UOCAVA Resources in 2018

July 15, 2018
NASED
This morning I’ll cover…

- Quick background on FVAP/UOCAVA
- How FVAP supports the states by communicating key absentee information
- Federal Stakeholder engagement
- Research vehicle
The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, or UOCAVA, allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office.

- **HAVA 2002** required states to notify voters the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request.
- **MOVE Act 2009** required states to make voter registration and absentee ballot applications available electronically. Additionally required ballots to be sent out 45 days prior to an election.

FVAP administers UOCAVA on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.
Voting Assistance Officer workshops began in January

✓ Covering both military installations in the U.S. and overseas

✓ Covering U.S. Embassies and Consulates in areas with many Americans

✓ Myths about military and overseas ballots are still widely circulated

Our research in 2016 highlighted that 4 in 10 first-time military voters sought help from a VAO or IVAO
Information Saturation

- Key State Deadlines
- Report the news on acceptable modes of delivery
- Supplement efforts for innovative technology pilots
- Monthly distribution of upcoming elections to all active duty personnel
Federal Stakeholder Engagement
Recent developments in Wisconsin New York

• Wisconsin and New York recognizing UOCAVA status for overseas citizens with an intent to return (temporarily)

• FVAP providing policy support and communications assistance

• Consideration of state waiver requests to the 45 day mailing requirement
As a Research Vehicle

- FPCA policy brief
  - Questions regarding classifications
    - Never Resided
    - Activated National Guard
  - Questions about state requirements versus requirements for federal election eligibility

- Overseas Citizen Survey Results
  - Ballot Requests – 67% email and websites
  - Ballot Return – 71% traditional mail
  - Voting rate for Overseas Citizens – 6.9% in 2016
  - Full results and report due Fall 2018
Overseas Voters: Interacting with Technology

**Ballot Request**
- Mail: 40.51%
- Email: 15.22%
- Website: 15.83%
- Fax: 27.35%
- Unsure: 0.76%

**Ballot Receipt**
- 0.12%
- 6.75%
- 7.35%
- 31.09%
- 54.42%

**Ballot Return**
- Mail: 71.24%
- Email: 15.16%
- Website: 4.94%
- Fax: 2.06%
- Unsure: 6.41%
# Eligible Overseas Voter Participation Rates by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and Pacific</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near East</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Central Asia</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hemisphere</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Active Duty % Likelihood of Ballot Return (2016)

Source: FVAP/Council of State Governments Data Standardization for UOCAVA
Overseas Citizens: % Ballot Return on Time

Source: FVAP/Council of State Governments Data Standardization for UOCAVA

![Graph showing the predicted % of ballots returned on time compared to the number of days before election ballot transmitted. The graph compares Electronic and Mail methods.]
The Way Forward

- Better Data = Better Customer Service
- Overseas Voting Initiative 2.0
- Deeper examination on usability and impact of UOCAVA technology (i.e., email vs. web interface, electronic signature)
- Research on increasing speed of postal service for overseas citizens
Thank You!

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