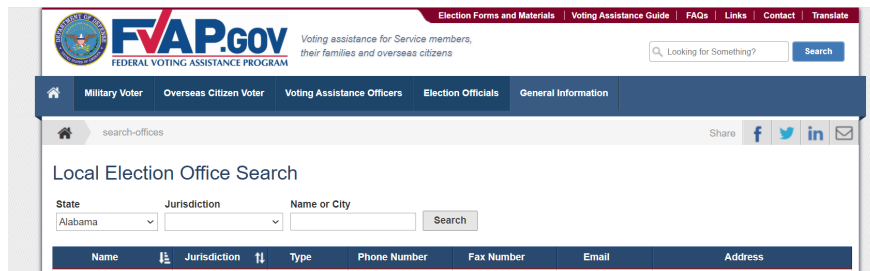




ELECTION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION REVIEW / UPDATE

As Election Day approaches, we are asking for your assistance in verifying the contact information listed for your office on FVAP.gov: <https://www.fvap.gov/search-offices>. We appreciate your help in keeping us up-to-date with contact changes. If any information has changed -- please reach out to us with the necessary edits at vote@fvap.gov.



WELCOMING FVAP'S NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DAN BENTLEY

Dan is FVAP's new Deputy Director and will be responsible for ensuring the continuity of policies and plans. He will also work to assure the widest possible dissemination of information to eligible overseas uniformed voters, their dependents, and US citizens living abroad.

As Dan steps into his new role, we are confident that he will be a valuable addition to the FVAP team. Dan brings a wealth of experience to FVAP, having spent the past thirteen years at the U.S. Postal Service. His most recent role was as the Manager of Policy and Strategy for Election and Government Mail Services. In this capacity, he worked closely with cross-functional workstream executives to develop and implement government mail policies and election cycle action plans. His leadership of a team of policy specialists ensured that election officials received valuable mailing information, positioning the Postal Service as a key partner in the nation's electoral process.

Dan has called Maryland home for 35 years. He and his wife are recent grandparents for the third time. As new empty nesters, they enjoy spending time traveling with family and friends. Dan earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Eastern Connecticut University in Willimantic, Connecticut.

EASE GRANTS

FVAP is pleased to announce it has awarded additional grant money to state and local election offices supporting military members, their families, and U.S. citizens overseas. The Effective Absentee Systems for Elections (EASE) grants have the goal of increasing the percentage of ballots successfully returned by voters covered by the FVAP administered Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

FVAP awarded more than 9.5 million dollars in grant funding directly to 14 states and localities administering elections to reduce failure rates for UOCAVA voters and establish and maintain a pipeline of ideas, techniques, and best practices for election officials nationwide as they serve these voters. The grantees will use the funds to establish and operate successful, sustainable, and affordable electronic tools to improve the electronic transmission of outbound (blank) ballots sent from election offices to voters, track outbound mailed ballots, and encourage the use of digital signature verification like the Department of Defense Common Access Card on election documents.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

FVAP works closely with state and local election officials to improve the absentee voting process and experience for citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). As states consider changes in this year's legislative sessions, please keep the impact on UOCAVA citizens in mind. A couple reminders: UOCAVA voters are exempt from requirements to provide photo ID; their last address in the U.S. remains valid for voting purposes; shortening ballot return windows may decrease on-time UOCAVA ballot returns; and adding additional information requirements to the FPCA may place an undue hardship on voters, especially those, at sea, remote areas, and forward operating bases. If you are involved in these decisions or making legislative recommendations, please contact FVAP with any general questions or feedback.

ESB RELEASE

FVAP's latest research note uses 2022 transactional data to assess the absentee voting process for military and overseas citizen voters. The results of this study show the importance of UOCAVA protections. These safeguards allow voters to successfully complete the voting process by leveraging the 45-day period prior to a federal election for receiving an absentee ballot and options for electronically requesting or receiving absentee ballots. For the 2022 General Election, 13 states and four jurisdictions reported transactional data, which accounted for about 41.5 percent of the total UOCAVA population in the U.S.

2020 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Section B (ESB) Data Standard Research Note Highlights for participating jurisdictions:

- UOCAVA voters using the FPCA to request absentee ballots had a higher return rate than those requesting ballots with state applications.
- For ballots requested in 2022, blank ballots transmitted electronically were returned at higher rates than those transmitted by mail, especially when the ballot was requested very close to Election Day. However, blank ballots transmitted to ADM by mail were returned at higher rates than those transmitted electronically. For overseas citizen voters blank ballots transmitted electronically had slightly higher return rates than those transmitted by mail.
- UOCAVA voters returned their ballots in 2022 later than in 2020, close to the timeline observed in the 2018 General Elections. 2020 had the earliest ballot return timeframe.
- UOCAVA ballot return rates were higher for ballots requested during the election year, and that ballots requested before the 45-day deadline had lower rejection rates than those requested closer to Election Day.
- Uniformed Services relied more on electronic ballot requests compared to overseas citizens for the last four general elections (i.e., 2016 to 2022). However, overseas citizens increased their use of electronic means to request a ballot for the 2022 General Election, following the trend started in 2020.

Since 2015, FVAP has been working with The Council of State Governments' Overseas Voting Initiative (OVI) to develop, and have states utilize, a standardized format that captures transactional-level data about military and overseas voters. The OVI and FVAP are working to expand ESB collection coverage to additional states and jurisdictions in anticipation of the 2024 General Election.

To review the Executive Summary: <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/2022-esb-executive-summary-final.pdf>

To review the full technical research report: <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/2022-esb-research-note-final.pdf>