

December 13, 2011

NEW VOTER BACK-UP FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT NOW AVAILABLE

December 13, 2011 — Arlington, Va. – The online version of the revised Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is available now at FVAP.gov. If voters have registered but not received their State ballot 30 days before the election, they can still vote by using the FWAB. Since the FWAB serves as a back-up ballot, a voter should still vote and return their State absentee ballot if they receive it before the election. The State absentee ballot will be counted instead of the FWAB if received by the State deadline.

Voters can visit FVAP.gov to use the online wizard or access the PDF fillable forms. The online wizard will populate the candidate names for federal elections 30 days prior to the date of the election.

The FWAB is a standard form accepted by all 55 States and territories for uniformed service members and overseas voters. The 2011 revised FWAB is wholly compliant with provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act in 2009, containing space for the required information but structured in a more logical and usable flow. FVAP conducted a series of usability assessments with the previous form resulting in substantial improvements using many established best practices for election-related forms.

The previous 2005 version of the form can be used by voters; however, be sure to use the current State information from FVAP.gov to ensure your local election official receives all the information required to send the back-up ballot to you. Voting Assistance Officers should send voters to FVAP.gov whenever possible and go through [proper channels](#) to obtain hardcopy forms. Overseas citizens groups should also stress using the online wizards to simplify form completion, but can [contact FVAP directly](#) to acquire hardcopy forms.

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If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to www.fvap.gov or contact the FVAP at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE) or email the program at VOTE@FVAP.GOV. And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](#) on Twitter to receive timely election information.