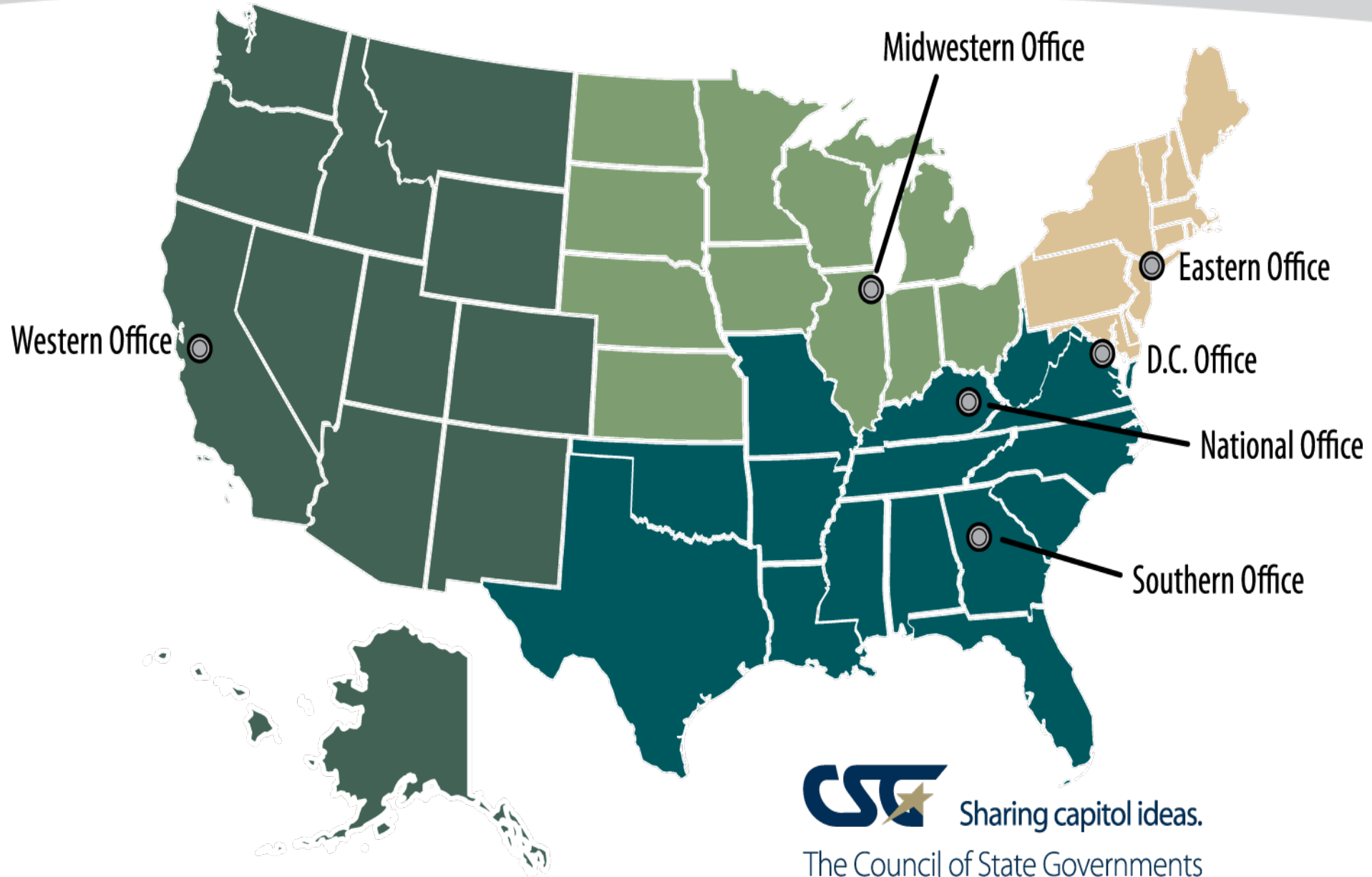




CSG's Overseas Voting Initiative

Kamanzi G. Kalisa

Director, Overseas Voting Initiative



Improving Elections for U.S. Military and Overseas Voters

The Council of State Governments launched a four year, \$3.2 million Overseas Voting Initiative in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense's overseas voting assistance office, the Federal Voting Assistance Program in 2014.



CSG's Overseas Voting Initiative

- The Overseas Voting Initiative, or OVI, is a cooperative agreement between The Council of State Governments and the U.S. Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP.
- The OVI is charged with developing targeted and actionable improvements to the voting process for UOCAVA citizens.
- UOCAVA citizens face unique barriers to participation due:
 - 1) Mobile jobs.
 - 2) Time required to transmit ballots overseas and back.
 - 3) Differences in election laws, rules and practices across the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the four U.S. territories make the UOCAVA process complicated to explain to voters.

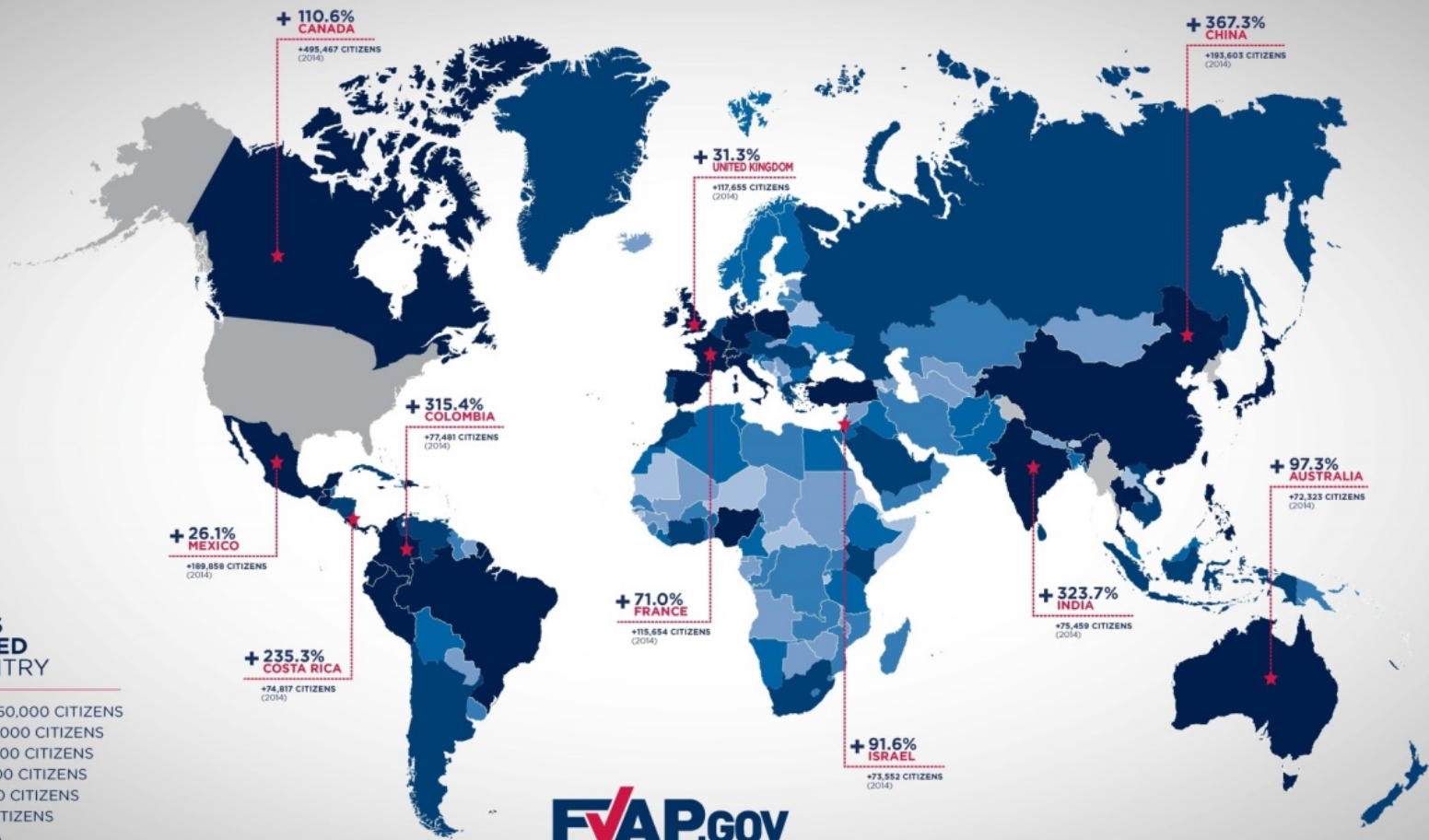
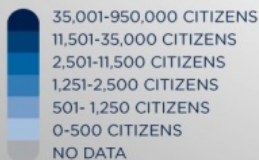
CSG Overseas Voting Staff

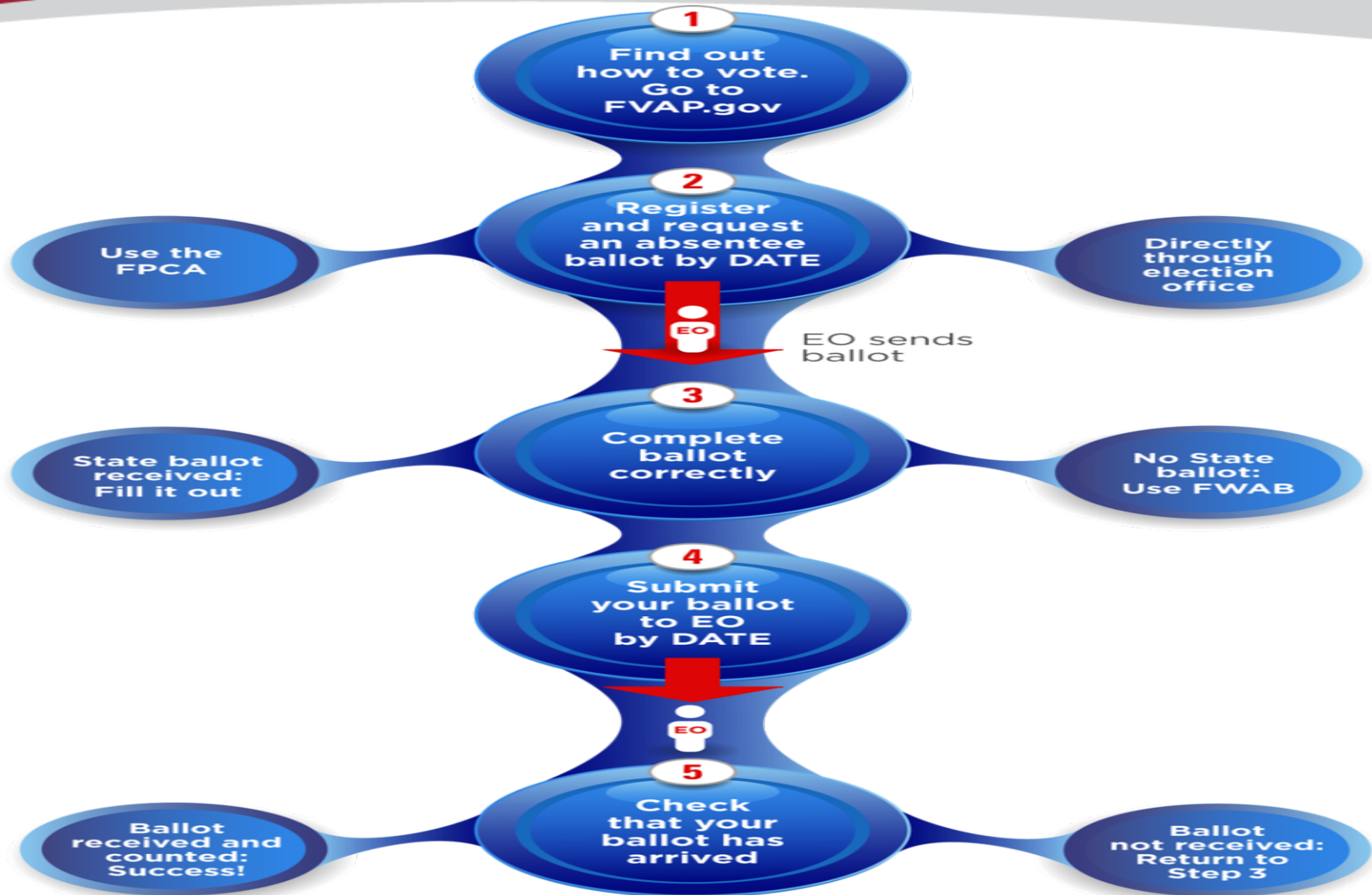
- Michelle M. Shafer, Senior Research Adviser
- Jared Marcotte, Senior Technology Adviser
- Ann McGeehan, Special Adviser; Member, Presidential Commission on Election Administration

OVERSEAS U.S. CITIZEN POPULATION ESTIMATES: 2000-2014

(3,167,333 IN 2000 compared to 5,738,948 IN 2014)

2014 CITIZENS ESTIMATED BY COUNTRY





Three Working Groups

- Policy Working Group
- Technology Working Group
- Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Section B Working Group

Policy Working Group

1. Improve Voter Communication

- Using Plain Language.
- Effective Use of Election Websites and Social Media Platforms.
- Creating More User-Friendly Electronic Ballot Return Envelopes.
- Communicate to voters when the ballot application is accepted.
- Provide information to voters about ballot content.

2. Online Voter Registration

3. Treat the Federal Post Card as a permanent request for voter registration.

4. Establish partnerships between state and local election officials and local military installations.



Welcome Orange County military voters

Are you a military voter serving domestically or overseas?

Members of the military and eligible family members receive your ballot instantly, register to vote and more with just a few clicks.



Enter now

1 2



Voter Registration Status

Make sure you're designated as an overseas or military voter.

[Learn more](#)



Secure Your Email

Protect your email by using our confidential service.

[Learn more](#)

Help Center



How can I help you?
[Click to talk to an agent.](#)

Connect with us!



Departures →

Departures →

Are you a civilian voter living or working overseas?

Orange County residents - despite being far from home everything you need to vote is at your fingertips.

Enter now

1 2



Voter Registration Status

Make sure you're designated as an overseas or military voter.

Learn more



Secure Your Email

Protect your email by using our confidential service.

Learn more

Help Center



How can I help you?
Click to talk to an agent.

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Federal Overseas Voting

If you are currently overseas, or you are in military service, you may request a mail-in ballot and vote by regular mail, fax, or e-mail. This service is available to residents of Essex County who are living or working out of the United States, including military personnel and their dependents.

If you are overseas and would like to vote:

- Request a Vote By Mail, Email or Faxable Absentee Ballot in person or via the [Clerk's Website](#).
- When you receive the ballot, follow the instructions carefully and return via regular mail, email or fax as desired.

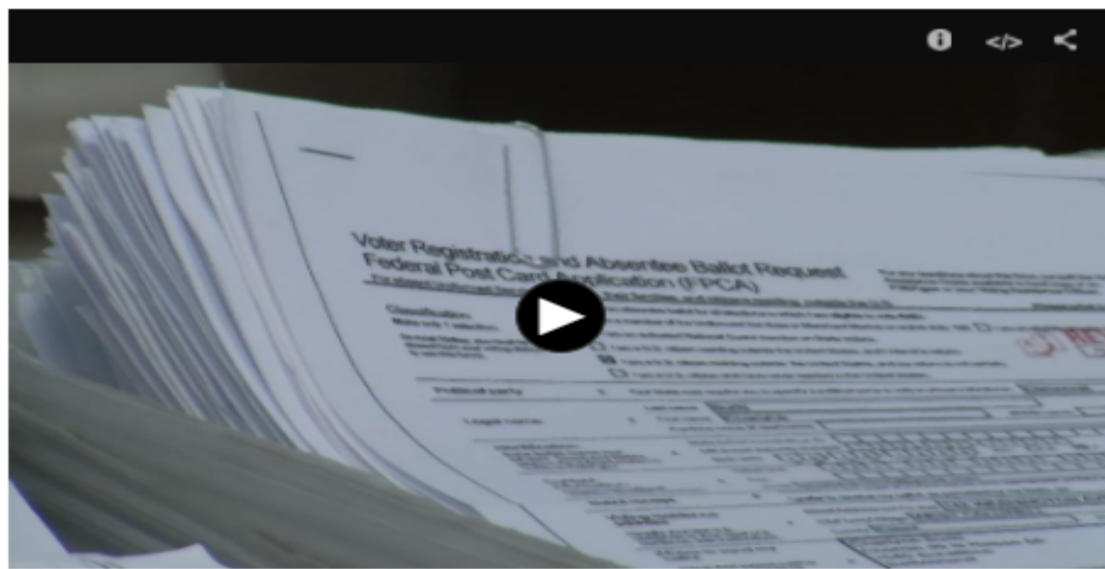
465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Room 411

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: 973-621-5070

Some New Jerseyans Report Mail-In Ballot Issues

11-7-16








By Michael Hill
Correspondent

Federal ballots from U.S. citizens and military members overseas, stacking up at the [Essex County Board of Elections](#).

The clerk of the board says the ballots are still coming in by email and their volume is evidence outreach has been very successful this year.


Clerk of the Essex County Board of Elections Linda Von Nessi says, "I think it's a beautiful thing when Americans who live in other countries take such pride in our process to have their voices counted."

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Enter email address for updates 

< **Full Episode** May. 12, 2017



The Democrats vying to be New Jersey's next governor in their final pre-primary debate. Did anyone outshine the field? The environmental sector as economic

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Technology Working Group

- 1. Ballot Duplication & Treatment of Unreadable/Damaged Ballots.**
- 2. The Use of Common Access Cards/Digital Signature Verification.**
- 3. Data Standardization/Performance Metrics.**

Section B EAVS Working Group Background

- FVAP in 2014 merged the questions from its Post-Election Quantitative Voting Survey of local election offices into the EAC's EAVS Section B so that states and localities only had to provide data about UOCAVA voting once, in a single survey. Although the two surveys asked unique questions, duplication and overlap existed. State and local election officials spoke at the 2015 EAC's Data Summit in Washington, D.C. concerning the issues they face answering the biannual survey with a key point of discussion concerning EAVS Section B and continued survey question duplication.
- FVAP leadership recognized the need to address the burden Section B was creating for States and localities and requested that the OVI create a group consisting of State and local election officials to conduct a thorough review and analysis of Section B.

Section B EAVS Working Group Roster

- Lynn Bailey - Supervisor of Elections, Richmond County, Georgia
- Edgardo Cortes - Commissioner, Virginia Department of Elections
- Veronica Degraffenreid - Elections Preparation & Support Manager, North Carolina State Board of Elections
- Keith Ingram - Director of Elections, Office of the Texas Secretary of State
- Michele McNulty - Election Administrator Principal, Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
- Shelley McThomas - Director, Kansas City, Missouri Board of Elections

Section B EAVS Working Group Roster

- Aaron Nevarez - Intergovernmental Relations Liaison, Office of the Registrar of Voters, Los Angeles County, California
- Noah Praetz - Director of Elections, Cook County, Illinois
- Hilary Rudy - Deputy Director of Elections, Colorado
- Hon. David Stafford - Supervisor of Elections, Escambia County, Florida
- Russell Terry - Voter Engagement Advocate, Oregon Elections Division
- Linda von Nessi - Clerk, Essex County Board of Elections, New Jersey
- Sandi Wesolowski - City Clerk, Franklin, Wisconsin

Recommendations

- Addressing Redundancy
- Improving the Understanding of Each Question
- Outreach Related to EAVS and the Section B Changes



Contact Information

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