

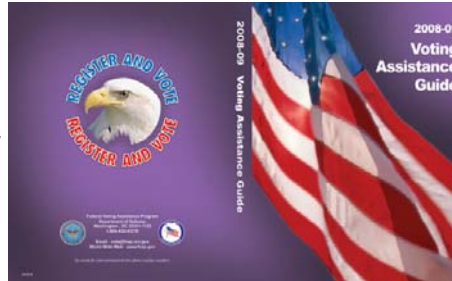
# MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZEN VOTING NEWS

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## The 2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide

The 2008-09 *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG) is now available online at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The *Guide*, designed to help military and overseas citizens to submit their voting materials to you in a timely manner, includes state-by-state absentee voting regulations, laws, deadlines, and procedures.



State election officials coordinated with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to provide the guidelines for each state. You can refer to the *Guide* when assisting military and overseas citizens from your state or jurisdiction with questions on absentee voting procedures, such as completing and submitting the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The *Guide* is updated on the FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) as administrative and legislative changes occur.

## Use E-Mail to Communicate with Voters

In 2005, the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) were updated to include a section for the voter to provide his/her email address so that you could contact the voter by email to confirm the voter's current address, resolve any questions regarding the FPCA or FWAB, and provide the voter with any pertinent information.

## Postcard Acknowledgment Form

The FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) has a postcard acknowledgment form available in PDF format that you can use to inform the voter that:

- the FPCA has been received
- the FPCA has been accepted
- more information is required to process the FPCA; or
- the FPCA has been denied, with cause

If the voter has provided an email address or fax number on the FPCA or has one on file, you should attempt to contact the voter through these means prior to using the postcard acknowledgment form as this will provide faster notification.

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Visit the  
FVAP  
Website!

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

## Locating Addresses for Returned Ballots

When a military or overseas voter submits a valid absentee ballot request, the *Act* requires the states and local election officials to send the voter a ballot for all Federal elections during the subsequent two general Federal election cycles. For a number of reasons, a voter may be unable to receive his/her ballot at the address supplied on the submitted FPCA. For example, the voter may:

- have retired from the military, been discharged, or separated from active duty
- be a member of the National Guard or Reserves who submitted an FPCA while on active duty but has returned to civilian life
- have submitted an APO or FPO address on the FPCA which was subsequently changed or eliminated by the Military Postal System
- have supplied incorrect information on the FPCA

When these ballots are returned as undeliverable, the FVAP recommends taking the following steps in an effort to obtain a current address:

- double-check the mailing address on the return envelope containing the election materials and compare to the address provided by the voter on the absentee ballot request
- use alternative methods of contact, such as email, telephone, or fax
- contact a local family member of the voter

When attempts to contact an active duty service member through the above means have failed, contact FVAP for assistance. FVAP can search a military database for the individual's most recent available address. Submit requests via email to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov) with the subject "Address Update," or via fax at 703-696-1352. You MUST provide a fax number where we can send a response. Requests should be a simple list (do not send photocopies of FPCAs, voter registration materials, etc.) and keep the list to one page, if possible. Requests must include the name of the voter, date of birth, and if possible, the social security number. FVAP has no access to information on military family members or other overseas citizens.

FVAP asks that you attempt to obtain an updated mailing address for the voter by the methods described above before taking any action to remove the voter from the absentee voter rolls. If you believe that a voter should be removed from the rolls for any reason, check with your state office or local legal counsel to determine if, under state election law and standard operating procedures, there is authority to remove the voter from the rolls, and if such removal is defensible if challenged.

### FVAP Contact Information

**Email:** [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

**Toll free number:** 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

**Fax:** 703-696-1352

**Website:** [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

**Mail:** Federal Voting Assistance Program

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