

**UOCAVA**, or the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* of 1986, as amended by the *MOVE Act*, requires U.S. States and territories to allow certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office.

Citizens covered under *UOCAVA* include:

1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.
3. U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories.



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) provides assistance to both *UOCAVA* citizens and election officials and is your primary resource for information on *UOCAVA*.

**FVAP's purpose is to:**

1. Assist uniformed services and overseas voters to exercise their right to vote and have an equal opportunity with the general population to have their vote counted.
2. Assist the States in complying with relevant federal laws, and advise them on ways to best comply.
3. Advocate on behalf of the Uniformed Services and overseas voters, identifying impediments to their ability to exercise their right to vote, and proposing methods to overcome those impediments.



## Challenges to UOCAVA Voting Success

## Tackling Challenge 1: Current Address



**1. Mobile Population:** *UOCAVA* citizens tend to move frequently.



**2. Complex Process:** Variability in State voting procedures adds complexity.



**3. Time Required:** Delays in overseas mail reduce the time available to vote.



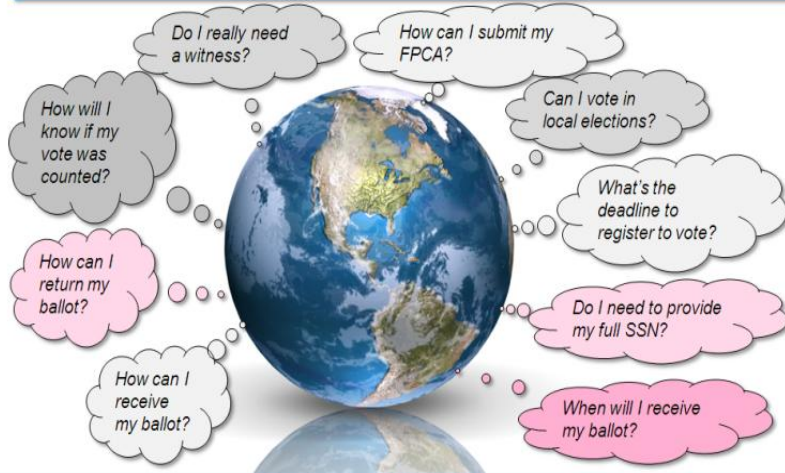
**Military Address  
Lookup**  
*(Military members only)*



**Readdress  
Undeliverable  
Ballots**  
*(Overseas military  
members only)*

## Challenge 2: Complex Process

**Challenge 2:** Variability in State voting procedures and requirements creates additional complexity for UOCAVA voters.



## Tackling Challenge 2: Online Assistants

Benefits of the Online Assistants:

1. Generate only State-required fields.
2. Provide up-to-date information such as important State voting deadlines.
3. Provide an output package that allows voters to print, sign, and send their completed form or ballot.
4. Streamline voting process so no stage takes more than 15 minutes to complete.

The screenshot shows the 'Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot' form. It includes sections for 'Complete the Form', 'Eligibility', 'Voting Residence (Help)', 'Mailing Address', and 'Print and Finish'. The 'Voting Residence' section is highlighted, showing fields for Street Address, City, Town, or Village, County, State, and Zip Code.

## Challenge 3: Time Required

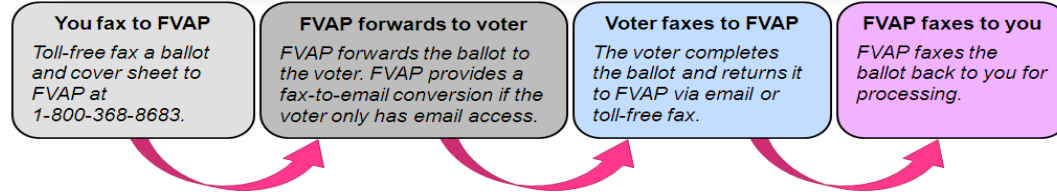
**Challenge 3:** Delays in postal mail make it challenging for overseas voters to receive, vote, and return their ballots in time to be counted.



## Tackling Challenge 3: Time Required Electronic Transmission Service

FVAP provides an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) that allows UOCAVA balloting materials to be faxed at **no cost**.\*

Here's how it works:



ETS Resources:

- ✓ ETS Instructions: <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/etsmanualforleos.pdf>
- ✓ ETS Coversheet: <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/leofaxcoversheet.pdf>

\*Note: Not all States allow completed ballots to be delivered or returned via fax. Check your State's guidelines.

FVAP's telephone and email Help Desk assists with:

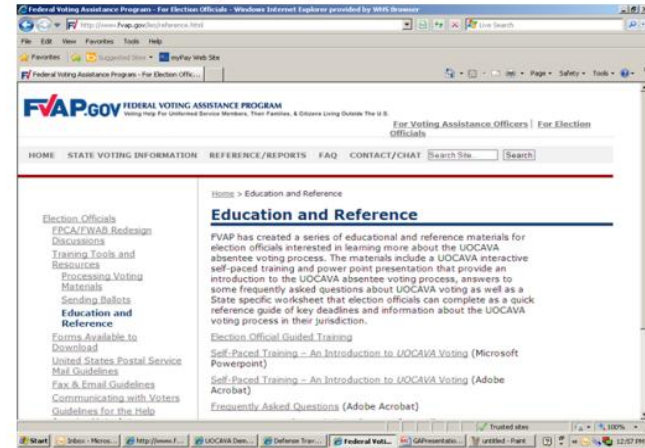
- ✓ Obtaining current contact information for military voters in your jurisdiction.
- ✓ Understanding uses of the FPCA and FWAB in your State.
- ✓ Providing information on UOCAVA and other voting legislation.



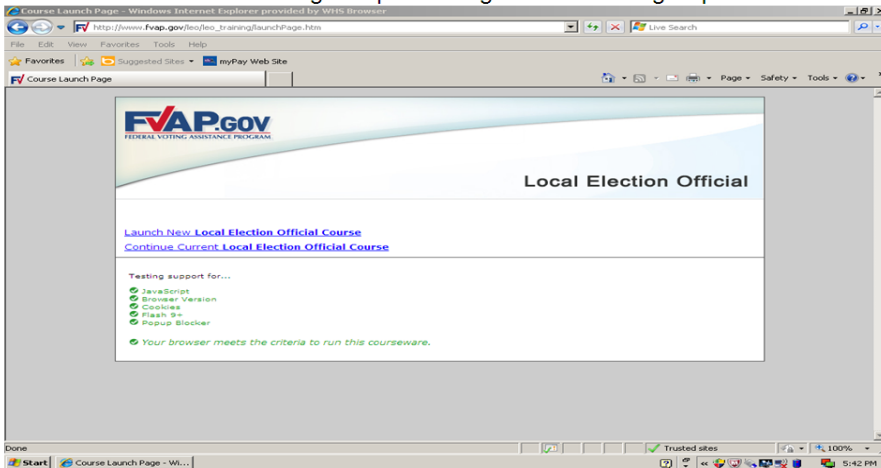
The FVAP Help Desk is also available to assist UOCAVA voters and will transfer voters' calls to your office when applicable.

**1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**  
**vote@fvap.gov**

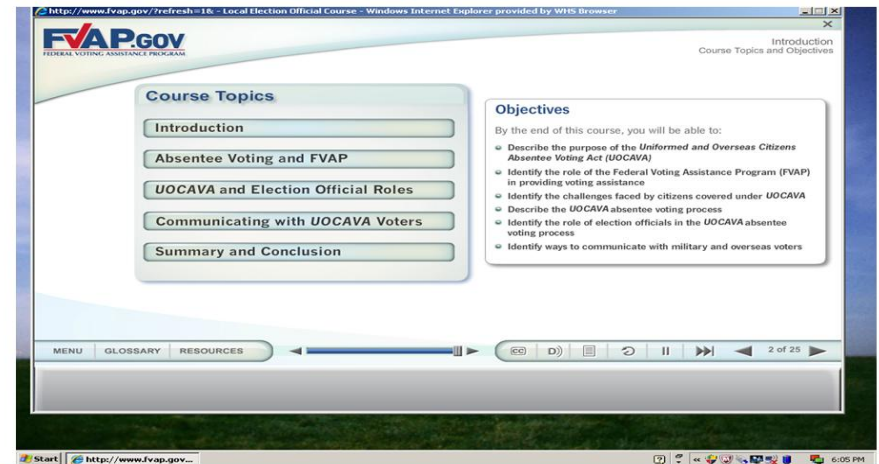
Resources include a recently developed 'Election Official Guided Training'



An audio-guided training, this latest courseware provides the most up-to-date information on understanding and processing UOCAVA voting requirements.

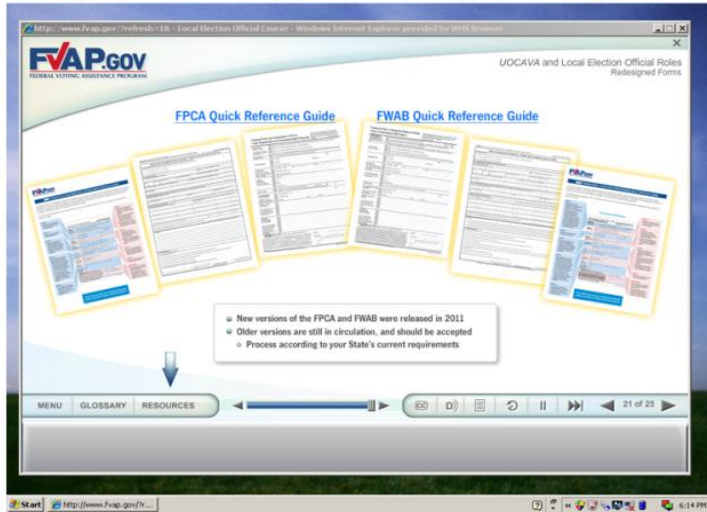


Course Topics have been developed and researched by local election officials.





All of your printable resources are found within the guided training!



- [facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP)
- [twitter.com/FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP)

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