

A UOCAVA Update

February 18, 2018

NASED



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Good Morning

This morning I'll cover...

- ✓ 2018 Prep – workshops, forms, Guides, and videos!
- ✓ New Research
- ✓ Policy Trends

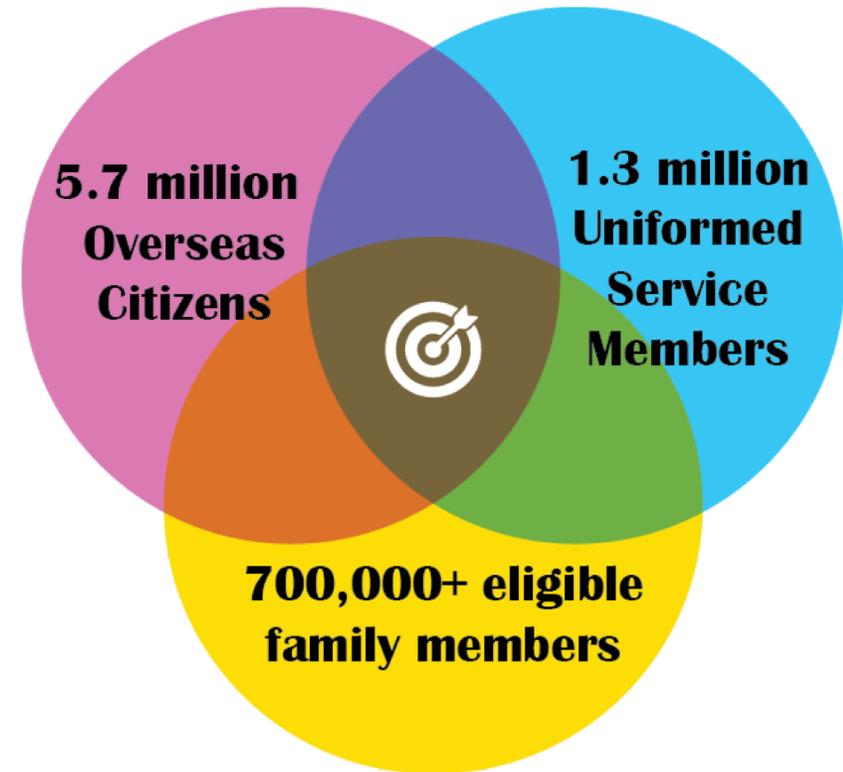


UOCAVA

A brief summary

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986*, or *UOCAVA*, allows certain U.S. citizens to apply to register and vote absentee in elections for federal office.

- **HAVA 2002** required states to notify voters the reasons for rejecting a registration application or absentee ballot request
- **MOVE Act 2009** required states to make voter registration and absentee ballot applications available electronically. Additionally required ballots to be sent out 45 days prior to an election.



FVAP administers UOCAVA on behalf of the Secretary of Defense

State Policy Trends



General State Policy Trends

Voter ID

- *UOCAVA* voters are exempt under HAVA
- **Online Registration**
 - Are *UOCAVA* protections granted through online registration portals?
- **FPCA & FWAB Section 6 requirements are considered obstacles**
 - Oath requirements
 - Employer information
 - Race
 - Previous address
 - State residency requirements
- **Witness requirements remain a difficulty for UOCAVA voters to complete**
 - Alabama, Alaska, Virginia, Wisconsin

UOCAVA specific policy

FVAP's cooperative agreement with the Council of State Government's Overseas Voting Initiative created policy and technology recommendations that can be helpful resources.

- FPCA validity period of one general election cycle
- Voter communication best practices
- Electronic signature acceptance
- Data standardization
- Ballot duplication



CSG Overseas Voting
@CSGOverseasVote Follows you

The Council of State Governments' Overseas Voting Initiative works cooperatively w/@FVAP to improve the voting process for military & overseas (#UOCAVA) voters.

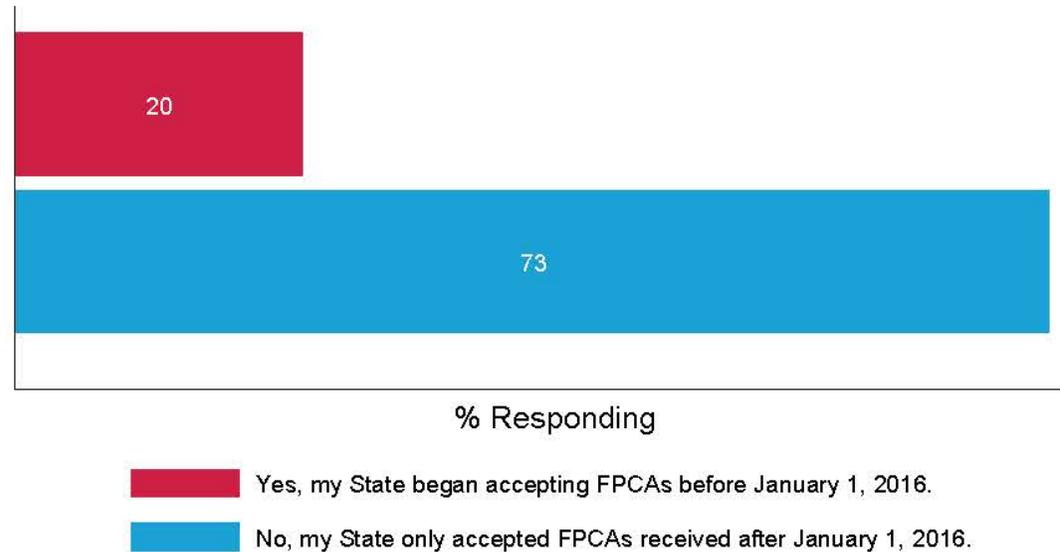
Washington, DC
csg.org/ovi
Joined January 2015

Tweet to Message

State Election Offices (SEO)

FPCA Messaging-Further complexities

Figure 5.1: FPCAs Acceptance Before January 1, 2016

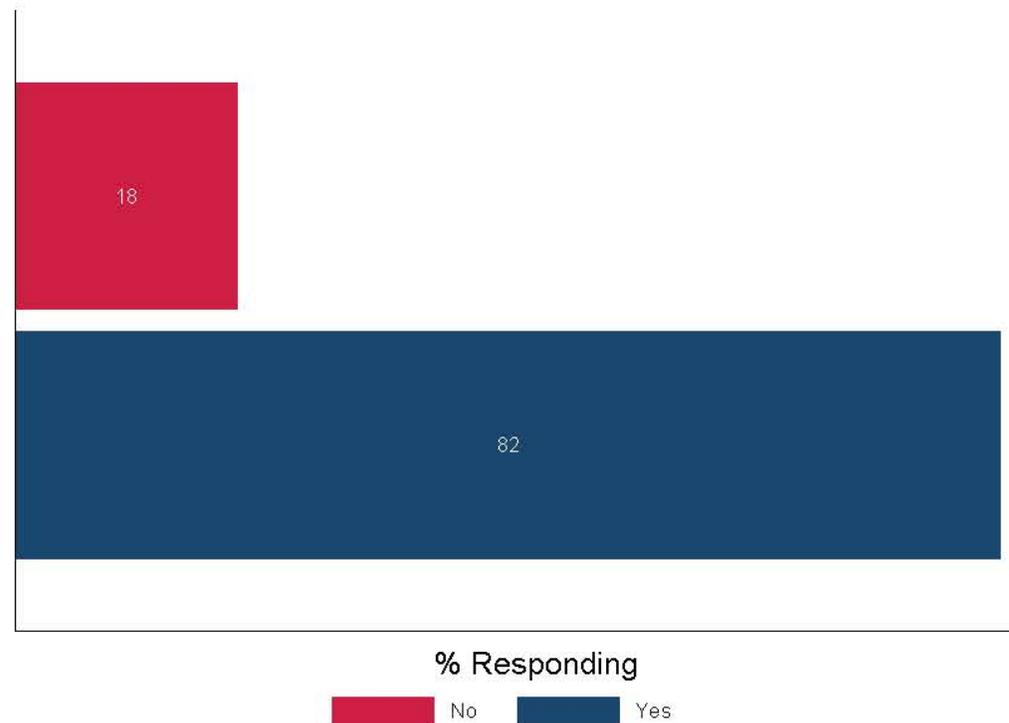


Note: Percentages based on valid respondents. Numbers may not total to zero because of refusals.

State Election Offices (SEO)

FPCA-Permanent Registration

Figure 5.3: FPCA Permanent Registration



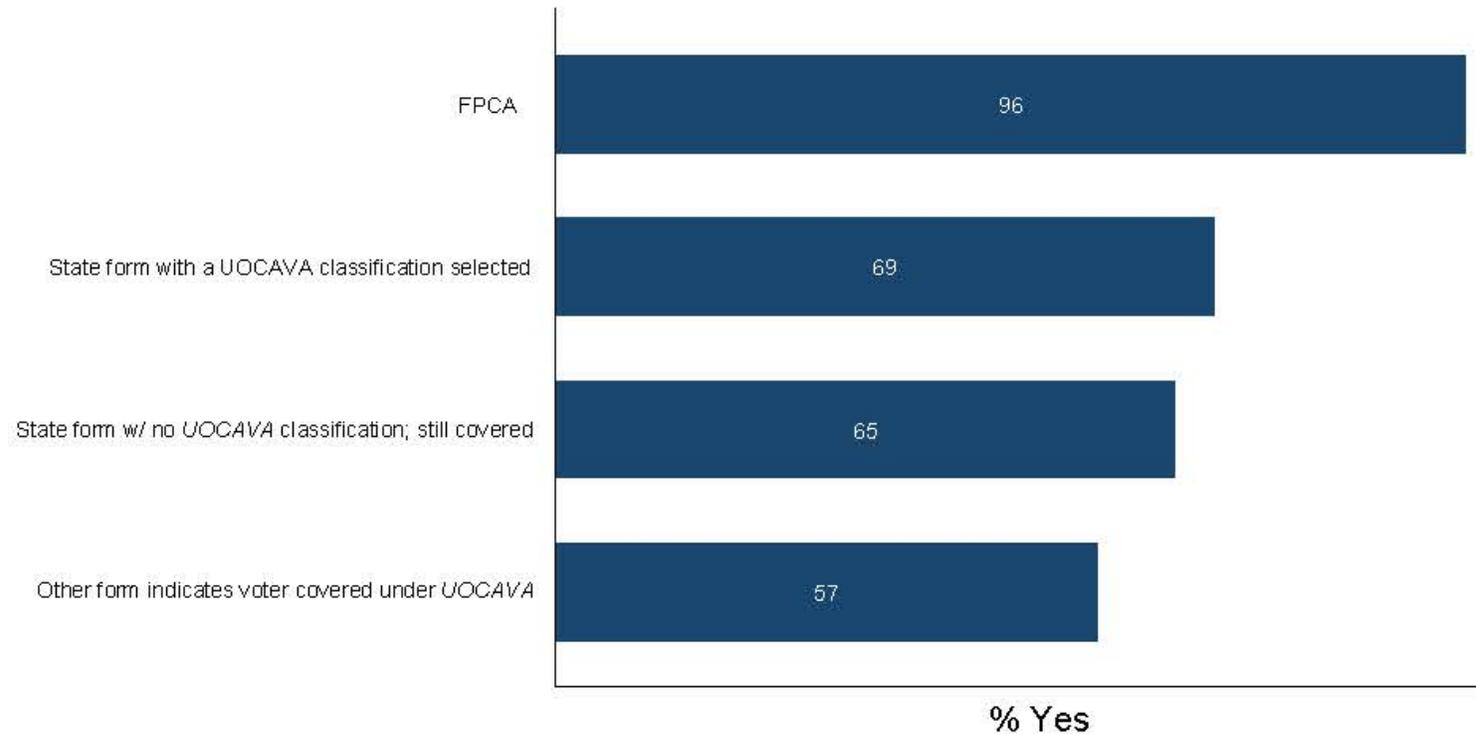
Note: Percentages based on valid respondents. Numbers may not total to zero because of refusals.

State Election Offices (SEO)

FPCA Importance for UOCAVA Protections

Between 2012 and 2016, the percent of ADM who reported using an FPCA to request their absentee ballot dropped from 47% to 39%.

Figure 5.5: Ballot Request Forms for UOCAVA Protection



Preparing for 2018 General Election



Electronic Transmission Service Changes

ETS began in the early 90s with a need to assist Service members deployed during Desert Storm with the transmission of their election materials back state-side.

What to expect going forward:

- Voters that have the ability to email or fax their election official directly, should do so
- FVAP will still provide assistance to those voters that have limited access to fax machines, scanners, etc.
- As of January 1st, FVAP will no longer process email materials for a voter who will benefit from emailing those to election officials directly based on state authorization.



VAO Workshops Worldwide

January – June 2018

- ✓ Covering both military installations in the U.S. and overseas
- ✓ Covering U.S. Embassies and Consulates in areas with many Americans
- ✓ We invite State and locals to attend the workshops

Our research in 2016 highlighted that *4 in 10* first-time military voters sought help from a VAO or IVAO



Reduce Obstacles to UOCAVA Voting Success

- Develop direct-to-voter training
- Release improved FVAP-prescribed forms (FPCA and FWAB)
- Enhance usability of FVAP.gov for voters, election officials, and Voting Assistance Officers
- 45-Day Waiver requests, let us know as soon as possible!
- *New:* Blocking international IP addresses



The screenshot shows the FVAP.gov website. The header includes the Department of Defense logo, the FVAP.gov logo, and the tagline "Voting assistance for Service members, their families and overseas citizens". There is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for Election Materials, Voting Assistance Guide, FAQs, Links, and Contact. The main content area is titled "MOVE Act Waivers" and contains the following text:

UOCAVA, as amended by the MOVE Act, requires ballots to be sent to military and overseas voters 45 days before a federal election. Click the link below for further guidance on State waiver applications. This memorandum supersedes the interim guidance issued by FVAP on May 24, 2010.

- [Waiver Guidance](#)

The following States and territories have applied for *MOVE Act* Waivers:

- 2016
 - [New York Waiver Request](#)
 - [DoD Response \(Letter and Decision Memorandum\)](#)
- 2014
 - West Virginia
- 2012
 - New York
- 2010
 - Alaska
 - Colorado
 - Delaware
 - District of Columbia
 - Hawaii
 - Maryland (withdrew)
 - Massachusetts
 - New York
 - Rhode Island
 - U.S. Virgin Islands
 - Washington
 - Wisconsin

Copies of the Waiver requests and responses are available upon request from vote@fvap.gov.

FVAP Call Center

Our most popular resource

- ✓ 40,000+ inquires in 2016
- ✓ Available Monday – Friday
- ✓ 7:30am – 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time
- ✓ **1-800-438-VOTE (8683)**
- ✓ vote@fvap.gov

Don't forget, we also have two State Analysts that can answer your questions and provide customer service!

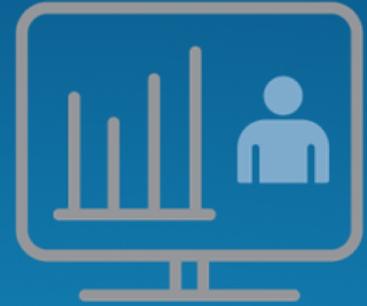
Nate Bacchus
Nate.a.bacchus@fvap.gov

Meghan Kelly
Meghan.Kelly@fvap.gov



Call center available to voters and election officials!

New Research

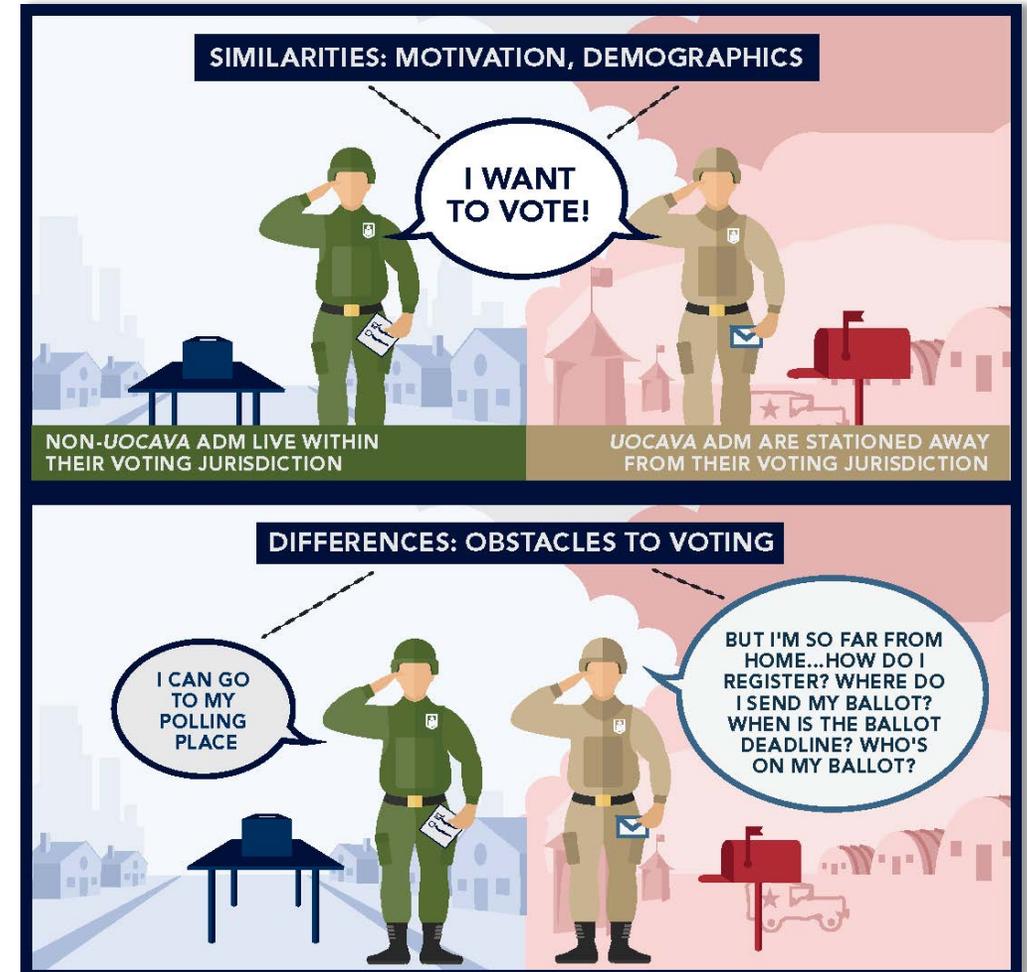


UOCAVA Gap

New Research

The *UOCAVA* Gap: The percentage of *UOCAVA* ADM who would have voted but did not due to *UOCAVA*-specific obstacles to voting.

- ADM-to-CVAP comparison is limited, needed a more effective measure to isolate obstacles to voting for *UOCAVA* voters
- The *UOCAVA* Gap compares the voting rates of *UOCAVA* ADM and non-*UOCAVA* ADM that have similar demographics and motivation to vote, but experience different obstacles to voting
- The *UOCAVA* Gap is less susceptible to fluctuations in ADM motivation to vote



Research Out in 2018

✓ Overseas Citizen Survey

- Currently being fielded
- Close at end of March 2018
- Preliminary estimates in February
- Final report by end of May

✓ New Policy Brief on the Federal Postcard Application

- Will focus on FPCA meeting requirements to vote in federal elections
- Discuss importance of FPCA validity v. voter registration

✓ Research Note on Data Standardization

- Impact of ballot transmission timing and mode on *UOCAVA* voting

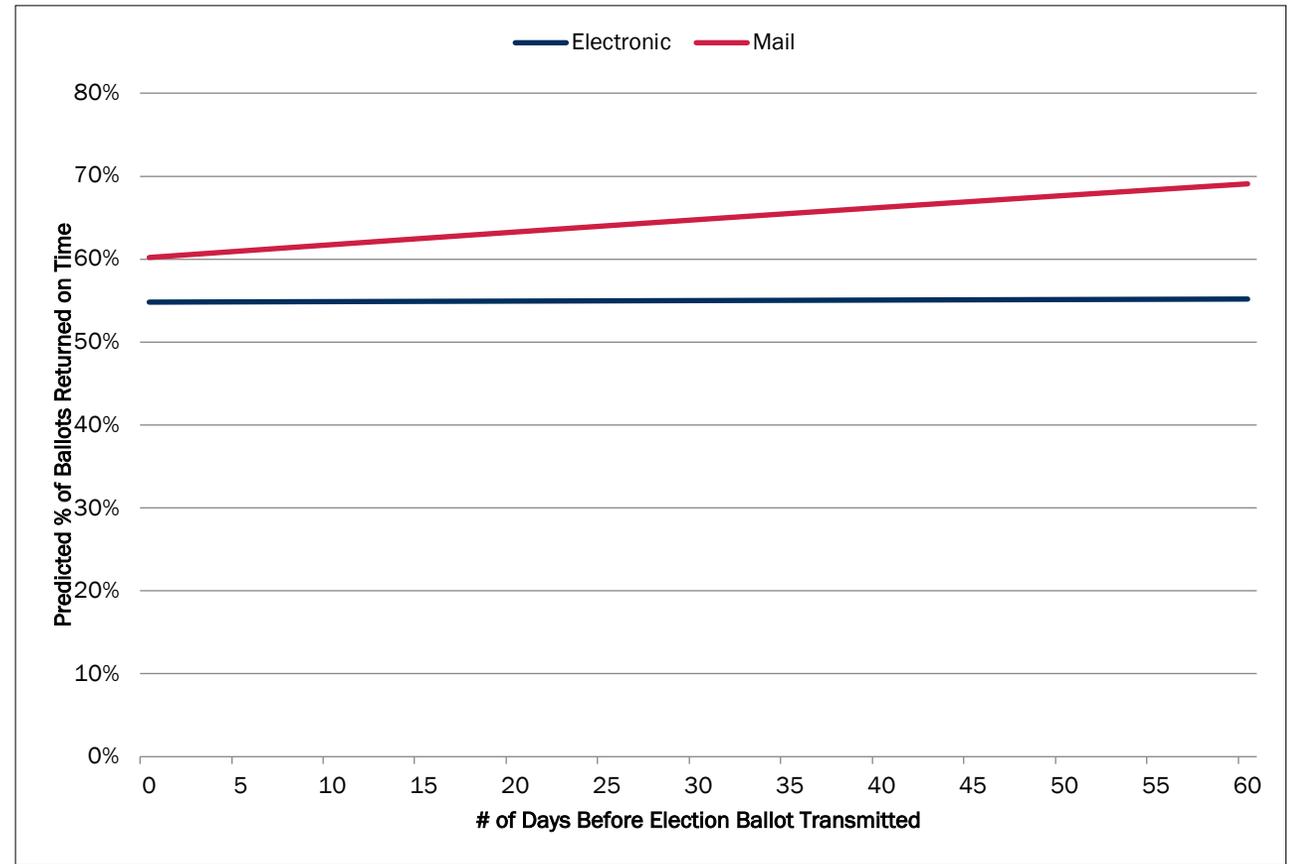


Research Note on Data Standardization

Likelihood of Ballot Return on Time among ADM

ADM were more likely to return a ballot when they received it early and by mail.

- For every 1 day earlier a ballot was transmitted, the likelihood of ballot return increased for ADM by 0.08 percentage points
- Ballot transmitted by **mail** 45 days before an election – **67% likelihood of return**
- Ballot transmitted **electronically** 45 days before an election – **55% likelihood of return**

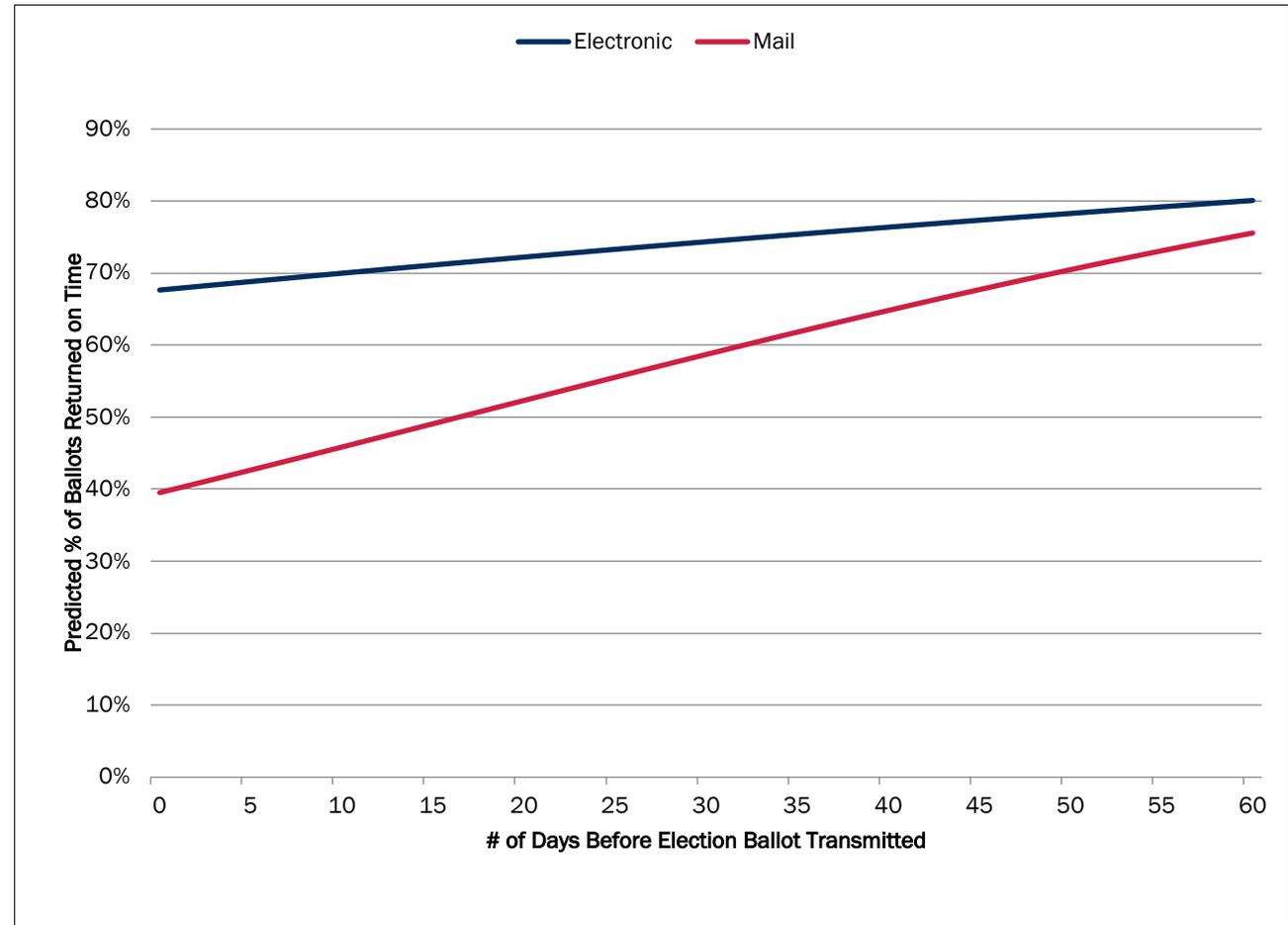


Research Note on Data Standardization

Likelihood of Ballot Return on Time among Overseas Citizens

Overseas citizens were more likely to return a ballot when they received it early and electronically.

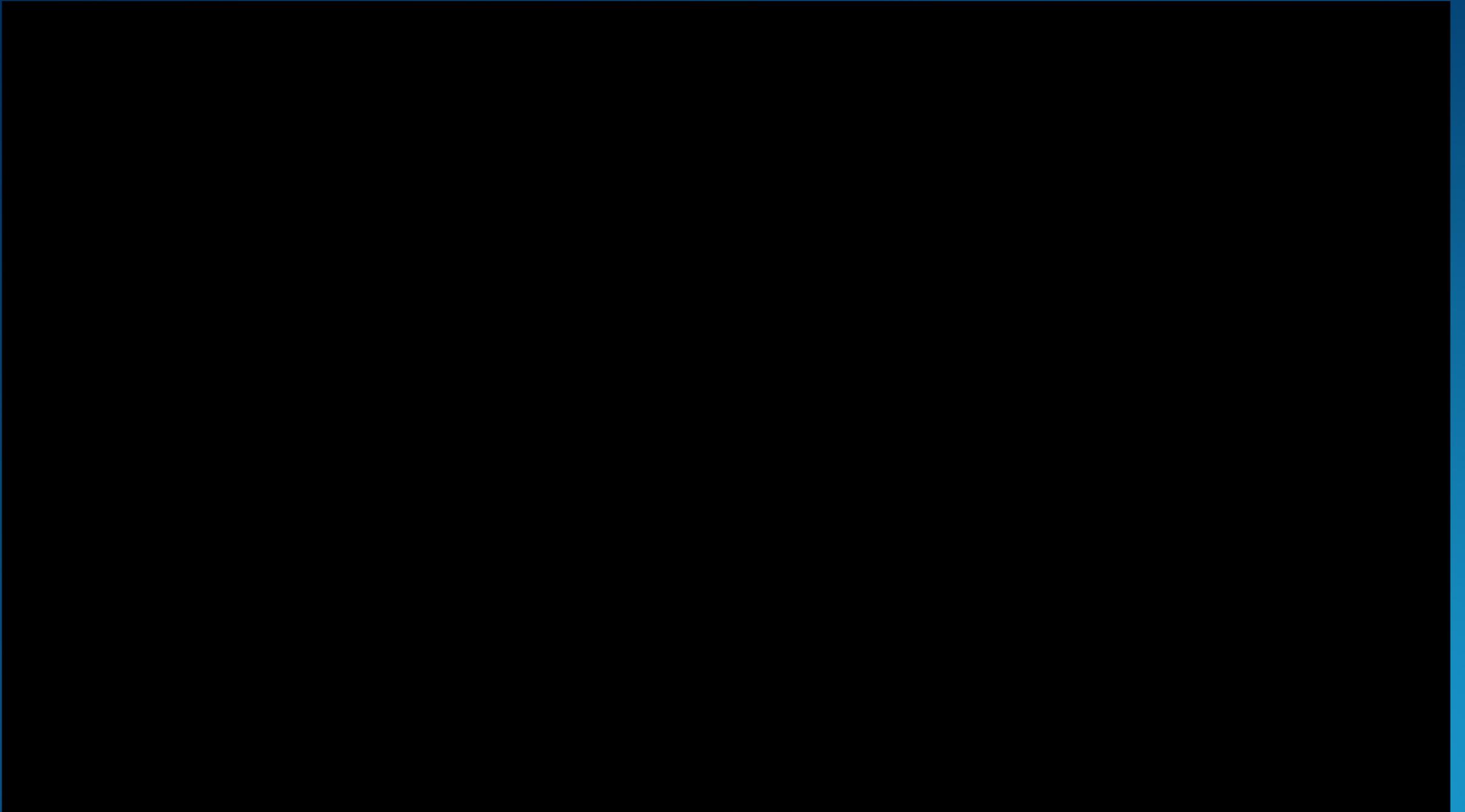
- For every 1 day earlier a ballot was transmitted, the likelihood of ballot return increased for overseas citizens by 0.3 percentage points
- Ballot transmitted by **mail** 45 days before an election – **68% likelihood of return**
- Ballot transmitted **electronically** 45 days before an election – **77% likelihood of return**

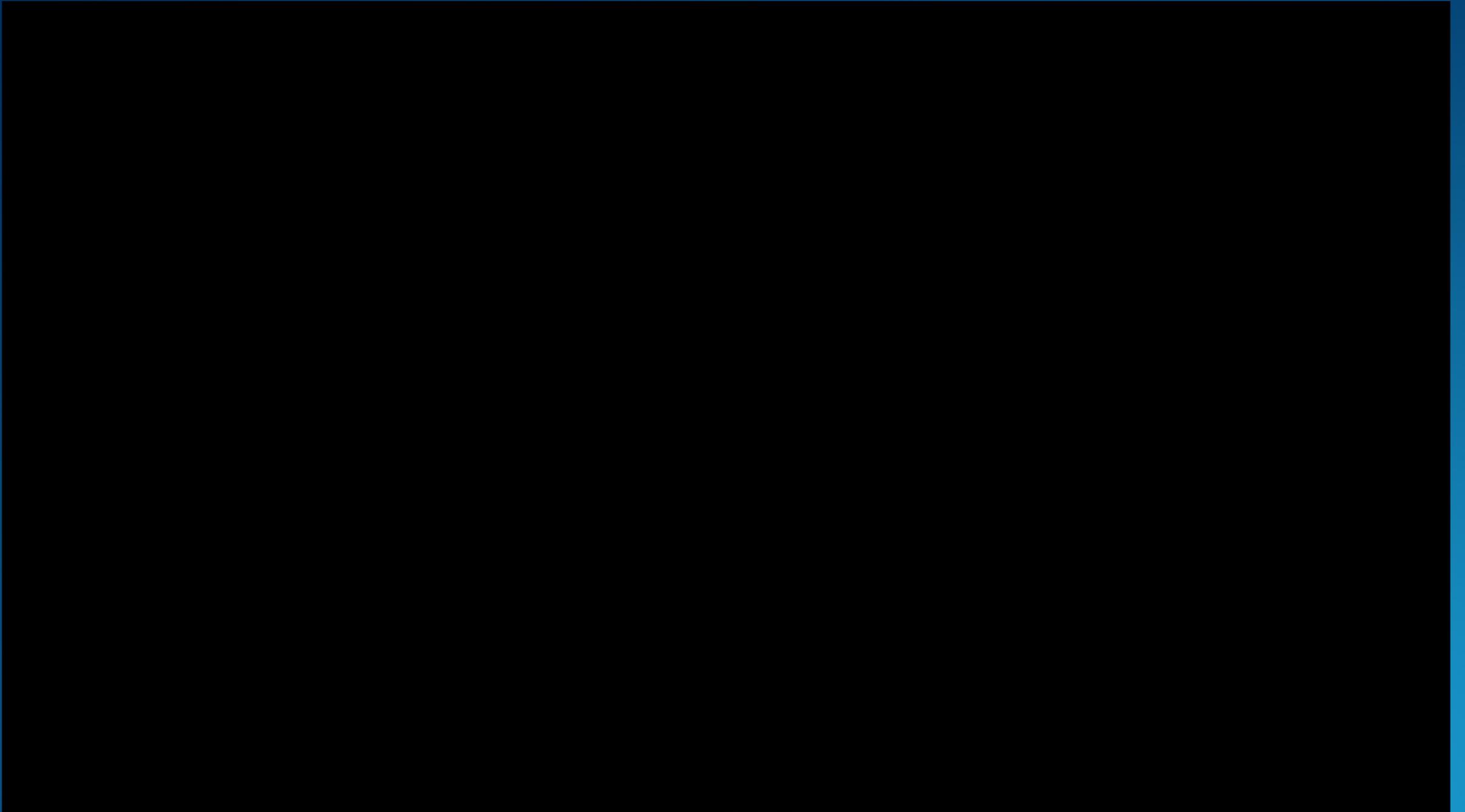


How the Election Community Can Help?

- Anticipate 45 day mailing requirements
- Leverage FVAP to foster engagement with area military installations
- Use FVAP resources to support UOCAVA voters
- Expand FPCA usage and acceptance for federal, state and local elections
- Incorporate of Council of State Government recommendations from the Overseas Voting Initiative
- Anticipate and track forthcoming research from FVAP







Thank You!

More information:

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