

## Calif To Allow Absentee Ballots by Fax

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### California To Allow Its Citizens Overseas to Return Absentee Ballots by Fax

California's newly enacted election reform bill (AB 2941) permits any voter covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), who are legal residents of California and outside of the United States, to return his or her voted ballot via facsimile. The bill provides that an absentee ballot returned via fax must be accompanied by a declaration in which the voter waives his or her right to cast a secret ballot.

All faxed ballots must be received by county elections officials by the close of the polls (8:00 p.m. PST) on Election Day, November 2, 2004. Citizens may receive the blank ballot via fax and return the voted ballot by fax. Citizens of California who desire to receive their absentee ballot by fax should provide their county election official with their complete commercial or DSN (military) fax number, including country codes necessary when dialing from the U.S. This can be done by faxing a Federal Post Card Application as a request to your county of residence in California. Contact information for county elections offices can be found at [http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_d.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm).

Citizens should be aware that by faxing the ballot they are waiving the right to secrecy of their vote for this election and must sign a waiver that will be included in the faxed ballot materials. A citizen returning the voted ballot by fax which was either received by mail or by fax should refer to Appendix C of the 2004-2005 Voting Assistance Guide (located at <http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html> for instructions, toll-free fax numbers, and a cover sheet (which includes a secrecy waiver) for use when transmitting the voted ballot by fax. Citizens should be sure to fax the entire ballot including any oath or signature required on the ballot-mailing envelope.

Voters must provide a return transmission fax number (including international prefixes) on all documents sent via fax.

California citizens seeking more information about the November 2, 2004 general election and the questions and candidates listed on the ballot may visit the California Secretary of State's voter information website at <http://www.myvotecounts.org/>

For assistance, you may contact an FVAP staff member through the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC). The VIC also provides recorded messages from candidates, as well as other information concerning elections, 24 hours a day.

Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, <http://www.fvap.gov/services/tollfree.html>. In the U.S. or Canada call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) or local (703) 588-1343 or use DSN (military) 425-1343.

Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1155. Additionally, the FVAP can be reached via e-mail at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov) and on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.