



Voting from Abroad

How Election Officials Can Reduce Obstacles for Military and Overseas Voters

Hilary Braseth

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Image by Josh Johnson at Unsplash

Executive Summary

The paper outlines a risk mitigation framework to evaluate different technology integrations state election officials could pursue that would improve voter turnout among overseas and military voters. Using this risk mitigation framework, the highest-value, lowest-risk opportunities for state election officials to pursue include: 1) facilitating digital signatures on the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA); 2) implementing a pilot ballot tracking system; 3) communicating with voters via email, ensuring that emails are frequent, concise, and clear; and 4) ensuring that communications abide by clear design principles.

In order to implement these key recommendations, state election officials will need to place an employee in charge of overseas voter turnout; work with pro bono design firms and email service providers to redesign their voter engagement materials for simplicity; and engage with other colleagues to develop best practices around e-signatures and ballot tracking.

“When I talk to other voters overseas, many of them aren’t even aware that they can vote.”

– Overseas voter in Germany

Background

In the 2020 election, voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voted at a rate of 7% – ten times less than the domestic average.¹

While every state has UOCAVA voters such as military personnel, Peace Corps volunteers, corporate executives, and students studying abroad, not every state implements the same measures to ensure that these voters have access to information, registration, and other resources to help them successfully submit their ballots on time.

For most UOCAVA voters, obstacles to voting include 1) a lack of understanding how to vote; 2) a lack of awareness that they are even eligible to vote; 3) challenges with the mailing system such as USPS suspensions and a lack of post offices; and 4) general difficulties completing the process.²

According to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), UOCAVA turnout could be closer to 46.9% if these obstacles were removed.³ For example, Orange County, California, took specific actions to improve turnout among these voters by redesigning materials and simplifying the language of its voter information and emails. As a result, Orange County now witnesses turnout from its UOCAVA voters at nearly the same rate as its domestic voters; compared to the rest of the country, Orange County UOCAVA turnout far surpasses the national average.⁴

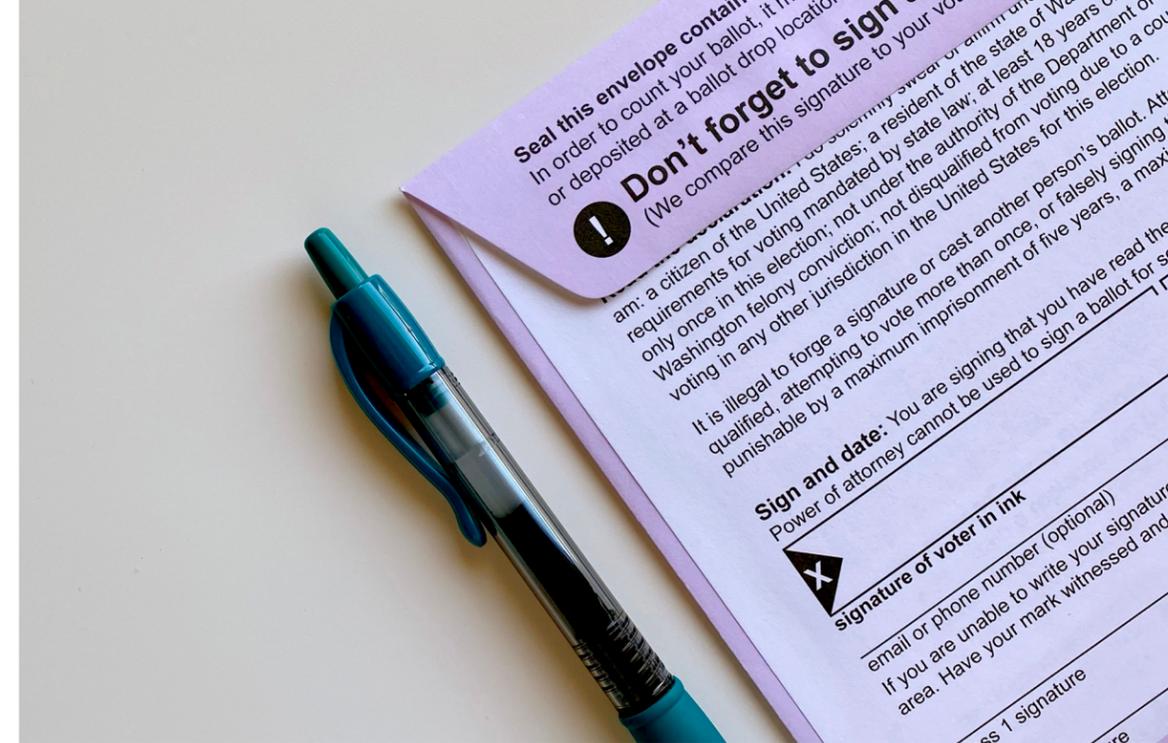
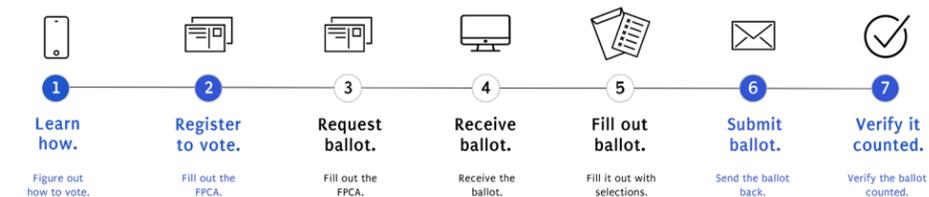


Image by Tiffany Tertipes at Unsplash

Given that there are multiple steps in the voting process (as depicted in Figure 1.0), any shifts in operations can either hinder or help these voters. In the case of a handful of jurisdictions, for example, even the simplest technology integrations have greatly helped the voting experience — from awareness to communications to ballot tracking.

Figure 1.0: Voting Chain of Events⁵



Steps involved in the voting process. Those shaded in blue present the biggest opportunities for helping UOCAVA voters successfully complete the process.

By integrating technology and implementing subtle innovations to operational tasks, officials can increase state voter turnout and help make operations more efficient, streamlined, and voter-centric.



Image by Manny Becerra at Unsplash

Recommendations

Election officials should implement the following **four technology best practices** to enhance the voting experience for UOCAVA voters: 1) Allow digital signature on the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA); 2) Enable ballot tracking; 3) Leverage innovative email technology to communicate early and often with UOCAVA voters; and 4) Design communications for simplicity and clarity.

1. Allow for digital signatures on the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

The FPCA plays an important role in helping UOCAVA voters register to vote and request ballots. Most states still require “wet” signatures on this form, which requires printing and scanning the FPCA for submission. However, these days, nearly 40% of American households don’t have a printer; this percentage is likely even higher for overseas households, given assignments like Peace Corps and military deployments, which often place Americans in remote locations with limited access to printers and scanners.⁶

By allowing secure digital signatures (which can include a photo upload of a signature or an official e-signature) and an electronic return of the FPCA, states can greatly reduce the burden on voters who might not have access to printers and increase the likelihood of successful submission and expedited processing. According to a state election official in West Virginia, once these measures were implemented, the majority of UOCAVA voters who had the opportunity to sign and return the FPCA electronically did so.⁷

See Figure 2.0 for an example of how digital signatures could be implemented and accepted.

“I didn’t vote from overseas because the process is too difficult. To get the information, the right documents, print them, and mail them to the US in time from Guinea, where there isn’t a real functioning mail system, was just overwhelming. If any part of that process was digital, it would have significantly changed my overseas voting experience. I definitely would have voted.”

– Wiatta Thomas, Overseas Citizen and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

Figure 2.0: Digital Signature Example

Sample screens from votefromabroad.org, which leads voters to pre-populated emails to their election officials with their scanned signatures attached.

Step 1: Voter selects email method of submission and accepts waiver.

You must email, fax or mail your signed and dated ballot request to Cambridge Election Commission.

 We recommend sending your ballot request by email if possible to avoid possible postal delays.

Choose how to send your ballot request:

Email Fax Mail

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury that:

- The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.
- I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
- I am not disqualified to vote due to having been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense, nor have I been adjudicated mentally incompetent; or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
- I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

Step 2: Voter uploads scanned signature for the FPCA.

You must email, fax or mail your signed and dated ballot request to Cambridge Election Commission.

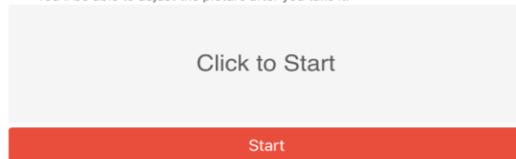
i We recommend sending your ballot request by email if possible to avoid possible postal delays.

Choose how to send your ballot request:

Email
 Fax
 Mail

Add your scanned signature.

- Sign your name with a dark pen in large letters on a blank sheet of white paper.
- Click start to scan your signature now with your device camera. Or **Or upload an image file, such as JPEG or PNG, to upload your signature [PDF and TIFF files will not work]** to upload your signature from a file.
- You'll be able to adjust the picture after you take it.



◀ Back

Step 3: Voter double checks pre-populated email to send to their election official with an attached digital version of the FPCA, signed with a photo upload of their signature.

You must email, fax or mail your signed and dated ballot request to Cambridge Election Commission.

i We recommend sending your ballot request by email if possible to avoid possible postal delays.

Choose how to send your ballot request:

Email
 Fax
 Mail

Add your scanned signature.

- Pinch or scroll with your mouse on the image to resize it. Missing pic? Zoom out to find it.
- Drag with you mouse/finger to place your signature on the red line next to the 'X'.
- Click 'Use This Signature' to add it to your form and compose a message to your election official.

ZOOM:
 POSITION:
 BRIGHTNESS:
 ROTATE:

X



Subject: FPCA Submission

From: Hadiatou Brass hairy.balefante@gmail.com

To: Cambridge Election Commiss elections2@cambridgema.gov

Message

Please see attached my FPCA form for the current calendar year. Can you confirm receipt and let me know if you need any additional information?

Thank you so much for everything you do. Your work is much appreciated by Americans abroad!

Sincerely,

Hadiatou Brass

hairy.balefante@gmail.com

Cancel



Step 4: Voter receives submission confirmation.

Ballot Request Status

Next Steps...

Hello Hadiatou

Thank you for using VoteFromAbroad to generate your Voter Registration/Ballot Request form. Your Ballot Request has been submitted by email to Cambridge Election Commission.

We also strongly recommend that you verify with your election official that they have received and processed your form.

Cambridge Election Commission

51 Inman St., 1st Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
United States of America

currentRequestObject.leaf
Phone: +1(617) 349-4361
Fax: +1(617) 349-4366

If you discover a mistake and need to change anything on your form, [click here](#) to go back. If you are finished, please close the browser window to delete any information saved in this session. Or [clear your information and start a new request](#).

If you need any help, contact our volunteer voter support team at: help@votefromabroad.org. Thanks for voting!

Learn
about your rights as a voter abroad

Share
Ask your friends to vote from abroad



Image by Element5 Digital at Unsplash

2. Leverage proven technologies to implement a ballot tracking system for UOCAVA voters that allows them to follow their completed ballot and ensure that the jurisdiction receives and counts it.

In 2020, FVAP, the Council of State Governments (CSG), the USPS, the Military Postal Service Agency (MPS), and several local election officials piloted a full life-cycle ballot tracking system through the USPS-MPS network. The pilot implemented proven technologies, including “dedicated labels” (otherwise known as the “Label-11 DoD”), which granted a voter the ability to track their ballot’s journey from overseas to the jurisdiction. The pilot yielded highly successful results, with 82% of participants very satisfied with the service and 87% of voters confident or very confident that their ballot was counted in the election.⁸

By offering both voters and election officials a way to track UOCAVA ballots, FVAP and its partners boosted overall voter confidence, the rate of successful ballot acceptance, and voter turnout.⁹ Other jurisdictions should consider participating in the next expansion of the military ballot tracking initiative.

3. Communicate with voters via email and ensure that emails abide by clear design principles.

In the digital era, communicating with UOCAVA voters digitally can make all the difference. By following the checklist of email best practices, states can ensure that their UOCAVA voters have all they need to vote.

Checklist of Email Best Practices

- Email service provider.** State election officials should maintain a database for overseas voters with an easy-to-use email communications platform such as [MailChimp](#) or [SendGrid](#). Overseas voters’ email addresses can be obtained via the [FPCA](#).
- Frequency.** Election officials should ensure that communications are sent on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day in election years, as this is an opportunity to weave voter communications into the holidays and spur conversations about how to engage in elections back home (see Tip #1: Timing).
- Length.** Emails should not exceed one page.
- Language.** Offices should leverage simple, clear, concise language about when and how voters should register (see Tip #2: Language).

TIP #1: Timing. At minimum, state election officials should send communications to UOCAVA voters around the Fourth of July during an election year. Many overseas citizens celebrate the Fourth of July despite not living in the US. This can be an opportunity to weave voter communications into the holiday and spur conversations about how to engage in elections back home. The table below provides a suggested cadence and structure for voter information emails.

Table 1: Proposed Email Cadence

Email Type	Goal/Positioning	Suggested Timing
Announcement	Give voters an overview of the overseas voting process and remind them of the logistics involved.	150 days before election (Memorial Day)
Engagement	Ask voters to begin the process.	120 days before election (Fourth of July)
		105 days before election (suggested follow-up reminder)
		90 days before election (suggested follow-up reminder)
Final Call	Draft an urgent call to action for voters to register.	75 days before election (suggested follow-up reminder)
		60 days before election

TIP #2: Email Language. Emails often fall prey to having too much text, superfluous or overcomplicated language, and overly dense steps and instructions. See Figure 3.0 for an example of an overwhelming voter outreach email alongside a redesigned version that simplifies the language, steps, and overall look and feel. Figure 4.0 provides a sample email template for use.

Image by Isabella and Zsa Fischer at Unsplash



Figure 3.0: Email Redesign

OLD¹⁰

From: Example State, Department of State
 Subject: Make Your Voice Heard by taking the necessary steps to vote in the upcoming U.S. elections and participating in Absentee Voting Week!

The voter registration deadline for the November 3 elections is October 24. For some voters this might mean their paper voter registration and absentee ballot request must reach local election officials by October 6. In order to vote in the November elections, all overseas U.S. citizens need to have completed a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter> this year. Whether you are a first-time voter or have already received ballots and voted absentee in past elections, you must complete an FPCA each year to ensure you are able to participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

If you have already completed a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter> this year and requested electronic delivery of your ballot, you will be receiving your blank ballot or instructions for how to access your ballot soon if you have not already received it. If you are not sure about the status of your absentee ballot request you should contact your local election officials <http://www.fvap.gov/info/contact> in the United States or check the status of your registration via your state's voter registration verification website <http://www.fva12.gov/links>

You can get voting assistance from the embassy/consulate or drop off your completed voting forms and ballots, addressed to your local election officials, during the following hours: 8:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon Monday thru Friday or from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Please bring your U.S. passport to facilitate entry.

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OVERSEAS VOTING!
 Please help spread the word to your friends, family, and colleagues that now is the time to start thinking about overseas voting. Consider posting to your Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or other social media account that you are an active voter and will be dropping off or mailing your Federal Post Card Application or completed ballot. Use #ProudOverseasVoter to help get the word out about voting.

If you have never voted while overseas before, it's not too late. The process is easy -- just follow these steps:
 1. Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) <http://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter>

Whether you are a first-time voter or have voted absentee in past elections, complete an FPCA <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter> to receive your ballot this fall. It allows you to register to vote and request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (presidential and state primaries, run-off, special, and the November general elections) during the course of the year in which you submit the FPCA. Local election officials in all U.S. states and territories accept the FPCA <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballot> . The online voting assistant <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots> available at FVAP.gov <http://www.fva12.gov/> is an easy way to complete the FPCA <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots> . It will ask you questions specific to your state and tell you if electronic ballot delivery is possible. No matter which state you vote in, we encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Be sure to include your email address to take advantage of electronic delivery. The online voting assistant <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots> will generate a printable FPCA <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots>, which you can then print and sign.

2. Submit the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

In order to mail it from U.S. Embassy Beijing, please hand-deliver it to the American Citizens Unit between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon Monday thru Friday or from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Please bring your U.S. passport to facilitate entry. You may also bring ballots and FPCAs for others. Please take into account it takes at least two weeks for mail delivery to most locations in the United States through the embassy's diplomatic post office system.

If it's more convenient for you, you can have a friend or family member drop off your FPCA at the embassy, on your behalf or you can send your FPCA <http://www.fva12.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots> or ballot directly to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

NEW¹¹

 **EXAMPLE STATE**
 Department of State

Dear voter,

The next election in Example State is on Tuesday, November 3.

If you would like to vote by mail ballot instead of going to your polling place on November 3, you must apply for a mail ballot by **Tuesday, October 24**. Don't wait; apply as soon as you can!

Make sure that your voice is heard! [Request your mail-in ballot here](#).

Remember: registered voters can still vote in person at their polling place on Election Day if they choose not to vote by mail. However, if you apply to vote by mail but change your mind, make sure to bring your mail ballot materials to the polls to cast your ballot in person.

Sincerely,
 Jane Doe
 Your Secretary of State

If you no longer wish to receive voter registration related email reminders from Example State, unsubscribe by clicking the link below.
[Unsubscribe](#).

Notice that the “old” email is incredibly text-heavy, lengthy, and confusing in its description of the voting process to the overseas voter. By contrast, the “new” email sample demonstrates the power of leveraging a colorful, welcoming header, along with only the most pertinent information. This new version makes good use of bolded text and uses hyperlinks to let voters explore more information if they wish, rather than automatically including it in the body of the email and overwhelming the reader.

4. (Re)design materials for simplicity.

Design matters. Especially in an era of information overload and digital saturation, it’s important that materials are clear, concise, and visually appealing. By utilizing the following checklist of design suggestions, states can ensure that all materials and communications meet this goal.

Checklist of Design Suggestions

- Use images.** Leverage imagery, such as icons, illustrations, graphs, and charts, where possible to reduce text.
- Be concise.** Omit unnecessary words and ensure succinct descriptions.
- Separate text.** Use numbers or bolded headers to separate text into visually distinct categories.
- Use accent colors.** Use one or two accent colors to distinguish important reminders.

TIP #3: Instructions. Redesigning instruction materials can be as simple as cutting unnecessary text, simplifying language, and adding big, bold headers to separate sections. Even small changes to design make a big difference. See Figure 4.0 for an example of Orange County, California’s voter insert before and after it was redesigned.

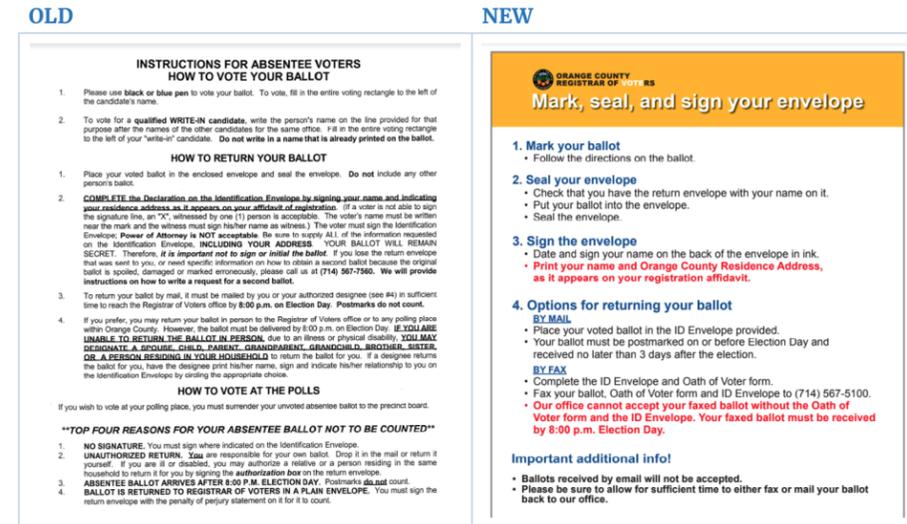
The old insert is very text-heavy, is overwhelming in its use of bold and underlined text, and has many steps blended together with little information hierarchy. By contrast, the new material leverages a bright header and subheaders to separate steps into distinct categories for the eye to quickly parse. Similarly, the new insert leverages red text to highlight the most important aspects of the voter instructions.



“After redesigning our voter outreach materials, envelopes, and inserts, we witnessed a marked increase in voter satisfaction.”

– County election official¹²

Figure 4.0: Materials Redesign¹³



A Framework for Evaluation

The recommendations above are based on the risk/reward framework outlined on the following page. Technology isn’t inherently “good” or “bad” and in many cases, it can greatly reduce barriers to the voting process, especially for voters stationed overseas. Table 2.0 below provides a framework that evaluates each voting step, possible technology integrations, the potential risks and rewards of those integrations, and tactics for mitigating risks.

Image by IFrank McKenna at Unsplash

Based on the analyses provided in this matrix, the four technology integrations recommended in this paper above (and bolded below) best maximize reward and minimize risk. State election officials might consider using this risk/reward framework for other technology integrations they are considering in the future.

**Table 2.0: Ways to Integrate Technology into Voting Chain of Events
Risk/Reward Levels & Mitigation Tactics**

Step	Ways to integrate technology	Risk Low/ Medium/ High*	Reward Minimal/ Moderate/ Great*	Risk Mitigation
1	Learn how to vote. Materials redesign Website redesign Email outreach Social media Email redesign	Low	Great	
2	Register to vote. FPCA digital signature FPCA electronic submission	Medium	Great	Obtain e-signature and match to the one already on file via voter registration/previous FPCA.
3	Request ballot. FPCA digital signature FPCA electronic submission	Medium	Great	Obtain e-signature and match to the one already on file via voter registration/previous FPCA.
4	Receive ballot. Via email Via electronic portal	Low	Great	Ensure blank ballot is encrypted when in transmission.
5	Fill out ballot. Electronic marking	Medium	Moderate	Ensure that the voter has a method to review and verify ballot selections.
6	Submit ballot. Via email	High	Minimal	Since email is the least secure way to upload a ballot and relinquishes a voter's right to privacy, it would be best to substitute ballot submission via email with a more secure, private, end-to-end verifiable electronic method.
	Via server upload	Medium	Great	Some jurisdictions leverage ballot transmission via secure file transfer, improving security and privacy relative to email. To minimize risk, jurisdictions should engage server upload providers that possess deep technical skill – ones that ideally possess a degree of certification, standardization, and a fail-safe paper trail.
	Via mobile (web or app-based)	(Pilot)**	(Pilot)	This technology is still in its pilot phase. System should ensure end-to-end encryption and verifiable paper trail.
7	Verify ballot is counted. Via physical mail tracking using "dedicated labels"***	Low	Great	
	Via an electronic portal (if voter is voting electronically)	Medium	Moderate	Ensure end-to-end encryption with verifiable paper trail.

Matrix methodology combines survey data, interviews spanning election officials and cybersecurity experts, current technology use cases, risk analyses, and results across steps in the voting process.¹⁴

* See definitions in Table 3.0.

** Technology integrations for electronic ballot return via mobile or web app have been piloted across several jurisdictions and continue to be piloted and examined. Widespread implementation of this technology has not yet occurred. Given cybersecurity risks, states should proceed with well-designed pilots to study the efficacy and security of the technology, and should implement with vigilance.

*** Department of Defense, Military Ballot Tracking Pilot Research Submitted to Congress, July 2021, https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/Military_Ballot_Tracking_Pilot_Research_Report.pdf.

Table 3.0: Risk/Reward Matrix Definitions

Term	Meaning
Risk level	Low: Integration has low risk to security, as defined by an election disruption or a possible data or privacy breach. Medium: Integration has medium risk to security; proceed with mitigations. High: Integration has high risk to security; reconsider proceeding.
Reward level	Minimal: Integration doesn't offer an impact on reducing barriers for UOCAVA voters. Moderate: Integration offers moderate impact on reducing barriers for UOCAVA voters. Great: Integration offers high impact on reducing barriers for UOCAVA voters.

Implementation

To implement the four recommendations above, election officials should:

- ▶ **Place an employee in charge of UOCAVA turnout.** Whether this responsibility is delegated to a new hire or an existing employee, placing someone in charge of UOCAVA voters will help to ensure progress across these recommendations and that these voters are not forgotten.
- ▶ **Engage pro bono design firms or universities to help with materials redesign.** State election officials can partner with nonprofit design firms like the [Center for Civic Design](#), lower-cost freelance providers like [Fiverr](#) or [Upwork](#), lower-cost self-service sites like [Canva](#), university design teams, or interns to redesign their materials with little expenditure.
- ▶ **Engage with colleagues to adopt best practices around e-signatures and ballot tracking.** State election officials should learn how other jurisdictions — such as Orange County, California, the state of Colorado, or Escambia County, Florida — successfully and securely implemented similar procedures to better the voting experience, and consider ways to integrate these operations in their own state.

Appendix A: Interviews

The team interviewed the following individuals for this playbook:

- ▶ *Amy Cohen: Executive Director, National Association of State Election Directors (NASED)*
- ▶ *Candice Kerestan: Chair, Democrats Abroad*
- ▶ *Casandra Hockenberry: Policy Analyst, Overseas Voting Initiative, The Council of State Governments*
- ▶ *David Beirne: Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)*
- ▶ *David Stafford: Supervisor of Elections, Escambia County, Florida*
- ▶ *Deak Kersey: General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State*
- ▶ *Gary Leeling: Senate Armed Services Minority Counsel*
- ▶ *Jocelyn Bucaro: Director, Mobile Voting Project, Tusk Philanthropies*
- ▶ *Joseph Kiniry: Principled CEO and Chief Scientist, Free & Fair; Principal Scientist, Galois*
- ▶ *Josh Benaloh: Senior Cryptographer, Microsoft Research*
- ▶ *Judd Choate: Director, Division of Elections, Colorado*
- ▶ *Lindsey Forson: Director of Cybersecurity Programs, National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)*
- ▶ *Lori Augino: Director of Elections, Washington State*
- ▶ *Mac Warner: Secretary of State, West Virginia*
- ▶ *Marylouise Serrato: Executive Director, American Citizens Abroad*
- ▶ *Naveed Shah: Political Director, Common Defense*
- ▶ *Neal Kelley: Registrar of Voters, Orange County, California*
- ▶ *Sarah Streyder: Executive Director, Secure Families Initiative*
- ▶ *Sarah Vella: Program Analyst, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)*
- ▶ *Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat: President and CEO, U.S. Vote Foundation*
- ▶ *Susan Greenhalgh: Senior Advisor on Election Security, Free Speech For People*
- ▶ *Taylor Lansdale: Associate Public Policy Director, Overseas Voting Initiative, The Council of State Governments*

Appendix B: Sample Emails

This appendix shares sample language for email communications. It is recommended that election officials send these communications to their UOCAVA voters per the cadence listed in Table 1.0.

Announcement Email

Subject: You can vote from overseas — here's how.

Body:

Dear [First Name],

The next election in [Jurisdiction] is on [Date].

To register to vote, you'll need to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, which you can find at your local US Embassy or the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#). Filling out this form will take less than 10 minutes to complete). Here in [Jurisdiction], you can return your FCPA form by:

Mail:

[Address]

Email:

[email]

Fax:

[###-###-####]

Sincerely,

[Name]

Engagement Email

Subject: Sign up to vote from abroad today!

Body:

Dear [First Name],

As a reminder, the next election in [Jurisdiction] is on [Date].

That's less than [180] days away!

To register to vote, you'll need to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, which you can find at your local US Embassy or at the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#). The form should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

It's important to take early action because we send your ballot 45 days before the election date.

Here in [Jurisdiction], you can return your FCPA form by:

Mail:

[Address]

Email:

[email]

Fax:

[### ### #####]

Sincerely,

[Name]

Final Call Email

Subject: Sign up to vote from abroad today!

Body:

Dear [First Name],

We're sending out ballots to vote in less than 2 weeks!

To sign up, you'll need to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, which you can find at your local US Embassy or the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#) (less than 10 minutes to complete).

Here in [Jurisdiction], you can return your FCPA form by:

Mail:

[Address]

Email:

[email]

Fax:

[### ### #####]

At this point, we recommend you send it in by email or fax to make sure we receive your registration in time.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Endnotes

- 1 Federal Voting Assistance Program, 2020 Report to Congress, September 16, 2020, https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/FVAP-2020-Report-to-Congress_20210916_FINAL.pdf.
- 2 Candice Kerestan, Chair, Democrats Abroad, interview by author, November 8, 2021.
- 3 See “Federal Voting,” *supra* note 1.
- 4 Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters, Orange County, CA, interview by author, October 29, 2021.

Presidential General Election, November 3, 2020	
All Voters	
Registered	1,771,537
Returned	1,546,570
Turnout %	87%
UOVACA Voters	
Registered	11,184
Returned	6,888
Turnout %	62%

- 5 Icons via the Noun Project.
- 6 Deloitte Global, “Printers Charming: Working and Studying at Home Means Printing at Home Too!” Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) Predictions Report, 2020, <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/global/Documents/Technology-Media-Telecommunications/gx-covid-19-tmt-predictions-revised-printers-charming.pdf>.
- 7 Orange County, CA data for domestic versus UOCAVA turnout; UOCAVA turnout is much closer to domestic turnout, and far higher than the UOCAVA national average (7%).

FPCA General 2020 Statistics		
Absentee Ballots	Application Type	Request Type
846	FPCA	Email
22	FPCA	Fax
22	FPCA	In Person
707	FPCA	Mail
226	FPCA	Online

- 8 Department of Defense, Military Ballot Tracking Pilot Research Submitted to Congress, July 2021, https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Reports/Military_Ballot_Tracking_Pilot_Research_Report.pdf.
- 9 *Id.*
- 10 Christine Keung, Former Overseas Citizen voting from China.
- 11 Candice Kerestan, Overseas Citizen voting from Germany.
- 12 Neal Kelley, email message to author, October 29, 2021.
- 13 *Id.*
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