



Voting Information News

December 2001 ☞ Vol. 11, 12

*A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.*

Special Edition

For New Voting Assistance Officers

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Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

- ✓ Place a copy of this newsletter in your Voting Continuity Folder to assist your successor.
- ✓ Make sure that you have included the July 2001 *VIN* in the Voting Continuity Folder. This issue is available at www.fvap.ncr.gov. This issue explains each of the resources and services available to VAOs.
- ✓ Would you like to make a change to your address, the number of *VIN*s you receive, or how you receive (electronic or by mail) the *VIN*? E-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov with any changes.

For New Voting Assistance Officers: A Basic Introduction

The 2002 election year is about to begin and you have just been assigned as a new Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). This newsletter is designed to help you become familiar with the voting assistance program and to get you started with your duties as a VAO.

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* covers the voting rights of all eligible citizens who are members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, or merchant marine, their eligible family members and American citizens residing outside the U.S. As the VAO, you are assigned to assist these citizens when they are attempting exercise their right to vote. This includes assisting with absentee voter registration and voting procedures. Your job also includes disseminating accurate, nonpartisan information and conducting training workshops and program orientations for the citizens that you have been assigned to help (including eligible family members). In addition, if you are a member of the military, commissioned or noncommissioned officers, and are designated as a VAO, you are authorized in accordance with the provisions of DoD directive 1000.4 to administer oaths in connection with registration and voting.

To fulfill your obligations as a VAO, you first need to familiarize yourself with the absentee voting process. Once of the best ways to do this is to visit the FVAP's website at www.fvap.ncr.gov. This site provides a wealth of information, including a VAO training workshop presentation, which highlights your responsibilities and the resources available to you. There you

will find many of the FVAP's publications. These include the current and back-issues of this newsletter (*VIN*), archived News Releases, answers to frequently asked voting questions, and the on-line version of the *Voting Assistance Guide*. Reviewing these materials will help you gain a better understanding of the absentee voting process. They are written in an easy to follow format and provide useful, timely information. The site also contains links to Federal government agencies, Congress, various U.S. citizens' overseas organizations, Secretaries of State/Directors of Elections, state and local government organizations and other pertinent sites containing election information.

After you have familiarized yourself with the resources available, the next step is to determine what materials you have or need. The two most important materials are the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the *Guide*.

The FPCA is the standard form that is accepted by the states and territories to request registration and an absentee ballot. In order for eligible citizens to participate in the absentee voting process, he or she must complete the FPCA and then submit it to the proper election official.

The *Guide* is a compendium of state specific instructions for completing and submitting the FPCA. Each state/territory section outlines the pertinent information to help a citizen register and cast an absentee ballot in their state and shows you where to mail the FPCA. ☑

2002 State Primary Elections

This chart lists the 2002 primary election dates in all the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate and Governor races, and the number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election. The General Election is Tuesday, November 5, 2002. See page 4 for more information. ☑

State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	Officials to be Nominated for the General Elections		
			Federal		State
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 4	June 25	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 27	-	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	September 10	-	-	8	Yes
Arkansas	May 21	June 11	Yes	4	Yes
California	March 5	November 5	-	53	Yes
Colorado	August 13	-	Yes	7	Yes
Connecticut	September 10	-	-	5	Yes
Delaware	September 7	-	Yes	1	-
District of Columbia	September 10	-	Yes	1 Delegate	(Mayor)
Florida	September 10	-	-	25	Yes
Georgia	July 16	August 6	Yes	13	Yes
Guam	September 7	-	-	1 Delegate	-
Hawaii	September 21	-	-	2	Yes
Idaho	May 28	-	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	March 19	-	Yes	19	Yes
Indiana	May 7	-	-	9	-
Iowa	June 4	-	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 6	-	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 28	-	Yes	6	-
Louisiana	November 5 (Congressional)	December 7 (Congressional)	Yes	7	-
Maine	June 11	-	Yes	2	Yes
Maryland	September 10	-	-	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 17	-	Yes (1)	10	Yes
Michigan	August 6	-	Yes	15	Yes
Minnesota	September 10	-	Yes	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 4	June 25	Yes	4	-
Missouri	August 6	-	Yes	9	-
Montana	June 4	-	Yes	1	-
Nebraska	May 14	-	Yes	3	Yes
Nevada	September 3	-	-	3	Yes
New Hampshire	September 10	-	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 4	-	Yes	13	-
New Mexico	June 4	-	Yes	3	Yes
New York	September 10	-	Yes	29	Yes
North Carolina	May 7	June 4	Yes	13	-
North Dakota	June 11	-	-	1	-
Ohio	May 7	-	-	18	Yes
Oklahoma	August 27	September 17	Yes	5	Yes
Oregon	May 21	-	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 21	-	-	21	Yes
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island	September 10	-	Yes	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 11	June 25	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 4	June 18	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 1	-	Yes	9	Yes
Texas	March 12	April 9	Yes	32	Yes
Utah	June 25	-	-	3	-
Vermont	September 10	-	-	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 14	-	(VI Legislature)	1	Yes
Virginia	June 11	-	Yes	11	-
Washington	September 17	-	-	9	-
West Virginia	May 14	-	-	3	-
Wisconsin	September 10	-	-	8	Yes
Wyoming	August 20	-	Yes	1	Yes

Note: This election information is current as of December 2001. Contact your Voting Assistance Officer or check the FVAP Website at www.fvap.ncr.gov for updates.

For New VAOs: A “To Do” Checklist

- ✓ Before you begin assisting others to fill out the FPCA, walk through the process a couple of times. Fill out an FPCA for yourself, using your state’s pages in the *Guide*. Now read through the procedures of several other states being mindful of the differences between states (deadlines, notaries, specific procedures).
- ✓ Read through the other sections of the Guide. Find your Service Voting Action Officer’s (SVAO) contact information in the introduction. Your SVAO is your primary link to voting programs. Chapters 1 and 2 provide further instructions on your duties as a VAO.
- ✓ Read through back issues of the *Voting Information Newsletter (VIN)*. The **July 2001** *VIN* explains each of the resources and services available to a VAO. The **September 2001** *VIN* explains procurement procedures for each branch and the State Department. These issues and many more are available under “Publications” at www.fvap.ncr.gov.
- ✓ Take inventory of your supplies. Ensure that you have a 2002-2003

Voting Assistance Guide, voting posters, Federal Post Card Applications (4 for each person you are responsible for providing assistance, including eligible family members), and FWABs (1 per person).

- ✓ Get the word out! Display motivational voting posters (see page 4) and election calendars to remind people about voting and upcoming elections. Be sure to include your name and contact information. All personnel need to receive yearly instruction and have access to absentee voting activities, including training sessions, registration drives, distribution of voting materials, and providing support to citizens with absentee voting questions. Post the *VIN* on bulletin boards and forward copies by email to those you serve to ensure they are informed.
- ✓ The election cycle starts in March. Be prepared to assist citizens meet the earliest registration deadlines.
- ✓ Get ready to open your doors to voters! ☑



*“My anchor is democracy –
and more democracy.”*
-Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Voting Action Officers

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Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
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fax: (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543; **E-mail:** Sophia.Barnard@afpc.randolph.af.mil

Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
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All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

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VOTING INFORMATION
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TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

We're on the Web!
www.fvap.ncr.gov

Vote!

New Election Materials Released

The FVAP has been busy preparing new materials for the 2002 elections. As mentioned in the November VIN, distribution for the 2002-2003 *Voting Assistance Guide* began last month. November's VIN also previewed the new motivational poster. The new poster is a full color poster, available in two sizes to accommodate display space limitations. To help promote voting participation, VAOs should display the posters in places where they will be seen.

In addition to the motivational poster, the FVAP has again put together a full color poster size 2002 Election Calendar (see page 2). The Election Calendar lists the state primary elections in all the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate and Governor races; and the number of U.S. representative

seats up for re-election for each state. In addition, there is also a section on the bottom of each poster for the VAO to write contact information for citizens who require further information or assistance. Voter participation is crucial in every election.

All election materials are available through your normal supply distribution channels. Refer to the September 2001 issue of VIN, available at www.fvap.ncr.gov if you have questions regarding the procurement process. Please allow sufficient time for delivery. If further information or assistance is needed and cannot be obtained locally, please contact your Service Voting Action officer (contact information is listed on page 3) or visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.ncr.gov.

About Our Organization...

Voting Information News provides information for citizens, Voting Assistance Officers and local election officials, and is published monthly by the FVAP.

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