



SEPTEMBER 2017



FVAP'S 2016 REPORT TO CONGRESS

This summer we produced and published our [2016 Report to Congress](#). It includes findings from our post-election surveys and provides an assessment of activities supporting the 2016 elections.

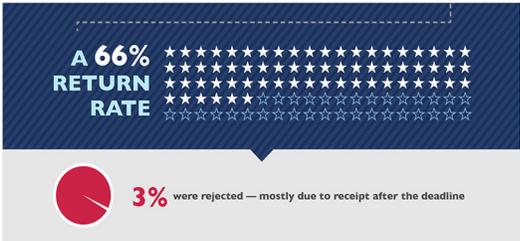
The report includes information on voter registration and participation rates among - - and voting assistance provided to - - voters covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*: active duty members of the Uniformed Services, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing abroad.

We've provided some highlights of U.S. military voter experiences in 2016 below, but if you'd like to read the entire report, please visit www.fvap.gov/info/reports-surveys/2016-post-election-report-to-congress. We will release research on the voting experiences of U.S. citizens residing abroad next year.

UOCAVA ABSENTEE VOTING BY THE NUMBERS

MORE MILITARY MEMBERS WHO REQUESTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT RECEIVED ONE

84% in 2016 vs 75% in 2012



MILITARY MEMBERS' ENAGEMENT IN THE ELECTION



Our job and the mission of FVAP is – at its core – to assist those voters who want to vote. That includes military members, their spouses and overseas citizens who want to vote and must do so absentee. Our surveys also measure voter interest and participation in the election. In 2016, we found that both had dropped among active duty military compared to the last presidential election in 2012.

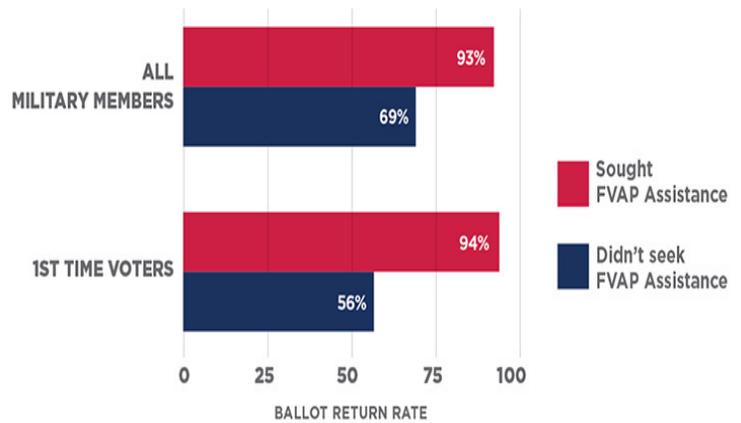
Of course, we know that fluctuation in voting rates is normal and typically correlated with interest in the election. From 2012 to 2016, reported interest in the election dropped from 77% to 69% while motivation-related reasons for not voting, such as saying "I did not want to vote," increased from 47% to 61%.

FVAP VOTING ASSISTANCE WORKS

As was true in 2012, about three quarters of voting Service members did so via absentee ballot. According to post-election data, our efforts to connect with military members increased awareness of FVAP among those who needed assistance to 60% during the 2016 election from 37% in 2014. And military members exposed to FVAP materials had higher knowledge of key voting information like key absentee voting dates, how to register and request a ballot, and how to submit an absentee ballot.

The report also shows that military members were significantly more likely to return their ballots if they used a DoD voting assistance resource – like FVAP.gov or FVAP’s call center and Voting Assistance Officers at military installations.

SERVICE MEMBERS WHO SOUGHT VOTING ASSISTANCE WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO RETURN THEIR BALLOT



We’re pleased to report these findings, which demonstrate the quality level of voting assistance we’re able to offer our Uniformed Services. We want to ensure all citizens covered by UOCAVA have the opportunity to vote – and that those who do want to participate know about the resources to help them do so successfully.

STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS

We also surveyed SEOs and learned that while the vast majority of SEOs were aware of FVAP’s website and State Affairs Specialists, some products and services would benefit from additional promotion: a fourth of SEOs reported they were not aware FVAP offered online training and a third were unaware of the address look-up service. We are currently updating the online training but we’ll let you know as soon as it’s ready for prime time!

We also learned that many States only ensure UOCAVA protections -- like the 45-day ballot transmission requirement and electronic blank ballot delivery -- through the use of the FPCA; however, Service members are increasingly using State and local registration forms. Military members who reported using an FPCA to request their absentee ballot dropped from 47% to 39% between 2012 and 2016. We’ll be working with you all to determine if State/local forms ensure full UOCAVA protections.

See more highlights and the full 2016 Post-Election Report to Congress at <https://www.fvap.gov/info/reports-surveys/2016-post-election-report-to-congress>.

HISTORY BEARS REPEATING



We have a few history buffs at FVAP so we got on board with the social media trend “Throw Back Thursday,” or #tbt. If you haven’t see them yet, visit our Facebook or Twitter pages on Thursdays for a brief dose of military and military voting history!