



Voting Information News

March 2003 *vs* Vol. 13, No. 3

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

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Voting Assistance Officers (VAO)

“To Do” This Month:

- ✓ Encourage participation in the 2003 Voting Slogan Contest. The Slogan Contest is a good way to involve people and promote voter awareness. Distribute this newsletter (E-mail is proving to be one of the quickest means of distribution) to the people in your organization. Remember, participants may enter as many slogans in the contest as they wish (See article on right).
- ✓ Redistribute a copy of this issue to each of your voting assistants so that they may submit their request to be included in the Voting Information News (VIN) distribution. Have them complete the “Subscription Request Form” on page 4 and e-mail their contact information to vote@fvap.ncr.gov. The form can also be faxed or mailed using the contact information provided.

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The FVAP Wants Your Voting Slogans

Send Your Slogans Today

The FVAP staff is excited to announce the kick-off for the 2003 Voting Slogan Contest on Monday, March 3, 2003. We are looking forward to your participation in the contest.

The Voting Slogan Contest is a biennial contest sponsored by the FVAP in its efforts to promote interest in the democratic process among citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* -- members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, their families, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

It is very easy to participate. Just create a simple slogan (or slogans) that expresses in your own words the importance of voting or something that may inspire someone to vote and submit it to the FVAP.

Upon completion of the contest (July 11, 2003), a panel of independent judges will review all slogan submissions and choose the winning slogan on its originality and motivational value. This winning slogan will be featured in the FVAP's 2004/2005 media campaign which focuses on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide and encouraging them to participate in the democratic process. In addition, the slogan will be posted on the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov, in the *2004/2005 Voting Assistance Guide*, on motivational posters, audio visual materials and in other FVAP publications and manuals.

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness, but they will also be given a

certificate of recognition from the Secretary of Defense for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries a participant may submit, but we request that all slogans be submitted separately (only one slogan per entry). The deadline for submission is July 11, 2003.

All submissions must include your full name, (Service, if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address (if applicable) so we may contact you upon winning.

Send entries via one of the following methods:

E-mail: slogan@fvap.ncr.gov Text only, one slogan per e-mail with contact information on each e-mail. (Due to security concerns any e-mail message with an attachment will be deleted)

Fax: (703) 588-0108 or DSN 425-0108 Visit the FVAP Website for toll-free fax numbers from 48 countries. Submit separate page for each slogan with contact information on each page. No cover sheet is necessary.

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program
Attn.: Voting Slogan Contest
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1155

If submitting by mail, please type or print (legibly) on regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper one slogan per page with contact information on each page.

Please join the FVAP in helping to inspire others to vote by submitting your entry today. You could be one of this year's winners!

"To Do" This Month (continued):

- ✓ Distribute the *Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)* to all members of your organization (with enough for family members). On-line materials and assistance can be found on the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov.
- ✓ Visit the FVAP Website for current and back issues of the *VIN*, news releases, other information and resources as well as links to other sites of interest in carrying out your VAO duties. Encourage others to visit the site often.

2003 FVAP Publications

In preparation for the year 2004 elections, the FVAP is busy updating and preparing new materials. Below is a list of some of the new and updated materials that the FVAP will make available this fall. Military and Civilian Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) are urged to check the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov and this newsletter for information on requesting new supplies as soon as they are available in order to fully prepare for the upcoming 2004 elections.

- Distribution of the *2004-2005 Voting Assistance Guide*.
- The 2004 Primary Elections calendar listing state primary dates.
- New motivational posters to increase voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide.

As a VAO, all voting materials should be available to you through your normal distribution channels. Your Service Voting Action Officer will assist you with ordering your voting materials (contact information on page 3). For additional help please contact the FVAP (contact information on page 4). Note: E-mail is proving to be one of the most effective and efficient means of communicating with the office.



Archive Poster Designed by: Lydia P. Porter, Graphic Communication Department, Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design

*"Keep the Torch
Burning-Vote!"*

by Vernon Hall, Richmond, Virginia

1986

ADDRESS UNKNOWN!

Notify Local Election Officials (LEO) of Address Change.

VAOs, be sure citizens are aware that it is their responsibility to notify their LEO of changes in their return mailing address (where the citizen wants the LEO to send the ballot). FVAP recommends submitting one FPCA in January of each year to ensure voter files are kept active and up-to-date, and that they receive ballots for all elections held each year. Citizens should send FPCAs now if they have not done so.

Many LEOs report that absentee voting materials mailed to citizens are returned to them marked "Address Unknown." This problem may be caused by changes in duty stations or overseas residence where the materials are not forwarded to the new address. Deployed Military Reserve members and newly assigned personnel will need to inform their LEO if they will be away from their legal voting residence during an election or they are establishing a new residence. If the voting materials are sent to the correct address the first time, the citizen should have enough time to vote their ballot and return it to the LEO to meet state deadlines.

Use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) Form SF 76.

In addition to registration and absentee ballot request, the FPCA is used as a change of address form. Completion instructions for each state are in the *Guide*. On the FPCA, the citizen will clearly indicate name, date of birth, and new address. The new address is where the person wants to receive the ballot and is indicated in Item 4 - MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO. Be sure to indicate "new address" in the top of this box. A Social Security Number (SSN), or the last four digits, can provide further information to help the LEO properly identify the voter. Addresses for LEOs can be found in *2002-03 Voting Assistance Guide* at the end of the instruction section for each state (also available online at www.fvap.gov). (continued on next page)

ADDRESS UNKNOWN! (continued)

Your Contact Information is Important.

To facilitate response from the LEO, the FVAP recommends adding an e-mail address in item 4, a fax number in item 5 and a phone number in item 7. Providing as much contact information as possible will make it easier for the LEO to get back with the citizen for any clarification, if necessary. The card must then be signed and dated in the spaces indicated on the bottom of the card. The card should be turned over and addressed to the LEO as found in the *Guide*. A return address should also be provided. Fold, seal and mail the FPCA to the LEO.

Note: The FPCA does not require postage if mailed in the U.S. Postal System (including military postal system), however, local country postage is required if mailed from outside the U.S. postal system. In addition a printed copy of the online FPCA (OFPCA) available on the FVAP Website may be used in most states if you cannot get the cardstock FPCA to the citizen in time to meet the state registration date, or if you have depleted your cardstock supply. Most Local election officials prefer the cardstock FPCA because of its convenience for filing and durability. Also, not all states and territories accept the OFPCA and it is not postage paid. The voter must place the OFPCA in an envelope and affix postage. Military members may use postpaid government envelopes to mail their own and their family members' OFPCA – this is considered: “official business”.



Add This Newsletter to Your Continuity Folder

“Shatter The Silence. Vote!!

2001 Voting Slogan Contest winner. Submitted by Michelle Madrid, civilian employee, United States Air Force.

Many exceptional slogan entries for the 2001 Voting Slogan Contest are featured in the *2002-2003 Voting Assistance Guide*.

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of American Citizen Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Mr. Stuart Denyer, **tel:** (202) 647-3495, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** denyersr@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm

Dept. of the Navy: LT Brian Campbell **tel:** 1-800-368-5056; **fax:** (901) 874-2689, **DSN fax:** 882-2689;
E-mail: navyvote@persnet.navy.mil, **https://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap**

Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-3514, **toll free:** 1-800-558-1404, **DSN:** 665-3514 or 2572;
fax: (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543; **E-mail:** Lee.Shick@randolph.af.mil
https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/Programs/Voting/Default.htm

Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9828, **DSN fax:** 278-9828; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: Ensign Steve Rodanhisler **tel:** (202)-267-2005, **fax:** (202) 267-4823, attn: Lt. Luna;
E-mail: srodanhisler@comdt.uscg.mil

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

