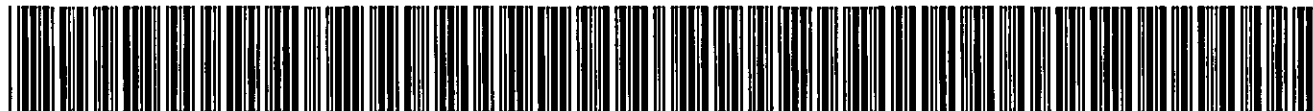


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A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Help the FVAP help you

Why Should Overseas Citizens Register with their Embassy or Consulate?

One of the answers is because the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) conducts a post-election survey during the week of November 5, 1996 and the statistically random survey sample is derived from Embassy and Consulate registration rolls. Your chances of receiving a survey instrument from the FVAP depend on your having registered with your Embassy or Consulate. This means you may receive a survey instrument and, by completing the form, the FVAP will have a better understanding of your experience in voting or attempting to vote this election year.

It is easy to register with an Embassy or Consulate

Registration with your local Embassy/Consulate usually takes little time; some Embassy/Consulate personnel will mail you a registration form usually by placing a phone call. Registering with your Embassy/Consulate should help the FVAP ensure a broader spectrum of overseas U.S. citizens receive a survey instrument. In addition, it ensures the accuracy of the registration rolls. This means you can comment on your experience in voting this election year.

Is registering with an Embassy/Consulate the same as completing an FPCA?

No, registration with an Embassy/Consulate is not to be confused with registering to vote absentee. Registration with an Embassy/Consulate usually entails providing the Embassy/Consulate with your name and local in-country address and phone number. This information is then added to the Embassy/Consulate's registration rolls.

On the other hand, registration to vote absentee requires completion of a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and submission to your county or city of voting residence in the U.S. as per the guidelines of the 1996-97 *Voting Assistance Guide*.

Why should I complete a Post-Election Survey Instrument?

The survey results are used by the FVAP to report to the President and Congress on overseas citizen participation in the 1996 election year. The FVAP also analyses the results to determine how they can better serve you in voting absentee.

For example, the Voting Information Center was provided to citizens based on the survey results reflecting citizens needed more information on elections, candidates and issues. The *Voting Information News* newsletter exists due to the survey results reflecting

that citizens needed a regular monthly voting publication to ensure timely voting information and continuity of voting information were received throughout the world.

In addition, the FVAP, in working with state and local governments, uses the survey results to encourage these officials and state legislators to change election laws to make it easier for you to vote. The FVAP has accomplished significant legislative reforms with the states and the territories in this regard. For example, previous survey results reflected that the notary requirement was a barrier to voting for many overseas citizens. The FVAP worked with the states to remove this barrier and today only 8 states and territories have some notarial requirements. Also, the FVAP uses the survey results in testifying before Congress on your behalf to help make sure you are not disenfranchised and can participate in your democratic process. So help the FVAP help you! Register with your Embassy/Consulate today and increase your opportunity of participation in the 1996 Post-Election Survey.

Ensure adequate supplies now

The FWAB Can Save Your Vote!

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186) plays a critical role in ensuring your vote counts in the November 5 election. As a result, Embassy/Consulate and military Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) as well as VAOs in organizations of overseas citizens should ensure they distribute one FWAB to each voter they assist.

How can the FWAB help my vote count?

The FWAB is pre-positioned overseas for citizens to use if they determine that their regular ballot will not be received in time for them to vote the regular ballot and return it to the state by the general election deadline. While some states have expanded use of the FWAB, in most cases, you must meet all three of the following conditions before using the FWAB:

1. the ballot must be submitted from outside the U.S. or have a foreign mailing address or APO/FPO postmark;
2. the application from the overseas voter for a regular state absentee ballot must be received by the local election official at least 30 days before the general election; and
3. the voted FWAB must be received by the local election official by the state deadline for receipt of the regular state absentee ballot.

The FWAB is only valid when all the above conditions apply and the regular ballot has not been received. (see FWAB, pg. 2)

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Ombudsman Service

The following numbers for Ombudsman assistance may be dialed directly from the individual countries to reach the FVAP. No cost is incurred by the caller. They should be dialed exactly as they appear here, without affixing prefixes or international calls.

If you cannot resolve your concern locally, it's good to know the FVAP is just a phone call away!

Toll-free in the U.S. 1-800-438-8683
Antigua 1-800-326-0220

 Australia 0014-800-128509
Bahamas 180-995-09-20
Bahrain 800-621
Barbados 800-534-2104
Belgium 078-111-455
Bermuda 800-623-0077
Brazil 000-800-926-5585

Canada 800-995-0920
Chile 00-020-3071

Colombia 980-12-0896

Costa Rica 001-800-892-5446

Denmark 800-10-169

Dominican Rep. 800-751-7131

Finland 9800-156-284

France 059-00-156

Germany 013-081-9277

Greece 008-001-22-586

Hong Kong 800-6984

Hungary 00-800-11-158

Ireland 1-800-557-083

Israel 177-102-4012

Italy 1-678-72-444

Indonesia 00-800-1-923-3685

Japan 0031-11-2429

Liechtenstein 1-155-4514

Luxembourg 0-800-2499

Malaysia 800-2170

Mexico 95-800-010-1438

Monaco 0-59-00-156

Netherlands 06-022-2499

Neth. Antilles 001-800-753-0767

New Zealand 0-800-44-0799

Norway 800-12093

Panama 0083-28027-4197

Philippines 1-800-116-0009

Portugal 0501-8-13-035

San Marino 1-678-72-444

Singapore 800-1300-210

South Korea 0078-14-800-0203

Spain 900-93-1108

Sweden 020-793-503

Switzerland 155-4514

Taiwan 0080-10-3153

Thailand 001-800-1-1-923-6685

Trinidad & Tobago 1-800-934-7340

United Kingdom 0-800-895-7403

Uruguay 000-411-923-7985

Vatican City 1678-72-4444

(FWAB, from pg. 1)

Why does the '95 version of the FWAB have an *Addendum* portion?

The revised 1995 FWAB ballot portion includes an *Addendum* because some states now allow the FWAB to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than the general election, or for offices other than federal offices. Since its adoption in 1988, Iowa, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia have expanded its use. Established state-by-state guidelines for use of the FWAB are outlined in Chapter 3 of the 1996/97 *Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)*.

Also, states, on an *ad hoc* basis, may allow expanded use of the FWAB when unique circumstances exist that may require use of this ballot to help ensure a person may vote. Should a state expand the use of the FWAB, VAOs and eligible citizens will be notified by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) through voting news releases, electronic voting messages and the Voting Information Center (VIC). The DoD VIC may be accessed by calling Commercial (703) 693-6500 or DSN 223-6500.

Where can a voter obtain a FWAB?

The FWAB is available through normal military and Department of State distribution channels. Information on how to obtain the FWAB, and other materials, may be obtained from Service Voting Action Officers (SVAOs) in the Armed Forces and through the Department of State VAO. Organizations of overseas citizens not affiliated with the Federal government and overseas corporations that employ U.S. citizens also maintain a stock of the FWAB. Overseas citizens may also obtain their stock of the FWAB by contacting the FVAP directly. All contact numbers can be found on the bottom of pages 2 and 3.

Should a voter also vote the regular ballot?

Citizens using the FWAB should always vote the regular ballot from the state regardless of when the citizen receives it, because there are cases where the Federal Voting Assistance Program may take legal action with a state and require late counting of ballots from overseas citizens. Of course, local election officials (LEOs) will count only one ballot per voter, whichever meets the state deadline for receipt of ballots. If both ballots arrive by the state deadline, LEOs will discard the FWAB and count the regular ballot only.

Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs)

"To Do" this Month

- [] Ensure adequate quantities of the FWAB (SF 186) one for each voter you assist. Submit your order now through your normal distribution channels to allow for sufficient delivery time.
- [] If you are overseas, plan for Overseas Citizens Voters Week (June 30 to July 6). Ensure the support of the U.S. Ambassador/Embassy staff, local U.S. corporations, and other U.S. citizen groups personnel in your voter outreach efforts.
- [] Request a copy of the VAO Training tape if you were unable to attend any of the on-site workshops or video teleconferences sponsored by the FVAP. Copies of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for the 1996 *Get-Out-The-Vote* Campaign are also available, through normal distribution channels.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting Information News provides information for voters and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the staff of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

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Phone

(703) 695-0663
(800) 438-8683
DSN 225-0663

Voting Information Center

(703) 693-6500
DSN 223-6500



Fax

(703) 693-5507
DSN 223-5507

E-mail

fvap@fvo.osd.mil

Submit your FPCA at least 60 days before the election

Primary Calendar: June to September

A total of four Presidential and 39 State primaries remain between June and the general election on November 5, 1996. Primaries are used by the parties to nominate the candidates that will appear on the ballot in the November 5 general election. It is important to participate in the entire process. For example, in Louisiana, if any candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, that candidate is declared the winner and that office is not voted upon in the general election. Those who participate in the primaries ultimately decide who will take the oath of office in January.

Always consult the 1996-97 *Voting Assistance Guide* when requesting registration and/or a ballot for primary elections. Laws relating to the conduct of elections vary from state to state and the *Guide* is your best reference for insuring proper processing of your request. For instance, in most states you must declare your party affiliation in order to receive a ballot for the primary election while in others, party affiliation is secret. Check the *Guide* for details!

Presidential Primary Calendar	
State	Date
AL	JUN 4
MT	JUN 4
NJ	JUN 4
NM	JUN 4

State Primary Calendar	
State	Date
AL	JUN 4
AK	AUG 27
AZ	SEP 10
CO	AUG 13
CT	SEP 10
DE	SEP 7
DC	SEP 10
FL	SEP 3
GA	JUL 16
GU	SEP 7
HI	SEP 21
IA	JUN 4
KS	AUG 6
LA	SEP 21
ME	JUN 11
MA	SEP 17
MI	AUG 6
MN	SEP 10
MO	AUG 6
MT	JUN 4
NV	SEP 3

State Primary Calendar	
State	Date
NH	SEP 10
NJ	JUN 4
NM	JUN 4
NY	SEP 10
ND	JUN 11
OK	AUG 27
PA	APR 23
RI	SEP 10
SC	JUN 11
SD	JUN 4
TN	AUG 1
UT	JUN 25
VT	SEP 10
VI	SEP 10
VA	JUN 11
WA	SEP 17
WI	SEP 10
WY	AUG 20

State Department: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Ms. Ruth Boettcher tel: (202) 647-9100 (FTS) 8-647-9100, fax: (202) 647-6201

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell tel:(703) 325-4530 (DSN) 221-4530, fax: (703) 325-4532, fax DSN: 221-4532

Dept. of the Navy: Ms. Thelma Jones tel:(703) 614-3248; (DSN) 224-3248, fax: (703) 693-6471

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance tel:(210) 652-4369 (DSN) 487-4369, fax: (210) 652-5982, fax DSN: 487-5982

Marine Corps GySgt Elijah Kinton tel:(703) 696-2026 (DSN) 426-2026, fax: (703) 696-2068, fax DSN: 426-2068
ELMS [GMHP03:HQIHQMC]; Internet:kinton_jre@mqg-smtp3.usmc.mil; E-mail kinton@mhp@hqmc

U.S. Coast Guard: CDR John Murray tel:(202) 267-2248 or PO Adonis Belt (202) 267-2239, fax: (202) 267-4600

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

'96 Tentative On-Site Workshops



The following is a tentative list of remaining On-Site Workshops for Voting Assistance Officers at Embassies/Consulates and military installations worldwide. The workshops are geared at familiarizing

VAOs with their duties and resources as VAOs. Questions about these workshops which cannot be answered locally should be addressed to the FVAP (see numbers on page 2).

Date & Time	Location
JUN 18	US Emb- Toronto, Canada & US citizen organizations
JUN 21	US Con- Montreal, Canada
JUN 30-JUL 6	Overseas Citizens Voters Week
JUL 1- 5	US Embs- Paris & London & US citizen organizations
JUL 19-24	US Mission- Geneva & US citizen orgs. in Lugano
JUL 25&26	US Emb- Prague (Czech Rep.) & US Emb- Budapest & US citizen organizations
AUG 25-31	Armed Forces Voters Week Registration Drives

Video training for VAOs

Training Tape Now Available

If you were unable to attend any of the on-site workshops or the video teleconferences this year, the 1996 Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) Orientation training video tape is currently available through military and Department of State distribution channels. There are two versions of the tape: one directed to VAOs in the Armed Forces and the other version directed at civilian Voting Assistance Officers in U.S. Embassies/Consulates, organizations of overseas civilian citizens and overseas corporations that employ U.S. citizens. It addresses many specific questions that may arise in performing VAO responsibilities.

The tape addresses item-by-item completion of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and

provides an overview of the top ten resources available from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to assist VAOs. It also explains the DoD Voting Information Center and the Electronic Transmission Service for transmitting (faxing) of election materials. Contact information on the Service and Department of State Voting Action Officers is also provided.

Distribution of the training tape has been made to military installations, Embassies and Consulates worldwide, overseas civilian organizations and overseas corporations that employ U.S. citizens. If you have any questions regarding receipt of the tape contact your Service Voting Action Officer (see pg. 3 for a list of telephone numbers).



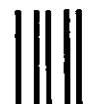
June 30 to July 6, 1996

Reminder: Overseas Citizens Voters Week!

In the May issue of *Voting Information News (VIN)* we featured suggested guidelines for a successful Overseas Citizens Voters Week (OCVW). Remember: the objective of OCVW is to create awareness and motivation to participate in the November 5 general election. During this week, Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) at Embassies/Consulates and overseas citizen organizations and corporations should make a concerted effort to promote worldwide participation in the electoral process by U.S. citizens. Activities during this week should emphasize the importance of requesting registration and a ballot in sufficient time to receive, vote and return the ballot in time to meet the state deadline for receipt of ballots for the November 5 general election. Participation in the remaining Fall primaries should be encouraged as well (see *Calendars* on pages 3).

For further details, consult the May issue of *VIN* or contact the FVAP on the numbers on page 2 of this newsletter.

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Washington, D.C. 20301-1155



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