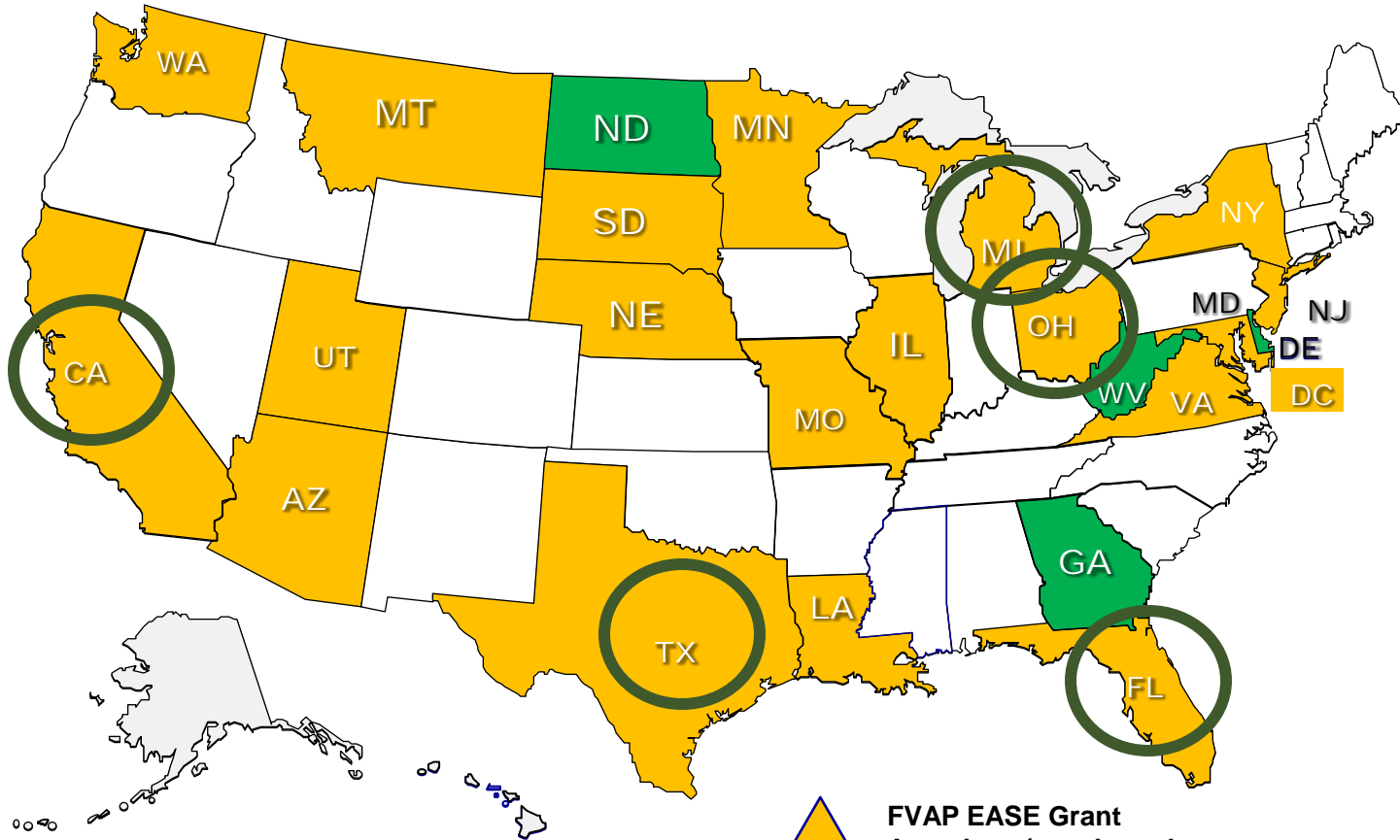
[Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#)

**Linking Voter to State systems instead of FWAB Wizard
Ensures Voter Gets Full Ballot**

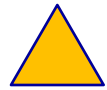
Grants

As of January 18,
grants to:

- Bexar County, TX
- Boone County, MO (all MO)
- City of Chicago, IL
- El Dorado County, CA (15)
- Harris County, TX
- King County, WA (5)
- Louisiana
- Maricopa County, AZ
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio
- Okaloosa, County, FL (13)
- Orange County, FL (4)
- Santa Cruz County, CA
- South Dakota +Nebraska
- Utah
- Virginia
- District of Columbia



534,000 military voters covered

 FVAP EASE Grant Awardees (may be only certain Counties)

 State's own Online Ballot Delivery System

FPCA Downloads from FVAP.gov Last 60 Days

FL	5,991
CA	3,900
IL	2,366
TX	2,283
PA	2,282

2012: 48,000 FPCA downloads
2010: 91,000 FPCA downloads

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request

A quicker, easier to complete, electronic version of this form is also available on FVAP.gov. For any questions about this form, consult your Voting Assistance Officer or the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAP.gov. Please print in black ink.

Classification Make only 1 selection. <small>(In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form.)</small>	1	I request an absentee ballot for all elections in which I am eligible to vote AND: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR <input type="checkbox"/> I am their spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I do not intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen otherwise granted military/overseas voting rights under State law (check the Voting Assistance Guide).
Political Party	2	To vote in primary elections, your State may require you to specify a political party: _____
Your legal name	3	Last name _____ Suffix _____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Previous name (if applicable) _____
Identification <small>Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small>	4	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Race _____ Birth date _____ State Driver's License or ID _____ OR Social Security Number _____
Contact information <small>Include international prefixes. No DSN number.</small>	5	Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____ Alternate Email _____
Ballot receipt	6	I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by: <input type="checkbox"/> Email/Online <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <small>(rank from 1-3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate contact information is provided above)</small>
U.S. address for voting purposes <small>Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See Instructions.</small>	7	Street Address (not P.O. box) _____ Apt. # _____ City/Town/Village _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Address where you live now <small>This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Box 9.</small>	8	_____
Additional requirements for your State <small>Such as: mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small>	9	_____

Affirmation (REQUIRED): I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

• I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. • I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction. • I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated. • I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. • My signature and date herein indicate when I completed this document.
 • The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signature _____ Print this form, sign, and send in.
 Today's date _____
 Witness signature / date if required by your State.
 See the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.
 Signature _____
 Date _____

New FWAB – Online Tool

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

Complete the Form

- Eligibility
- State
- Jurisdiction
- Use of FWAB
- My Information
- Voting Residence
- Mailing Address
- Vote Candidate
- Online Vote
- Additional Information
- Print and Finish

U.S. Senator
 Selection Last Name, P
 Obama, M
 Jones, L
 Kirk, R
 Or Enter Your Write-In Candidate

U.S. Representative/De
 Selection Last Name, P
 Agert, J
 Harper, S
 Or Enter Your Write-In Candidate:
 -select-

Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

President/Vice President: _____

U.S. Senator*: _____

U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner**: _____

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.
 ** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

Addendum

Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.

Office / Ballot Initiative	Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote

FWABs Downloaded to

US:	1877
FL:	274
SC:	208
VA:	112

START OVER | FVAP HOME | CONTACT FVAP

You have entered Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
If using a public computer, close the browser when finished and delete the PDF after printing.

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

New Hampshire > Alexandria > Uniformed Services Member

Complete the Form

- State
- Jurisdiction
- Eligibility
- Election Dates
- Uses of the FWAB
- My Information
- Voting Residence
- Mailing Address
- Additional Information

Vote Candidates

Confirm Votes

Print and Finish

Vote Candidates ([Help](#))

[Reset Candidate Choices](#)

Choose your candidates below by selecting the radio button beside your candidate's name.

You can find help in determining your district's candidates by visiting the [New Hampshire election web site](#).

President/Vice President

Selection	Candidate's Name	Political Party
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Joe Story	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Linden Swift	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	James A. Vestermark	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Vern Wuensche	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Michele Bachmann	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Bear Betzler	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Timothy Brewer	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Herman Cain	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Mark Callahan	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Hugh Cort	Republican

Familiar Problem: Complexity

“It has been clear for some time that practical difficulties and the element of time make it **virtually impossible** for soldiers and sailors and marines **spread all over the world to comply with the different voting laws of 48 States** and that, **unless something is done** about it, **they will be denied the right to vote.**”

– Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1944



Uniformity is the Answer

Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act

- Extends Protections to State/local elections.
- Extends Protections to all National Guard members and citizens born and living overseas.
- Standardizes Treatment of FPCA and FWAB.
- Eases the burden on military/overseas voters, increasing voter success.
- Enacted by: Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and the District of Columbia



New Laws Don't Reduce Complexity

- **Texas**: A local election, without federal offices, run by cities and school boards, occurs in between a primary/run-off election run by county officials.
- **South Carolina**: Changed FPCA Validity to calendar year, but held PPP on January 21st.
- **New York**:
 - 1, 2, 3, ... Primary Elections?
 - State primary ballots sent out 32 days prior
 - State offices won't be on UOCAVA general election ballot

Policy and Legislation: Improvements since MOVE

- **In 2011 alone:**
 - 42 new State laws on UOCAVA voting in 31 States.
 - In total, more than 70 new State laws for UOCAVA voters since MOVE.
- **Of the 55 States and territories...**

Initiative	2007	Now
Codified 45-Day Prior Transmission	3	33
Accept FWAB in State/local Elections	22	36
Email Blank Ballots to UOCAVA Voters	13	50
Require a Notary	8	0
Enact UMOVA	0	7

Repeal of UOCAVA Section 104

➤ **MOVE Act repealed Section 104(a) to (d)**

- Leaves only Section 104(e)
 - Allows early submission of FPCA
 - Only applies to Uniformed Service voters
- Based upon complaints of high number of returned UOCAVA ballots returned as undeliverable, approximately 60,000

➤ **Result:**

- States may require overseas civilian voters to submit a new absentee ballot application for each and every election
- FVAP encouraging all UOCAVA voters to submit a new FPCA:
 - At every change of address, voting or delivery
 - Annually, odd years included
- **Combined with new military FPCA submission standards, LEOs should expect 3.5 – 4 million FPCAs per year, compared to ~1 million in 2008.**

Make This Car Hum

1. Shift Installation Voting Assistance Office requirements to Units

- Align with other military training and requirements done
- Already have unit Voting Assistance Officers in place
- Higher compliance, far lower costs, far easier for voter

2. Automatically send ballots for full election cycle

- Less than two election cycles from before
- Standardizes across States
- Ensures odd-year election coverage

3. Change the calculus with States sending ballots late

- Make it less expensive to comply than to risk reprinting ballots
- Reduce the incentives to wait out compliance decisions
- Allow the individual voter an opportunity to influence that decision

4. Expand access to the ballot

- Push and Pull electronic access
- Expand online registration and absentee ballot application
- Allow for online marking

5. UMOVA standardization



Federal Voting Assistance Program Department of Defense

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