

# 2000 POST-ELECTION VOTING SURVEY OF MILITARY PERSONNEL



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You have been randomly selected to participate in this survey. Your answers to these questions, along with your comments or opinions, can help change the voting process to make it easier to vote. Absentee ballots are crucial in ensuring that U.S. citizens in the military and their family members can vote.

This survey is conducted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which informs and educates U.S. citizens of their voting rights and responsibilities, and fosters participation in the democratic process.

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://fvapmp.gallup.com>. Your access code is printed on the back of this questionnaire.

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## PRIVACY NOTICE:

**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 YOU

1 Are you stationed in the United States or Overseas?

United States ➔ **Skip to Q3**

Overseas ➔ **Continue with Q2**

2 In what overseas country are you currently residing?

3 What is your Branch of Service?

Army

Navy

Marine Corps

Air Force

Coast Guard

4 What is your pay grade?

Warrant Officer	Commissioned Officer	Enlisted Member
<input type="checkbox"/> W-1	<input type="checkbox"/> O-1	<input type="checkbox"/> E-1
<input type="checkbox"/> W-2	<input type="checkbox"/> O-2	<input type="checkbox"/> E-2
<input type="checkbox"/> W-3	<input type="checkbox"/> O-3	<input type="checkbox"/> E-3
<input type="checkbox"/> W-4	<input type="checkbox"/> O-4	<input type="checkbox"/> E-4
<input type="checkbox"/> W-5	<input type="checkbox"/> O-5	<input type="checkbox"/> E-5
	<input type="checkbox"/> O-6	<input type="checkbox"/> E-6
	<input type="checkbox"/> O-7 or above	<input type="checkbox"/> E-7
		<input type="checkbox"/> E-8
		<input type="checkbox"/> E-9

5 As of November 7, 2000, how long had you been located at your present duty station/ship?

Less than six months

Six months to less than one year

One year to less than two years

Two years to less than three years

Three years or more

6 Not counting yourself, how many family members who were at least 18 years old were living with you at your current duty station as of November 7, 2000. (NOTE: Include your spouse, and anyone related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption, who depends on you for more than half of their support.)

None

One

Two

Three

Four

Five or more

7 What was your age as of November 7, 2000?

18 to 24

25 to 29

30 to 34

35 to 44

45 to 54

55 to 64

65 and over

8 Are you registered to vote in the United States?

Yes

No

9 In what state or territory is your legal or voting residence?

## 2000 ELECTION

**10** How interested were you in the U.S. elections held on November 7, 2000?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not interested at all

**11** Did you vote in the November 2000 General Election?

- Yes, I voted in person ➡ **Skip to Q25**
- Yes, I voted by absentee ballot ➡ **Skip to Q15**
- No, I did not vote ➡ **Continue with Q12**

**12** Which of the following were reasons why you did not vote? (Mark all that apply)

- a. I did not think I was eligible to vote
- b. I did not know about the election
- c. I knew about the election, but was not interested in voting
- d. I was not familiar with the candidates or issues
- e. I had no candidate preference
- f. I did not think my vote would matter
- g. I did not know how to get an absentee ballot
- h. I did not know my state of legal residence for voting
- i. My absentee ballot arrived too late
- j. My absentee ballot did not arrive at all
- k. The requirement for notarization of election materials was too difficult
- l. I was discouraged by the process of absentee voting
- m. I was concerned that voting might affect my Federal or State tax obligation
- n. Other reason (please specify)

**13** Of the reasons listed in question 12, write in the letter of the item (a-n) that was the most important reason that you did not vote. ....

**14** Even though you did not vote, did you request an absentee ballot for the November 7, 2000 election?

- Yes ➡ **Continue with Q15**
- No ➡ **Skip to Q25**

## ABSENTEE VOTING

**15** In what month did you request your absentee ballot?

- July or earlier
- August
- September
- October
- November
- Do not recall

**16** The Federal Post Card Application (Standard Form 76) is a request for registration and absentee ballot. Did you use the Federal Post Card Application to request your absentee ballot, or did you use another method?

- I used the Federal Post Card Application ➡ **Continue with Q17**
- I used another method ➡ **Skip to Q18**

**17** Where did you obtain your Federal Post Card Application? (Mark one box)

- Federal Voting Assistance Program
- Through military channels
- U.S. Embassy or Consulate
- Democrats or Republicans Abroad
- Other overseas organization or company
- Election Official
- Other (please specify)

- Do not recall

**18** After you requested your absentee ballot, did you receive notification from the local election official that your request had been received?

- Yes
- No
- Do not recall

**19** Did you receive the absentee ballot?

- Yes ➡ **Continue with Q20**
- No, I never received it ➡ **Skip to Q22**

**20** When did you receive your absentee ballot?

- July or earlier
- August
- September
- October
- November
- Do not recall

**21** When did you complete and return your ballot?

- I did not return it
- July or earlier
- August
- September
- October
- November

**22** The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) (Standard Form 186), is a back-up ballot used if you were overseas and you did not receive your regular absentee ballot. Did you use the FWAB in the November 7, 2000 election?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q23**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q24**

**23** When did you complete and return the FWAB?

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> September    | } <b>All<br/>Skip<br/>to<br/>Q25</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> October      |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> November     |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't recall |                                      |

**24** What is the ONE MAIN REASON you did not use the FWAB? (**Mark only one.**)

- I did not know about the FWAB
- I knew about it, but could not get one
- I did not know how to use it
- I was not living outside the U.S. at the time
- Other (*please specify*)

### VOTING ASSISTANCE

**25** Unit Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) are designated individuals who provide accurate, non-partisan voting information and assistance to citizens who wish to vote. Did you receive voting information or assistance from your Unit VAO?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q26**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q29**

**26** Which of the following kinds of information or assistance did you receive from your Unit VAO? (**Mark all that apply**)

- Determining my eligibility to vote
- Understanding the absentee voting process
- Obtaining the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- Completing the FPCA
- Obtaining the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
- Assisting with the FWAB
- Finding information on candidates/issues
- Electronic transmission of election materials (faxing)

**27** Overall, how satisfied were you with the information you received from your Unit VAO?

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied                     | } <b>Skip<br/>to<br/>Q30</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat satisfied                 |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat dissatisfied              | } <b>Continue<br/>with Q28</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very dissatisfied                  |                                |

**28** Why were you dissatisfied with the information?

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(If you answered question 28) ➔ **Skip to Q30**

**29** Which of the following reasons explain why you did not receive voting information or assistance from your Unit VAO? (**Mark all that apply**)

- I did not know I could get information or assistance from the Unit VAO
- I did not have a Unit VAO
- I did not know who my Unit VAO was
- I did not know how to contact my Unit VAO
- My Unit VAO was not available when I needed assistance
- My Unit VAO was not helpful when I needed assistance
- My Unit VAO did not have the materials/information I needed
- I did not need any voting information or assistance

**30** The Federal Voting Assistance Program web site, [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov), provides voting-related information and resources. During the year 2000, did you use this web site?

- Yes ➡ **Continue with Q31**
- No ➡ **Skip to Q34**

**31** About how many times did you use the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site during the year 2000?

- One
- Two to four
- Five to ten
- Eleven or more

**32** Overall, how satisfied were you with the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site?

- Very satisfied
  - Somewhat satisfied
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Somewhat dissatisfied
  - Very dissatisfied
- } **Skip to Q35**
- } **Continue with Q33**

**33** Why were you dissatisfied with the web site?

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*(If you answered question 33) ➡ Skip to Q35*

**34** Which of the following reasons explain why you did not use the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site during the year 2000? (Mark all that apply.)

- I did not know about it
- I did not have Internet access
- I knew about it, but did not know the web site address
- I got all the information I needed from other sources
- I did not think it would be useful
- Other *(please specify)*

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**35** The Department of Defense 2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide provides state-by-state information to enable citizens to register and vote absentee. Did you refer to the Voting Assistance Guide for information about registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot?

- Yes ➡ **Continue with Q36**
- No ➡ **Skip to Q40**

**36** How did you access the Voting Assistance Guide?

- VAO
- Internet
- Other

**37** What kind of information were you looking for in the Voting Assistance Guide?

- How to apply to register and vote absentee
- Dates of elections and deadlines
- How to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for your state
- Mailing address for FPCA or ballot
- How to transmit the FPCA or voted ballot by fax
- How to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- Web site addresses
- Where to go for help
- Other *(please specify)*

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**38** Overall, how would you rate the Voting Assistance Guide as a reference on absentee voting procedures?

- Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
- } **Skip to Q41**
- } **Continue with Q39**

**39** Why did you rate the Voting Assistance Guide as fair or poor?

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*(If you answered question 39) ➡ Skip to Q41*

**40** What is the main reason you did not use the Voting Assistance Guide? (Mark only one.)

- I did not know about it
- I knew about it, but could not get a copy
- I got all the information I needed from other sources
- Other (please specify)

**41** The Department of Defense Voting Information Center is an automated telephone system that provides citizens with information about candidates. During the year 2000, did you use the Voting Information Center?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q42**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q45**

**42** About how many times did you use the Voting Information Center during the year 2000?

- One
- Two to four
- Five to ten
- Eleven or more

**43** Overall, how satisfied were you with the Voting Information Center?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Skip to Q46

Continue with Q44

**44** Why were you dissatisfied with the Voting Information Center?

(If you answered question 44) ➔ **Skip to Q46**

**45** Which of the following reasons explain why you did not use the Voting Information Center during the year 2000? (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
- I got all the information I needed from other sources
- I did not think that it would be useful
- It was not available in my country
- I could not get through
- Other (please specify)

**46** The Federal Voting Assistance Program provides a toll-free telephone service that allows a caller to talk with Federal Voting Assistance Program staff for voting information or assistance. Did you use this service to talk with a staff member in the year 2000?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q47**
- No ➔ **Skip to Q49**

**47** Overall, how satisfied were you with the assistance you received when you called the toll-free number?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Skip to Q50

Continue with Q48

**48** Why were you dissatisfied with the assistance?

(If you answered question 48) ➔ **Skip to Q50**

**49** Which of the following 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
- I got all the information I needed from other sources
- I did not think it would be useful
- It is not available in my country of residence
- Other (please specify)

## OTHER SOURCES OF VOTING INFORMATION

**50** Overall, how satisfied were you with the voting information you received from the following sources, for the year 2000 elections? (For each source, mark **ONLY ONE** answer.)

	Very Satisfied 1	Somewhat Satisfied 2	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 3	Somewhat Dissatisfied 4	Very Dissatisfied 5	Did not use	Not Available to Me
a. U.S. Embassy or consulate .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Other Federal agency/agencies .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Political organizations .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other private organization or company .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. State or local election official .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**51** How useful was each of the following sources of voting information for the year 2000 elections? (For each source, mark **ONLY ONE** answer.)

	Very Useful 1	Somewhat Useful 2	Neutral 3	Not Very Useful 4	Not Useful At All 5	Did Not Use	Not Available to Me
a. The <u>Voting Information News</u> (VIN) newsletters .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Voting News Releases .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. "Your Voice, Your Choice: VOTE!" or "Eye Chart" motivational posters .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The Voting Information Election Calendar poster .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. <u>Communicating With Your Elected Officials</u> pamphlet ..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. HOW TO DO IT! Vote Absentee pamphlet .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The FVAP Web Site Training .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. "Y2Vote" public service ad campaign .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Voting Workshop .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**52** How useful was each of the following sources of information for the year 2000 elections? (For each source, mark **ONLY ONE** answer.)

	Very Useful 1	Somewhat Useful 2	Neutral 3	Not Very Useful 4	Not Useful At All 5	Did Not Use	Not Available To Me
a. Base or unit newspaper .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Military magazines .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Armed Forces Radio/TV .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. <i>Army, Navy, Air Force, or Federal Times</i> .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. <i>Stars and Stripes</i> .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. U.S. civilian newspapers, magazines, radio, TV .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Foreign newspapers, magazines, radio, TV .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Family/Friends .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. The Internet .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION MATERIALS**

- 53** Do you have access to any of the following?
- |                                   | Yes                      | No                       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Fax machine .....              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Electronic mail (e-mail) ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. The Internet .....             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. CD Rom .....                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**54** Some states allow you to fax election materials such as your absentee ballot request or the completed ballot itself. In the year 2000, did you fax any election materials?

- Yes ➔ **Continue with Q55**  
 No ➔ **Skip to Q57**

**55** Did you fax any of the following election materials? (Mark all that apply)

- Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- Non-FPCA request for absentee ballot
- Ballot
- Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
- Other (*please specify*)

**56** How easy was it to fax the election materials?

- Very easy
- Somewhat easy
- Somewhat difficult
- Very difficult

**1998 ELECTION**

**57** Did you vote in the November 1998 General Election?

- Yes, I voted in person in 1998
- Yes, I voted by absentee ballot in 1998
- No, I did not vote in 1998
- No, I was not eligible to vote in 1998

**58** Do you have any comments about this survey or voting in general?

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**Thank you for participating in this survey.  
Please return your completed survey in the enclosed envelope.**