



# **Moving Ballots Out and Back**

**2008 General Election Briefing**

**for**

**Media Roundtable**

**October 9, 2008**



# FVAP Mission and Goals



## Mission:

- Inform and educate U.S. citizens of their right to vote
- Foster voting participation
- Protect the integrity of and enhance the electoral process

## Goals:

- Encourage all *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* citizens to participate in primary and general elections
- Ensure that everyone who wants to vote has the opportunity to vote and have his/her vote counted



**FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.

[For Voting Assistance Officers](#) | [For Election Officials](#)

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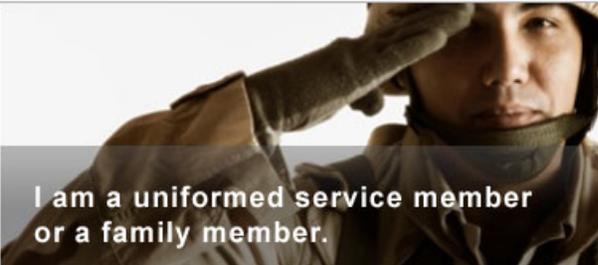
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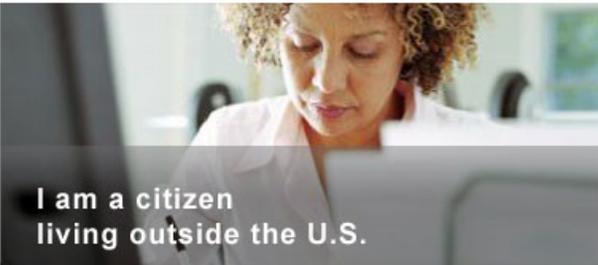
## To Vote Absentee, Start By Telling Us Who You Are



I am a uniformed service member or a family member.

For active-duty members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their family members.

Get Started



I am a citizen living outside the U.S.

For United States citizens who are living outside the U.S. for work, school or other reasons.

Get Started

If neither of these choices apply to you, please visit [www.canivote.org](http://www.canivote.org)

Election Countdown

26 Days

**News**

[\(More News\)](#)

**October 3, 2008**  
[Pennsylvania News](#)

**October 1, 2008**  
[Arizona News](#)

**September 30, 2008**  
[Louisiana News](#)

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**Quick Links**

[Use Our New Automated Tool to Register/Request a Ballot](#)

[Get the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request Form](#)

[Get the Back-up Ballot \(Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot\)](#)

[Find out where to send my Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request and absentee ballot](#)

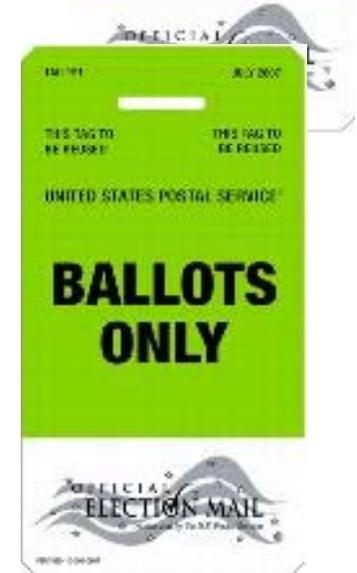
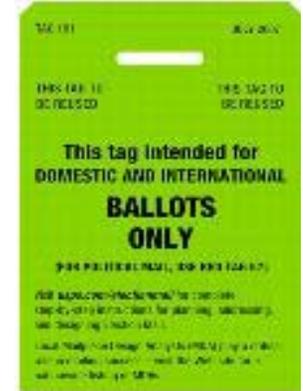
[Tips to Get Your Vote Counted](#)



# Expedited Mail Delivery



- **Absentee Voting Week, October 12-18, 2008:**
  - Comprehensive voting awareness and assistance programs (including DoD-wide email) encouraging voters to:
    - Vote and return state ballot as soon as possible
    - Use Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot if requested state ballot has not arrived
- **USPS expediting to Military Postal Gateways**
- **Military Postal Service Agency**
  - Ballots receive top priority and special treatment
  - First on, first off military mail transport
  - Tracking total numbers of outbound and returned ballots
- **Express Mail for Returning Ballots – Oct 29 - Nov 4**
- **Department of State, as in past election years, publicizing mailing deadlines and special arrangements with courier services**
- **Ensuring state ballots mailed in a timely manner**
- **Visit to Southwest Asia by State Chief Election Officials**





# Electronic Alternatives



- **Arizona – voted ballot returned via secure state server**
- **Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia recent changes**
- **FVAP Website Voter Registration/Ballot Delivery Feature:**
  - **Over 15,000 user accounts created to access automated version of state specific registration/ballot request producing a pdf for voter to sign**
  - **425 Jurisdictions from 11 states utilizing options to receive request and/or provide blank ballot package to voter via a secure server**
- **States and Territories allowing:**
  - **FPCA by fax – 51**
  - **FPCA by email – 23**
  - **Blank ballot by fax – 38 (up from 23 states in 2000)**
  - **Blank ballot by email – 21**
  - **Voted ballot by fax – 26 (up from 17 states in 2000)**
  - **Voted ballot by email – 11**



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# **Back-Up Slides**

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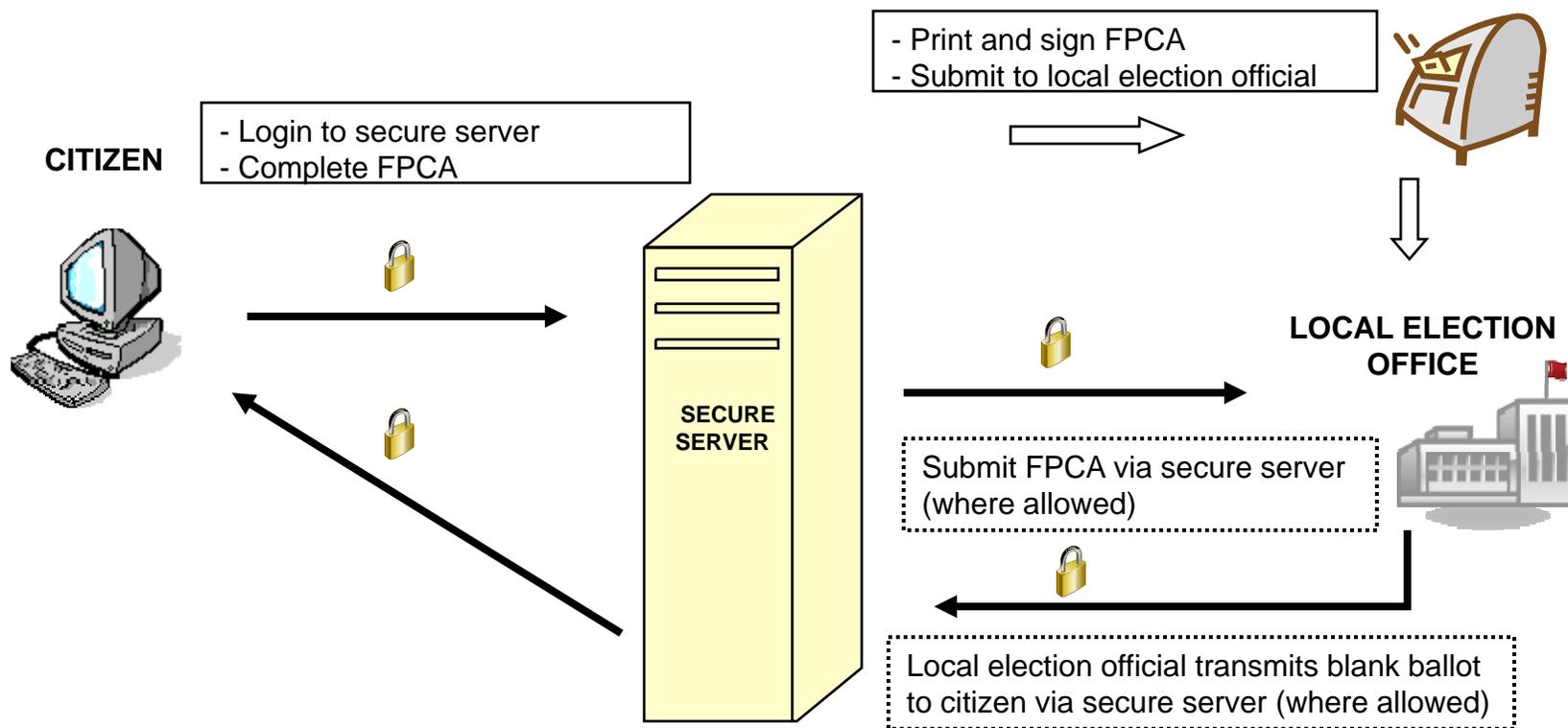
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# Voter Registration and Ballot Delivery (VRBD)



## Functional View of Ballot Request and Delivery Feature



**Note: This feature does not provide for return of the voted ballot**



# Voter Responsibilities



- Submit FPCA in timely manner and update address
- Follow up with local election official
- Check registration status. Many states allow you to check registration online. (Links available from [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov))
- Visit and use the state election websites (Links available from [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov))
- Other Voter Self-Help: Service Voting Assistance Website, Local Election Official, Legal Advisor, and FVAP website
- Follow state instructions accompanying ballot
- Promptly vote and return ballot
- If the ballot has not been received, vote and send the FWAB
- If there are problems – act early