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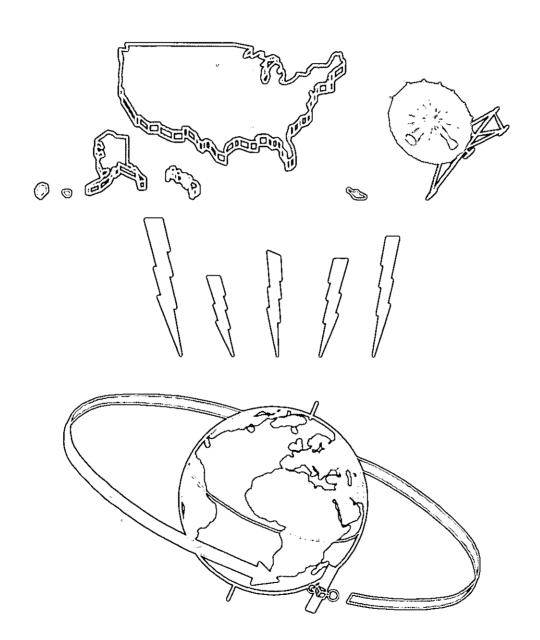
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Electronic Transmission of Election Materials Manual for Local Election Officials



Federal Voting Assistance Program

We wish to acknowledge the advice and assistance received from Secretaries of State, Directors of Elections, their staffs, and the local election officials.

Questions or comments concerning any aspect of this manual may be directed to:

Director
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Room 1B457
Washington, DC 20301-1155
Telephone: 1-800-438-8683 or 703-695-0663
Fax: 703-693-5507
E-Mail Address fvap@fvo.osd.mil

The Federal Voting Assistance Program

Electronic Transmission of Election Materials

Manual for Local Election Officials

This Manual has been prepared by
The Federal Voting Assistance Program
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC

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Electronic Transmission of Election Materials

A. THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION SERVICE

This service enables local election officials to transmit to, and receive election materials from, military and overseas voters through the electronic transmission system provided by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). Local election officials may use the service at no cost in order to serve military personnel & U.S. Citizens overseas covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

B. WHEN TO USE THIS ALTERNATIVE

A local election official or the voter should use this service any time he/she believes the regular absentee ballot cannot be received, voted and returned by mail in time to be counted, providing the materials sent or received are not prohibited by State law. Some State or local procedures require the regular absentee ballot be sent by mail as a backup measure, and many State and local laws do not permit the return of voted ballots to election officials by fax. It is important that the local election officials understand the policy in their State. If local election officials are not certain whether their State law allows the use of this service for a particular item, they should refer to their State's section in Chapter Three of the Voting Assistance Guide, contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program or their State Election Office.

Using this fax alternative, local election officials may, depending on State and local policy:

Receive: • A general information request

• Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) / registration and ballot request

• State Registration materials

A voted ballot

Send: • Request for additional information to enable voter to vote

(i.e., an incomplete FPCA is received)

• Responses to voter request for information

• Other election materials necessary for the voting process

• Blank ballots to the voter

C. HOW IT WORKS

Election officials send election materials to military and overseas voters via the FVAP electronic transmission service's toll-free number. This system transmits the materials directly to the voter. Military and overseas voters may use the same number to send election materials to their local election official. The FVAP service transmits materials in a read-only mode just as they are received, regardless of completion, legibility or accuracy.

This manual describes the procedures for preparing election materials for transmission by fax.

Numbers to use when sending a Fax:

703-693-5527

1-800-368-8683

DSN 223-5527

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FAX NUMBER(S) INDICATED BY THE VOTER.

The use of these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent.

Number to call for technical assistance:

800-966-8683

Number to call with questions concerning

policy for use of the system:

800-438-8683

703-695-0663 DSN 225-0663

The Federal Voting Assistance Program

Office of the Secretary of Defense

The Pentagon, Room 1B457 Washington, DC 20301-1155

Fax Number 703-693-5507

E-Mail Address [fvap@fvo.osd.mil]

How to Fax Election Materials

A. HOW TO FAX A BALLOT

When faxing an absentee ballot, the following materials should be sent in the order listed. Instructions for preparing these materials are provided in this chapter.

- Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet
- ② Voting Instructions to the Voter
- 3 Ballot Pages

Numbers to use when sending a Fax:

703-693-5527

1-800-368-8683

DSN 223-5527

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FAX NUMBER(S) INDICATED BY THE VOTER.

The use of these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent.

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① Preparing the Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet for Ballots

The Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet is always the first item in a packet and serves as the cover sheet. Appendix C of this manual is the Official Transmission Sheet. It should be reproduced as needed for transmissions.

When a ballot is faxed, the Transmission Sheet must be completed as follows:

- a. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and as completely as possible. Check "Ballot" in the contents area.
- b. Show the voter's fax number and full address <u>and</u> Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the fax number is not available, the voter's full address <u>and</u> Social Security Number must be shown for the ballot to be properly routed.
- c. Be sure to include the number of pages being transmitted so the receiver will know when the transmission is complete.
- d. Type or print in dark ink all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

② Preparing Voting Instructions to the Voter

The second item in a faxed absentee ballot packet are the instructions for voting the absentee ballot. It is important that the instructions are concise and clear so that the procedures will be followed correctly and the voting will go smoothly. A sample page format for organizing the instructions is provided on page 7 of this chapter. The format provides space for the instructions to include:

- How to vote the ballot
- How to return the ballot, where to send it, and by when it must be received
- The secrecy waiver to be signed if the ballot is returned by fax (see box on page 6)

Paper Ballots

If paper ballots are used for absentee voting they can be adapted for the fax ballot. The fax voting instructions should describe how to identify races and mark candidate and issue choices in the same way a regular in-person voter marks their ballot or a mail-in absentee voter marks the absentee ballot. Previously prepared ballot marking directions for mail-in absentee voters may be useful for this adaptation.

Mechanical Lever Machine Ballots

If the actual lever machine ballot is used for absentee voting, the races must be described for identification as well as how the absentee voters should mark the faxed ballot to indicate a vote. If other methods of voting such as paper ballots, punch card ballots, or optical scan ballots are used for absentee voting, provide fax ballots for that method of voting and include instructions for that type of ballot marking.

Optical Scan Paper Ballot

If optical scan paper ballots are used for fax ballots, the instructions must be prepared for marking the optical scan ballot which has been faxed with the ballot selections. Tell the voter how to identify the different races and how to indicate which candidate(s) and issues he or she wishes to select. The fax ballot may be marked in the same way it is marked for use with the scanning ballot counter. However, if the ballot is sent/received by fax, it cannot be counted by the ballot scanner and must be counted by hand, or used to make a replacement ballot that can be read by the scanner.

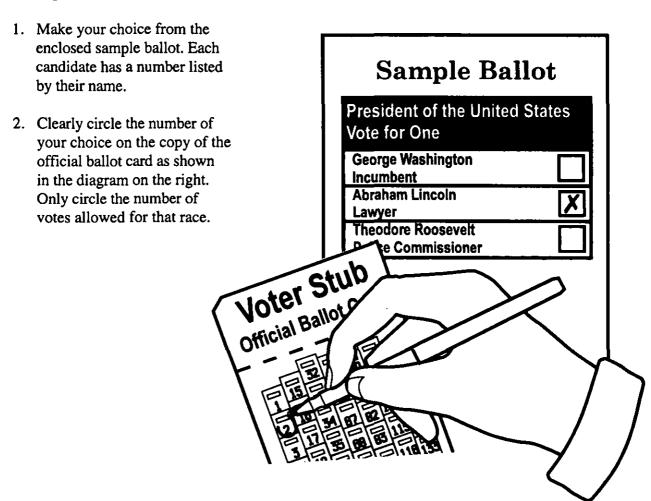
Direct Recording Electronic System Ballots

If a paper ballot is being created from a Direct Recording Electronic System ballot, instruct the voters how to identify the races and how to mark an "X", or other indicator, beside their choice for candidate or issue. If another system is being used, such as optical scan or punch card ballots for absentee voting, the instructions for voting that type of ballot should be sent.

Prescored Punch Card Ballots

If the faxed absentee ballot is adapted from a punch card with booklet, first describe how to identify a race to vote. Then clearly tell how to determine the number of votes that are valid for each race. Next describe how to mark the voted choice on the ballot. A diagram of a marked sample ballot, such as the sample illustrations shown below, may be included.

Example:



Mechanically Punched Punch Card Ballots

If the faxed absentee ballot is based on a punch card with the choices presented on a card, first instruct voters how to identify the races. Then provide the instructions to vote by marking an "X" in the square to the left (or right, depending on the ballot) of the name of the candidate(s) or the issue. To write in the name of a candidate who is not listed on the ballot instruct voters to use the blank line appearing under the list of named candidates for the office. Write the candidate's name on the line, and mark an "X" in the square by the candidate's name.

Example:.

UNITED STATES SENATOR	(Vote for One)
R. Smith	
J. Doe	
B. Jones	٥



SECRECY WAIVER

The wording for the secrecy waiver appearing on the instruction sheet may vary from state to state. Be sure to check the wording of the secrecy waiver against the state's law or administrative instructions.

SAMPLE INSTRUCTION SHEET

Attached is your absentee ballot which is available by fax only to military personnel and overseas citizens.

HOW TO VOTE YOUR BALLOT

(Insert instructions for your type of ballot in this part of the instruction form) Follow the above procedure for each candidate for whom you wish to vote. Vote for only one candidate in each office.

DO NOT mark the ballot except as instructed: such marks may void the entire ballot.

HOW TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT

To be counted, your ballot must be received in the office of the (your locality name) Board of Elections before (time) on (date).

Fax only to one of these numbers: 1-800-368-8683, 703-695-0663, or DSN 223-5527

Your ballot must be mailed as well as faxed. If both arrive in time for the election, only the mailed ballot will be counted.

Voters may obtain the security envelope and ballot transmittal envelope from the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (SF-186), which are available from your Voting Action Officer (VAO) at military installations, embassies, or consulates. Detach the envelope from the rest of the form and place the voted ballot in the security envelope and immediately mail it back to this election office.

If a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot is not available, use two (2) plain envelopes and mark one as the "security envelope". Place your faxed ballot in the security envelope, and seal. Place this envelope inside the second envelope. Print your residence address, sign your name and date the envelope across the sealed envelope flap. Address the envelope to:

Your Locality name

Your Locality address

(The following section is not to be included in the instructions if a voted ballot is not allowed to be returned by fax.)

The following statement MUST be signed if returning a ballot by fax (see box on page 6):

age o).	
I hereby voluntarily waive my right to a	secret ballot if necessary to have my vote counted."
Signed	Date
Return this sheet signed and dated	d with your ballot.

SAMPLE INSTRUCTION SHEET

3 Preparing Ballot Pages

Before a ballot can be faxed, it must be prepared properly for fax transmission. This section provides instructions for preparing each different ballot type for fax transmission. In jurisdictions where it is applicable and allowed, replacement ballots can be made by the Board of Elections from the faxed ballot. These ballots can then be counted in the same manner as regular absentee ballots.

Paper Ballots

Follow the steps listed below to prepare paper ballots for fax transmission:

- 1. Make a photocopy of the original ballot and use the copy to cut and paste.
- 2. Cut and paste the ballot if necessary so it fits on one or more 8 ½" by 11" pieces of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 3. If the paper ballot is smaller than 8 ½" by 11", copy it onto 8 ½" by 11" paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides. This will ensure a smooth feed through the fax machine reader mechanism.
- 4. If the ballot is a long or an otherwise oversized ballot and/or it is printed on both sides of the paper, make a copy of each ballot page and cut and paste the ballot onto one or more 8 ½" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 5. Do not change the order of the races or split a race among two or more pieces of paper.
- 6. If the ballot is two-sided and is 8 ½" by 11", do not try to fax the actual ballot. It will not be possible to turn the ballot over and fax the second side before the fax machine ends the transmission. Make a copy of the second side so it can be transmitted in sequence.

Example Ballot (shown reduced):

FOR	CIAL BALLOT THE GENERAL ELECTION EMBER 5, 1996
	RUCTIONS TO THE VOTER to the candidate of your choice.
For G	iovernor (Vote for One) William A. (Bill) Allain Billy M. Davis Evelyn Candy Lonnie C. Johnson Mike P. Sturdivant
For U	nited States Senator (Vote for one) Troy Majure, Jr. Jim Buck Ross Vivian J.D. Tillman
For U	inited States House of Representatives, District One (Vote for One) Elizabeth Verterano Nick DeRosa Thomas P. Costa Eugene DeCarpo

Mechanical Lever Machine Ballots

Systems in this category include:

- AVM
- Shoup Mechanical Lever Machine

Refer to the ballot preparation section for the system normally used for absentee voting. If paper ballots are used, refer to the section on paper ballots. If optical scan is used, refer to the section on optical scan. For punch cards, refer to the section for the type of punch card used.

Optical Scan Paper Ballots

Systems in this category include: • AIS

Accu-Vote ES-2000

BRC Optech

• Airmac

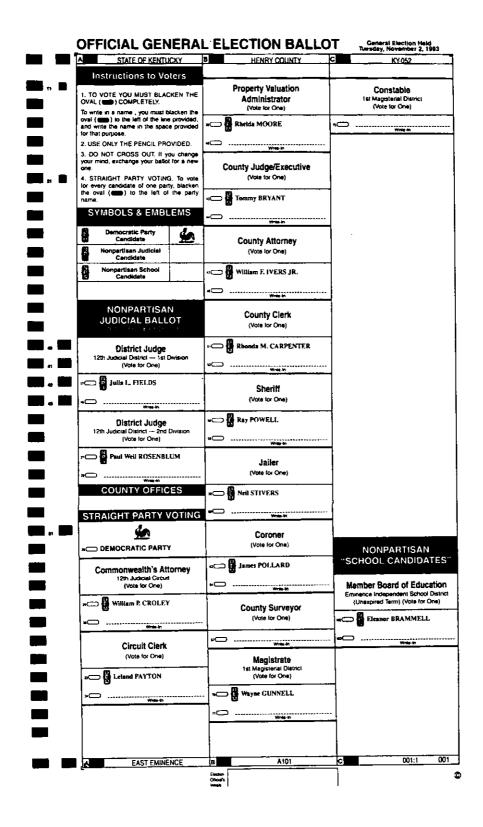
Follow the steps listed below to prepare optical scan paper ballots for fax transmission:

- 1. Make a photocopy of the original ballot and use the copy to cut and paste.
- 2. If necessary, cut and paste the ballot so it fits on one or more 8 1/2" by 11" pieces of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 3. If the paper ballot is smaller than 8 ½" by 11", copy it onto 8 ½" by 11" paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides. This will ensure a smooth feed through the fax machine reader mechanism.
- 4. If the ballot is a long or otherwise oversized ballot and/or it is printed on both sides of the paper, make a copy of each ballot page and cut and paste the ballot onto one or more 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 5. Do not change the order of the races. Do not split a race among two or more pieces of paper. For ballots with two or more columns, a column may be placed on a separate page as shown in the example below.
- 6. If the ballot is two-sided and is 8 1/2" by 11", do not try to fax the actual ballot. It will not be possible to turn the ballot over and fax the second side before the fax machine ends the transmission. Make a copy of the second side of the ballot so it can be transmitted in sequence.

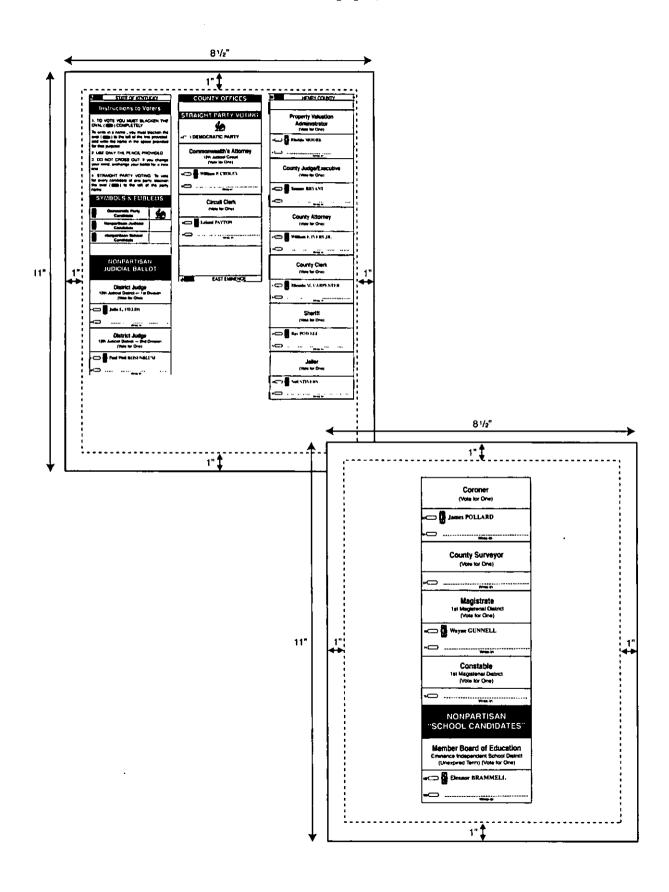
See example on following pages:

Example of Optical Scan Paper Ballot

Original Ballot (larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches)



Example (cut and pasted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper)



Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems

Systems in this category include: • Shouptronic

MicroVote

Sequoia Pacific

If another method of voting for absentee voters is normally used, refer to the ballot preparation instructions for that system. If paper ballots are used, refer to the section on paper ballots. If optical scan ballots are used, refer to the section on optical scan. If punch cards for absentee voting are used, refer to the section on punch card ballots for the type of punch card used.

Otherwise, a paper ballot can be made from the DRE ballots. Follow the steps listed below to prepare paper ballots for fax transmission from DRE ballots:

- 1. Make a photocopy of the original ballot and use the copy to cut and paste.
- 2 If necessary, cut and paste the ballot so it fits on one or more 8 1/2" by 11" pieces of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 3 If the paper ballot is smaller than 8 1/2" by 11", copy it onto 8 1/2" by 11" paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides. This will ensure a smooth feed through the fax machine reader mechanism.
- 4 If the ballot is a long or otherwise oversized ballot and/or it is printed on both sides on the paper, make a copy of each ballot page and cut and paste the ballot onto one or more 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 5 Do not change the order of the races or split a race among two or more pieces of paper.
- 6 A place must be provided for the voter to indicate his/her choice. Place a box or blank beside each voting position, and instruct the voter on how to indicate his/her choice. In the example below, boxes have been added to the original ballot. The voter will indicate a vote by placing an "X" in the box beside the candidate of his/her choice. If the ballot includes write-ins, a line should also be added for write-ins to the original ballot.

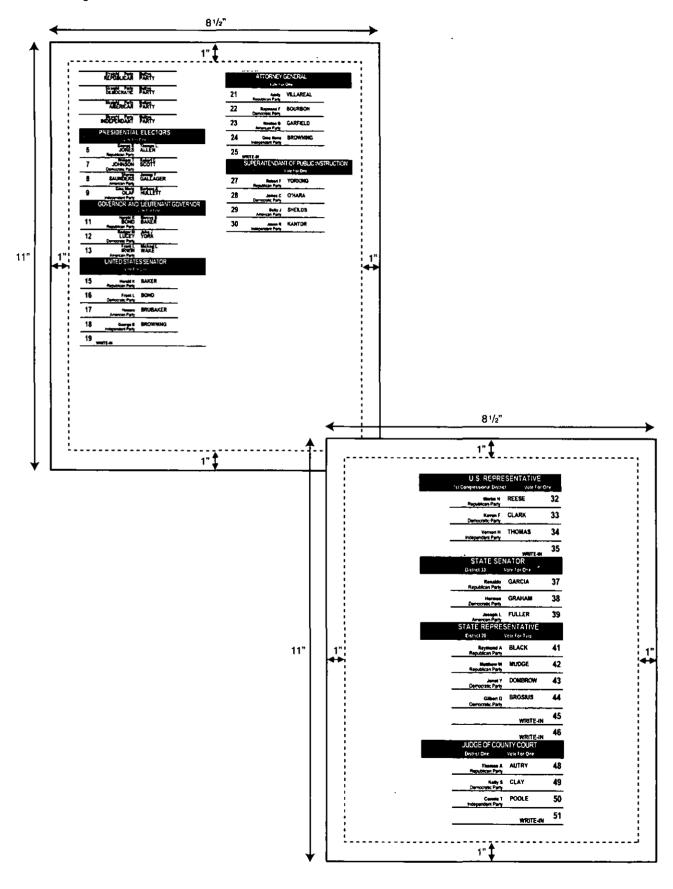
See example on following pages:

Example of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) System

Original Ballot (larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches)

Stratist Party Stratist Party Stratist Party Stratist Party Stratist Party AMERICAN PARTY Mosers F CLARK 33 Democrate Party Warner H THOMAS 34 Independent Party Will For One G. George B Monaga L Republican Party JOHNSON SCOTT JOHNSON SCOTT SAMUNDERSON STATE SENATOR Domocrate Party Warner H THOMAS 37 Party Monaga L STATE SENATOR Domocrate Party Warner B GARCIA 37 Republican Party GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR To JOHNSON SON B Barbara A Joseph L FULLER 39 GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO JOHNSON SON B BARBAR Republican Party UNITED STATES SENATOR Value P Vond A March Party UNITED STATES SENATOR Value P Vond A March Party UNITED STATES SENATOR The Handle K BAKER Republican Party Honors BRUBAKER American Party Honors Party Honors BRUBAKER American Party Honors BRUBAKER American Party Honors BRUBAKER American Party WRITE-IN ANTORNEY GENERAL Voll For One 21 Republican Party WRITE-IN ANTORNEY GENERAL Voll For One 22 Republican Party 23 Newdon G ARRIELD American Party Martin M Warner American Party Voll LAREAL Republican Party Voll LAREAL SIRGEN ALL WILLIAMS WRITE-IN WRITE-IN WRITE-IN WRITE-IN WRITE-IN STATE SENATOR WRITE-IN Jenegotican Party United D STATES SENATOR Voll For One WRITE-IN SIRGEN ALL WRITE-IN SIRGEN ALL WRITE-IN WRIT		Straight Party REPOBLICAN	Button PARTY	•			SENTATIVE	
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Vote For One 21 Amity Republican Party 22 Raymond F Democratic Party 23 Newton G American Party 24 Gins Maria Independent Party 25 WRITE-IN BROWNING BROWNING 27 Robert F VORKING Republican Party 28 James C Democratic Party 29 Betty J SHEILDS	19		CENEDAL				CLAY	49
Republican Party 22 Raymond F Democratic Party 23 Newton G GARFIELD American Party 24 Gina Maria Independent Party 25 WRITE-IN SUPERINTENDANT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Vote For One 27 Robert F Republican Party 28 James C Democratic Party 29 Betty J SHEILDS							POOLE	50
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29 Betty J SHEILOS -	27		YORKING		•			
29 Berty J SHEILDS -			O'HARA	_				
				_				
30 Jason R KANTOR Independent Party	28	Democratic Party	SHEILDS	- -		-		

Example (Ballot cut and placed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper)



Prescored Punch Card Ballots

Systems in this category include:

- BRC Punch Ballot Card (CES Votomatic)
- Fidler & Chambers

These systems use a booklet and the voter circles a number on the ballot card.

Follow the steps below to prepare prescored punch card ballots for fax transmission:

- 1. Make a photocopy of the original ballot and use the copy to cut and paste.
- 2. If necessary, cut and paste the ballot so it fits on one or more 8 ½" by 11" pieces of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 3. If the paper ballot is smaller than 8 1/2" by 11", copy it onto 8 1/2" by 11" paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides. This will ensure a smooth feed through the fax machine reader mechanism.
- 4. If the ballot is a long or otherwise oversized ballot, make a copy of each ballot page and cut and paste the ballot onto one or more 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 5. Also fit the booklet pages onto 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 6. Do not change the order of the races or split a race among two or more pieces of paper.

Mechanically Punched Punch Card Ballots

Systems in this category include:

DataVote

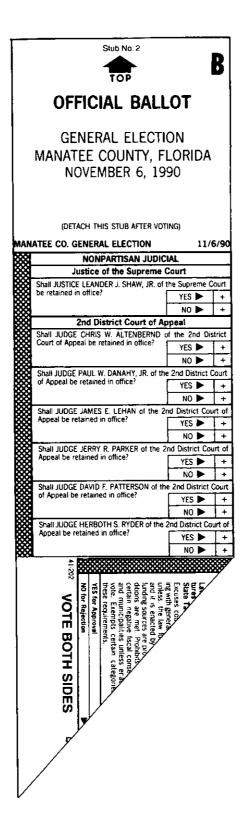
The ballot for this system is on the punch card.

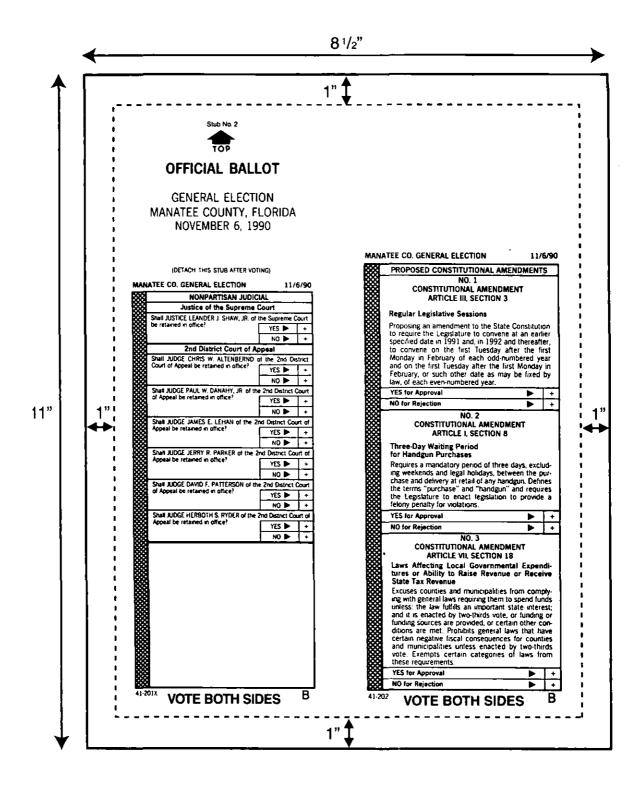
Follow the steps listed below to prepare mechanically punched punch card ballots for fax transmission:

- 1. If necessary, cut and paste the ballot so it fits on one or more 8 1/2" by 11" pieces of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 2. If the paper ballot is smaller than 8 ½" by 11", copy it onto 8 ½" by 11" paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides to ensure that it will feed smoothly through the fax machine reader mechanism.
- 3. If the ballot is a long or otherwise oversized ballot and/or it is printed on both sides on the paper, make a copy of each ballot page and cut and paste the ballot onto one or more 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides.
- 4. Do not change the order of the races. Do not split a race among two or more pieces of paper.

See example on following pages:

Example of Mechanically Punched Punch Card Ballot





B. HOW TO FAX OTHER ELECTION MATERIALS

When faxing election materials other than absentee ballots, the following materials must be sent in the order listed. Instructions for preparing these materials are provided on the pages shown.

- ① Official Election Material Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet
- ② Election materials for the voter

The materials being sent must fit on 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper leaving a one inch margin on all sides. If they do not, the materials must be cut and pasted on a 8 ½" by 11" sheet of paper.

Numbers to use when sending a Fax:

703-693-5527

1-800-368-8683 DSN 223-5527

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FAX NUMBER(S) INDICATED BY THE VOTER.

The use of these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent.

Number to call for technical assistance:

800-966-8683

Number to call with questions concerning

policy for use of the system:

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

The Federal Voting Assistance Program Office of the Secretary of Defense The Pentagon, Room 1B457

Washington, DC 20301-1155

Fax Number 703-693-5507

E-Mail Address [fvap@fvo.osd.mil]

① Preparing the Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet For Other **Election Materials**

The Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet is always the first item in a packet and serves as the cover sheet. Appendix C of this manual is the Official Transmission Sheet. It should be reproduced as needed for transmissions.

When other election materials are faxed, the Transmission Sheet must be completed as follows:

- a. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and completely. Check "Other Election Material" in the contents area, and briefly describe material being faxed in the space provided.
- b. Show the voter's fax number and full address and Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the fax number is not available, the voter's full address and Social Security Number must be given for the ballot to be properly routed.
- c. Be sure to include the number of pages being transmitted so the receiver will know when the transmission is complete.
- d. Type or print all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

C. HOW TO FAX A STORED BALLOT

When faxing a stored ballot, only the Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet must be sent. Chapter 5 explains how to store ballots.

Numbers to use when sending a Fax:

703-693-5527

1-800-368-8683

DSN 223-5527

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FAX NUMBER(S) INDICATED BY THE VOTER.

The use of these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent.

Number to call for technical assistance:

800-966-8683

Number to call with questions concerning

policy for use of the system:

800-438-8683 703-695-0663

DSN 225-0663

The Federal Voting Assistance Program

Office of the Secretary of Defense The Pentagon, Room 1B457

Washington, DC 20301-1155

Fax Number 703-693-5507

E-Mail Address [fvap@fvo.osd.mil]

① Preparing the Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet for Stored Ballots

The Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet is always the first item in a packet and serves as the cover sheet. Appendix C of this manual is the Official Transmission Sheet. It should be reproduced as needed for transmissions.

When a pre-stored ballot is faxed, the Transmission Sheet must be completed as follows:

- a. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and completely. Check "Send Stored Ballot" in the contents area and indicate the ballot number of the ballot being sent. The Election Official authorizing transmission must sign the sheet if required by state law in order for a ballot to be transmitted.
- b. Show the voter's fax number and full address and Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the fax number is not available, the voter's full address and Social Security Number must be included for the ballot to be properly routed.
- c. Be sure to include the number of pages being transmitted so the receiver will know when the transmission is complete.
- d. Type or print all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

Handling Election Materials Received by Fax

A. HANDLING CONSIDERATIONS

Each locality should establish a **policy** regarding the handling of election materials received by fax. Each State may have established its own set of guidelines for local election officials to follow. These procedures should ensure the maximum possible privacy of the voted ballot. Likewise, the access to the facsimile machine should be as limited as possible. Preferably, it should be located in the Election Administrator's office. A log should be maintained of all fax transmissions sent and received.

Immediately upon receipt of materials by fax, the transmission should be checked to be sure it is complete and of sufficient quality to determine the voter's intent. If it is not, call for technical assistance at 1-800-966-8683. Also the applications should be checked for acceptability. If information is missing or illegible, a return message should be faxed to the sender using 1-703-693-5527 or 1-800-368-8683 as soon as possible so that corrections may be made. If additional forms are required by the State, they should be included in the return message to the voter.

Local election officials should also be familiar with the policies of their State for the handling of fax materials. For example, States may have a set of administrative rules for fax balloting that covers facsimile machine access, handling of facsimile ballots, ballot transmission, receiving ballots, ballot log, elector affirmation, ballot acceptance, transcription of ballots, election judges and ballot secrecy.

B. RECEIVING FPCAS BY FAX

As the Federal Voting Assistance Program electronic transmission system receives Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) and general inquiries from military and overseas voters, the materials are forwarded directly to the proper locality. If the locality does not have a fax number on record with the FVAP system, the local election official will be contacted to arrange delivery of the election materials.

Should any difficulty be experienced, or if the number of pages indicated on the cover sheet were not received, the FVAP electronic transmission system technical number should be contacted immediately at 1-800-966-8683.

C. RECEIVING VOTED BALLOTS BY FAX

Voters receiving their blank absentee ballots by fax should return the voted ballot as described in the local election official's instructions sent with the blank ballot. If State and local law allows a voted ballot to be returned by fax, the voter should be told to return the ballot to 703-693-5527, 800-368-8683 or DSN (military) 223-5527 in the instructions provided with the ballot. The use of only these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent, THE LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT GIVE HIS/HER FAX NUMBER AS A RETURN NUMBER. When a voted ballot is faxed as well as mailed, and the mailed absentee ballot is received in sufficient time to be counted, the faxed ballot is not to be counted.

Preparing the Transmission (Cover) Sheet

The Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet is always the first item in a packet and serves as the cover sheet. Instructions for completing it are provided below and in the diagram on the next page. Appendix C of this manual is the Official Transmission Sheet. It should be reproduced as needed for transmissions.

A. HOW TO PREPARE THE TRANSMISSION SHEET FOR A BALLOT

- 1. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and completely. Check "Ballot" in the contents area.
- 2. Show the voter's fax number and full address and Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the voter's fax number is not provided, the voter's full address and Social Security Number must be shown for the ballot to be properly routed.
- 3. Type or print all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

B. HOW TO PREPARE THE TRANSMISSION SHEET FOR OTHER ELECTION **MATERIALS**

- 1. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and completely. Check "Other Election Material" in the contents area, and briefly describe material being faxed in the space provided.
- 2. Show the voter's fax number and full address and Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the voter's fax number is not provided, the voter's full address and Social Security Number must be shown for the ballot to be properly routed.
- 3. Type or print all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

C. HOW TO PREPARE THE TRANSMISSION SHEET FOR A STORED BALLOT

- 1. Complete the "To" and "From" sections legibly and completely. Check "Send Stored Ballot" in the contents area and indicate the ballot number of the ballot to be sent. The Election Official authorizing transmission must sign the sheet in order for a ballot to be transmitted.
- 2. Show the voter's fax number and full address and Social Security Number, in the "To" section. If the voter's fax number is not provided, the voter's full address and Social Security Number must be shown for the ballot to be properly routed.
- 3. Type or print all information so it is fully legible and easy to read.

See example on following pages.

Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet

Sample Transmission Sheet

Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet Transmittal (Cover) Sheet from the Local Election Official to the Absentee Voter
TO: Last Name PROVIDE COMPLETE
IF YOU HAVE A FAX NAME AND ADDRESS NAME AND ADDRESS NAME AND ADDRESS
NUMBER FOR THIS VOTER ENTER IT HERE. Voltage Number
Fax Number
Social Security Number Date of Birth - MOM/DID/YY
IMPORTANT: IF YOU DO A Address
NOT HAVE A FAX NUMBER FOR THIS City
VOTER, YOU MUST Unit/Ship Unit/Ship
SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBER Service (Circle One): Army Nevy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard Other
FULLY COMPLETE YOUR FROM: NFORWATION, INCLUDING TO State Sections State
CONTACT PERSON, Lest Name of Local Election Official PHONE NUMBER, AND ENTER BALLOT NUMBER PHONE NUMBER, AND
FAX NUMBER Telephone Number
Street Acidrasa
City Stade Zip Coode
Contents of Transmission (Check One): Ballot Stored Ballot, Number
ARE SENDING A BALLOT,
OTHER MATERIALS. Mumber of Pages being transmitted, trickuting the one
Fax ONLY to Cons: 700 7680-8683, or DSN 223-5527
NDICATE THE TOTAL Federal Voting Assistance Program Use Only - DO NOT Complete this Section
NUMBER OF PAGES SENT. Date ReceivedTime ReceivedTIME RECEIVEDTIME RECEIVEDTIME RECEIVED
Date Sent Time Bent Transaction Number Processed By

Stored Ballots

Stored ballots are an additional service provided by the Federal Voting Assistance Program Electronic Transmission Service. By storing the ballots (one of each ballot style) and instructions with the service, ballots can be faxed to voters by simply completing and faxing a cover sheet. This saves time which would normally be spent individually preparing and faxing ballots to voters, and is especially recommended when the ballot is several pages in length or if large quantities of ballots will be sent to voters by fax.

A. HOW TO STORE BALLOTS

To have ballots electronically stored, send by mail:

- ① One copy of each of the voter instructions for each type of ballot.
- ② One copy of each ballot being stored electronically. These ballots MUST be prepared in the proper format for faxing before being submitted to the FVAP electronic transmission system. (If assistance in preparing ballots is needed, please refer to Chapter 2 of this manual which describes how to prepare instructions and ballots, or call 1 (800) 966-8683 for technical assistance).
- 3 Number each ballot using a simple numbering system. Separate the ballots by party if necessary. Keep a list for referral to the ballot by number when faxing to the voter.
- 4 Include complete information including locality, address, phone, fax, and contact person should the FVAP need to contact the local election official.
- The name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) on the staff authorized to approve transmission of stored ballots.

A typical submission for ballot storage might include:

- Cover letter giving locality information and contact person
- Voter Instruction Sheet(s)
- Republican Primary Ballots 1996-P001
- Democratic Primary Ballots 1996-P002
- Non-Partisan Primary Ballots 1996-P003

Before mailing, please call 1-800-966-8683 so that the materials will be expected and the process expedited. Mail the package to:

> **Election Technology Company** P.O. Box 31525 Raleigh, NC 27622

B. TO FAX A STORED BALLOT TO A VOTER

When faxing a stored ballot only the Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet needs to be sent to the processing center at 1-800-368-8683. Be certain that the Ballot Number has been indicated and the voter information is completed, including Social Security Number, his/her fax number, and the signature of the authorizing election official approving the electronic transmission of the ballot.

Upon receipt of the transmission cover sheet, the processing center will attach the proper instructions to the corresponding ballot, log the transaction and transmit the entire packet of materials to the voter. Once the ballot has been transmitted, the local election official will receive confirmation including voter name, date and time ballot was sent, and the number of the ballot sent.

C. STORAGE OF BALLOTS

Stored ballots and instructions will be retained for 30 days following the election and then deleted from the system, unless otherwise specified in writing by the locality.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

QUESTION: I received an APO/FPO list during Operation Desert Shield. Do I still only fax to voters on that list?

That list was only used during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Any military ANSWER: person for whom sufficient information is supplied, may be faxed to, regardless of APO/FPO.

QUESTION: When can I fax?

ANSWER: The fax system accepts faxes 24-hours a day 7 days a week. Technical assistance is available 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST, and at extended hours during crucial periods.

QUESTION: What if my fax doesn't go through the first time?

ANSWER: All the pages must be re-faxed to the voter, being certain to include the Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet. Since there is more than one routing station for the fax to be received by, and people all around the world fax to this system, it is essential that any interrupted transmission be faxed again in its entirety. If difficulties are experienced in transmitting a fax, call 1-800-966-8683.

QUESTION: Do I have to make a separate transmission for each ballot?

ANSWER: Yes. For security purposes faxes sent cannot be altered. This means that several ballots sent in one transmission cannot be separated to be routed to different voters. This is why it is very important that each transmission be comprised of the completed Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet for the voter, the instructions, and the ballot, in that order. Election materials for the same destination, such as a husband and wife, may be sent together.

QUESTION: I have a special oath on the envelope, what should I do?

ANSWER: If there is any information, such as a special oath on the envelope, the oath should be copied and included in the fax transmission. The instructions should explain how this oath is to be signed and returned.

OUESTION: If I have the voter's fax number, why shouldn't I just fax it myself?

ANSWER: By using the 800 number there is no cost to the locality faxing the materials (no long distance phone charges). Additionally, the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Transmission Service should always be used for security and to ensure the integrity of the election process and to provide an audit trail if needed. It is important to the success of the program, which has taken the steps to make election material faxing possible, that controlled and accurate records on the use of faxing to enable military and overseas voters to vote be maintained.

If there are technical questions, such as how to prepare the ballot for faxing, or if difficulty is experienced in sending or receiving election materials, please call 1-800-966-8683 for technical assistance. All policy questions or legal questions, such as whether a voted ballot may be accepted by fax in the State, should be directed to the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program at 1-800-438-8683, (703) 695-0663, or DSN 225-0663.

Numbers to use when sending a Fax:

703-693-5527

1-800-368-8683 DSN 223-5527

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FAX NUMBER(S) INDICATED BY THE VOTER.

The use of these numbers protects the security of the materials transmitted and provides an audit trail for all documents. If a fax transmission is interrupted before completion, the entire package should be resent.

Number to call for technical assistance:

800-966-8683

Number to call with questions concerning

policy for use of the system:

800-438-8683 703-695-0663

DSN 225-0663

The Federal Voting Assistance Program Office of the Secretary of Defense The Pentagon, Room 1B457 Washington, DC 20301-1155

Fax Number 703-693-5507

E-Mail Address [fvap@fvo.osd.mil]

APPENDICES

Δ	DEFINITIONS
A A	DEFINITIONS

- B ABSENTEE BALLOT FACSIMILE LOG
- C TRANSMITTAL (COVER) SHEET

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS

APO/FPO - Essentially a military "zip-code", this portion of the address must be included on the transmission sheet to ensure delivery to the proper location.

Ballot ID Number - Used when storing ballots, the number used by local election officials to identify a ballot and its instructions that have been stored at the DoD Processing Center.

Ballot Pages - The 8½" by 11" page with a one inch margin format in which the ballot is faxed.

Ballot Transmittal Envelope - Envelope used for returning by mail, a voted ballot that is sent by fax. This envelope is provided with the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF 186) and is available from Voting Assistance Officers.

Contact Person - The election official in locality who is responsible for the participation in the electronic transmission program, and who may be contacted regarding the transmissions sent to, or received from, the locality.

Federal Voting Assistance Program Electronic Transmission Service - The processing and customer service center where transmissions are routed between absentee voters and state and local government officials.

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76) - Form used by military and overseas voters to register to vote and request a ballot.

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF 186) - Form available to military and overseas voters through their Voting Assistance Officers which allows them to cast their vote in federal elections. State laws differ in the extent of use for the FWAB. The envelopes which are part of the form may be used to return, by mail a ballot received by fax.

Other Election Materials - Materials to be transmitted to voters other than ballots, such as voter information, or requests for additional information when an application is incomplete.

Oversized Ballot - Any ballot larger than 8½" by 11" is considered oversize for this program and must be prepared in the proper format as described in Chapter 2.

Read-Only - Documents that may only be seen on a computer display but not altered in any way. All transmissions routed through the FVAP Electronic Transmission Service are handled in this manner.

Secrecy Waiver - Statement that must be signed by a voter who returns a voted ballot by fax. (See box on page 6.)

Security Envelope - Inner envelope that protects the secrecy of the ballot that is being returned by mail. The secrecy envelope from the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

Simple Numbering System - A simple scheme used to identify stored election materials. For example, a ballot might be identified as DEM-001 for a primary election, or 001 for a general election.

Split Races - A race whose candidates are split between two pages of a ballot when it is formatted for faxing. DO NOT ALLOW SPLIT RACES WHEN PREPARING BALLOTS FOR FAXING.

Stored Ballot - A ballot (or set of ballots) that is (are) marked with ID numbers and sent to the processing center prior to an election so that the absentee ballot does not have to be transmitted with each transmission cover sheet. See Chapter 5 for information and instructions on stored ballots.

Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission (Cover) Sheet - Cover sheet that must be used as the first page of any transmission sent to the voter. See Chapter 4 for information on preparing the cover sheet for various types of election materials.

Voter Instructions - Instruction sheet provided by the local election official that instruct the voter on how to vote and return the ballot. See Chapter 2, Section A.

APPENDIX B - ABSENTEE BALLOT FACSIMILE LOG

Name of Voter	MATERIALS DATE TIME TRANSMITTED			TRANSMISSION SUCCESSFUL			
		-					
				·			
·							

APPENDIX C:

OFFICIAL ELECTION MATERIALS

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION SHEET

Copies should be made of the transmission sheet for actual use.

Always be sure to have a few blank copies on hand, and do not write on the original.

Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet

Transmittal (Cover) Sheet from the Local Election Official to the Absentee Voter

TO:					
Last Name					
First Name Middle Name Middle Name					
Telephone Number					
Fax Number					
Social Security Number Date of Birth - MM/DD/YY					
Street Address					
City State or Country State or Country					
Unit/Ship					
Postal Code / APO/FPO					
Service (Circle One): Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard Other					
FROM: City/County Board of Elections State Last Name of Local Election Official Fax Number Street Address City State State State Street Address Street Address State State State State Stored Ballot (Number Stored Ballot					
Authorizing Signature (if required) Date					
Number of pages being transmitted, including this sheet Fax ONLY to one of these numbers: 703-693-5527, 1-800-368-8683, or DSN 223-5527					
Federal Voting Assistance Program Use Only - DO NOT Complete this Section					
Date Received Time Received					
Date Sent Time Sent					
Transaction Number Processed By					

Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet

Transmittal (Cover) Sheet from the Local Election Official to the Absentee Voter

TO.					
TO: Last Name					
First Name Middle Name					
Telephone Number					
Fax Number					
Social Security Number Date of Birth - MM/DD/YY					
Street Address					
City State or Country State or Country					
Unit/Ship					
Postal Code / APO/FPO					
Service (Circle One): Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard Other					
FROM: City/County Board of Elections State Last Name of Local Election Official Fax Number Fax Number Street Address City State Zip Code Contents of Transmission (Check Those Applicable): Other Election Materials (Specify)					
Authorizing Signature (if required) Date					
Number of pages being transmitted, including this sheet Fax ONLY to one of these numbers: 703-693-5527, 1-800-368-8683, or DSN 223-5527					
Federal Voting Assistance Program Use Only - DO NOT Complete this Section					
Date Received Time Received					
Date Sent Time Sent					
Transaction Number Processed By					

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