

# 2000 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY OF LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS



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This is an official survey. The Secretary of Defense requests your assistance with this survey, which is designed to improve the absentee voting process. Your answers to these questions, along with your comments or opinions, can bring about changes to make it easier for you to carry out your duties as an election official. Please have a staff member who is familiar with absentee voting fill out this questionnaire.

This survey is conducted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which informs and educates U.S. citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The UOCAVA covers members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S.

Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey. **You may also complete this questionnaire using the Internet.** We strongly urge you to use the electronic version because it takes less time to complete than the paper version. To access the Internet version, go to <http://fvapleo.gallup.com>. Your access code is printed on the back of this questionnaire.

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## PRIVACY NOTICE

**REPORTING BURDEN:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response. We welcome any additional comments or suggestions you wish to make regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this survey. Please put your remarks on the last page of the questionnaire. Your comments may also be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

**AUTHORITY:** The authority to solicit the information requested in this survey is contained in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 1973 ff).

**PURPOSE:** The information obtained is used to evaluate and improve the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

**USES:** This information will be used for research and analysis purposes only. No identifying information will be retained after completion and return of the survey. The Gallup Organization is conducting this survey for the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary. Failure to respond will not result in any penalty to the respondent. However, maximum participation is encouraged so that the data will be complete and representative.

## SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

This is a scannable questionnaire. In order to capture your responses accurately, mark your responses the “right way” according to the example below. Please use a blue or black ink pen when marking your responses.

### Example

Right Way

24

Wrong Way

24

## ABOUT YOUR JURISDICTION

1 Which of the following best describes your jurisdiction?

- County  
 City  
 Township/Village  
 Other

2 How many people are registered to vote in your jurisdiction?  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

3 General Election votes cast:

a. In your jurisdiction, what was the total number of votes cast in the 1996 general election?  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

b. In your jurisdiction, what was the total number of votes cast in the 2000 general election?  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

4 General Election absentee ballots:

a. In your jurisdiction, what was the total number of all absentee ballots cast in the 1996 general election? (If none, write in 0) .....

b. In your jurisdiction, what was the total number of all absentee ballots cast in the 2000 general election? If none, write in 0 AND ➡ Skip to Q6 .....

5 In the 2000 general election, how many absentee ballots were cast by military personnel and overseas civilians?

a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

b. Military Personnel overseas  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

c. Overseas Civilians  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

6 When did you first mail absentee ballots for the 2000 general election?

- On or before September 25  
 September 26 to October 2  
 October 3 to October 9  
 October 10 to October 16  
 October 17 to October 23  
 October 24 to October 30  
 After October 31

Continue with Q7

I did not mail any absentee ballots for the 2000 general election. ➡ Skip to Q11

7 How many absentee ballots did you mail to military personnel and overseas citizens for the 2000 general election?

a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

b. Military Personnel overseas  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

c. Overseas Civilians  
 (If none, write in 0) .....

**8** How many of the absentee ballots mailed to military personnel and overseas civilians were returned undelivered because of an incorrect address?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**9** How many of the absentee ballots mailed to military personnel and overseas civilians were received by you too late to be counted?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**10** How many of the absentee ballots mailed to military personnel and overseas civilians were not returned by voters?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**11** How many Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots (FWAB) did you receive from military personnel and overseas citizens for the 2000 general election?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S. (If none, write in 0) ...
- b. Military Personnel overseas (If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians (If none, write in 0) .....

Continue with Q12

I did not receive any Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots. ➡ Skip to Q13

**12** How many of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWAB) received from military personnel and overseas civilians did you count?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION**

**13** The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is a simultaneous request for registration and absentee ballot. How many absentee ballot requests were made with the FPCA form? **If none write in 0 AND ➡ Skip to Q19** .....

**14** How many of these ballot requests did you acknowledge by returning the FPCA return post card? **(If none, write in 0)** ....

**15** How many of these ballot requests did you acknowledge by some other method than the FPCA return post card? **If none write in 0 AND ➡ Skip to Q17** .....

**16** Which of the following methods of acknowledgement did you use? **(Mark all that apply)**

- Letter
- Telephone
- Told relative of requestor
- FVAP "Ombudsman" toll-free telephone service
- Other

**17** How many ballot requests made with the FPCA were you unable to process? **(If none write in 0)** .....

**18** What were the most frequent problems you encountered in processing the FPCA? **(Mark up to three answers)**

- No or inadequate voting residence address
- Mailing address inadequate or illegible
- Failure to indicate Party preference
- Mail too slow
- Applied to wrong jurisdiction
- Applicant not registered to vote
- No signature
- No birth date given
- No Social Security Number given
- No precinct or ward given
- FPCA not witnessed or notarized
- FPCA received too early
- FPCA received too late
- Form in general not completed
- Writing illegible
- Confusion over types of ballot (Federal/local)
- Confusion over voter categories
- Confusion over which ballot is requested
- Duplicate FPCAs received
- Other

**ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION MATERIALS**

**19** Did you accept faxed FPCA requests for absentee ballots for the 2000 general election?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q20**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q21**

**20** How many faxed FPCA requests for registration and/or absentee ballot did you accept from military personnel and overseas civilians?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**21** Did you fax blank absentee ballots for the 2000 general election?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q22**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q24**

**22** How many absentee ballots did you fax to military personnel and overseas civilians?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**23** On average, how long did it take for your faxed absentee ballots to be returned?

- Same day
- 1 to 3 days
- 4 to 7 days
- More than one week

**24** Did you accept faxed VOTED ballots for the 2000 general election?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q25**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q27**

**25** How many faxed voted ballots did you receive from military personnel and overseas civilians in time to be counted?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**26** How many faxed voted ballots did you receive from military personnel and overseas civilians after the deadline to count ballots?

- a. Military Personnel in the U.S.  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- b. Military Personnel overseas  
(If none, write in 0) .....
- c. Overseas Civilians  
(If none, write in 0) .....

**27** In faxing election materials, how easy or difficult was each of the following?

	Very easy 1	Some-what easy 2	Some-what difficult 3	Very difficult 4	Does not apply
a. Access to fax machine .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Transmitting legible copy to voters .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Receiving legible copy from voters .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Ballots fitting in fax machine .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**28** Does your office have a local election web site?

- Yes
- No

**29** Does your office have access to any of the following?

	Yes	No
a. Electronic mail (E-mail) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Internet .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. CD Rom .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**VOTING ASSISTANCE GUIDE**

**30** The Department of Defense 2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) provides state-by-state information to enable citizens to register and vote absentee. Did you refer to the VAG?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q31**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q33**

**31** How did you obtain the Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)?

- I got the VAG from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
- I got the VAG from another source
- I accessed it electronically on the FVAP web site

**32** What information in the Voting Assistance Guide did you find most useful? (**Mark only one answer**)

- Mailing addresses of election officials in other states
- Absentee registration and voting procedures of other states
- Absentee registration and voting procedures in your state
- Information on Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- Information on Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
- Other (*please specify*)

### VOTING INFORMATION NEWS NEWSLETTER

**33** The Voting Information News newsletter is a monthly publication containing timely information on elections and absentee voting. Do you receive the Voting Information News newsletter?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q34**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q35**

**34** How useful is the Voting Information News to you?

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not very useful
- Not at all useful

### TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE SERVICE

**35** The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) provides a toll-free telephone service that allows a caller to talk with FVAP staff for voting information or assistance. Did you use the toll-free telephone service for any voting information or assistance you received for the 2000 election?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q36**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q38**

**36** Did you use the toll-free telephone service for any of the following reasons? (**Mark all that apply**)

- Obtain voter mailing addresses
- Request FVAP publications
- Information on the Federal Post Card Application
- Information on the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- Discuss state legislative initiatives
- Change of your address or telephone number
- Arrange for meeting or conference speaker
- Clarify something in the Voting Assistance Guide
- Resolve a voting problem with a military or overseas citizen
- Make suggestions or changes to FVAP's publications or programs
- Other

**37** Overall, how satisfied were you with the voting information or assistance you received from the toll-free telephone service?

- Very satisfied
  - Somewhat satisfied
  - Somewhat dissatisfied
  - Very dissatisfied
- } **All  
Skip  
to  
Q39**

**38** Which of the following reasons explain why you did not use the toll-free telephone service? (**Mark all that apply**)

- I did not know about it
- I did not know what it was for
- I knew about it, but did not know the telephone number
- No one needed it or asked to be referred
- I got all the information I needed from other sources
- I did not think that it would be useful

