



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Separating from Active Duty Voter Assistance

FACT SHEET

Wherever U.S. citizens go, FVAP ensures their voice is heard.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.

★ Still on Active Duty?

While on active duty, you are covered by The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; commonly referred to as UOCAVA. UOCAVA citizens are active members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, their family members and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. This Act provides the legal basis for absentee voting requirements for these citizens.

★ Moving Abroad After Separation?

If you will be moving abroad after separating from the military, you will remain a UOCAVA voter. You should submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) with your updated mailing address and new classification selection. The FPCA can be found at FVAP.gov. Your voting residence address in the U.S. will remain the same.

Separating from Active Duty?

Don't let your vote get lost in transition! Notify your local election official of your change in status and that you will be voting locally in future elections. Steps can be found on the back of this sheet.

Local election official contact information can be found at FVAP.gov. Once you have alerted your election official, you should complete a National Voter Registration Form to register as a civilian in your new voting jurisdiction.



National Voter Registration Form >>>

The National Mail Voter Registration Form can be used to register U.S. citizens to vote, to update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address or to register with a political party. You must follow the state-specific instructions listed for your state. They begin on page 3 of the form and are listed alphabetically by state. After filling out this form, you must sign your name where indicated and send it to your state or local election office for processing. Be sure you mail it in an envelope with the proper amount of postage.



★ Notify Your Local Election Official

As you transition back to civilian life, you will no longer be covered by the UOCAVA. You and your voting-age family members should notify your local election official of your change in voter registration status and update your information to vote locally. You may do this in either one or two easy steps:

If you have voted absentee or locally and are staying in the same voting residence after separation:

Step 1: Notify your election official of your change in status and that you will be voting at the poll site in future elections. FVAP.gov provides a sample letter for your convenience.



If you voted absentee or locally at the polls and are moving to a new State or county after separation:

Step 1: Notify your election official of your change in status and that you will no longer be voting in that jurisdiction. FVAP.gov provides a sample letter for your convenience.



Step 2: Complete a National Voter Registration Form to register as a civilian.



*Additional information about registering to vote locally can be found on the State-specific election websites available at FVAP.gov/links.

Need Assistance?

Your Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) can help! Your Unit VAO can help you fill in and mail your voting materials if you need the assistance. You can find contact information for your Installation Voter Assistance Office at:

www.fvap.gov/info/contact

CONTACT FVAP

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Phone: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) | DSN: 425-1584 | Email: vote@fvap.gov
Go to FVAP.gov and click on “contact” to find where to send your election materials. Media inquiries: media@fvap.gov
[Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and [Twitter @FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP)