

October 10, 2006

MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO UOCAVA CITIZENS IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi experienced problems in mailing ballots to Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) citizens; however all absentee ballots should arrive in plenty of time for voters to receive, vote and return the voted ballot by the state deadline. Voted ballots must arrive not later than 5 p.m. CST the day before the election. Active duty military members outside the United States must return their voted ballot by 7 p.m. CST on election day, November 7, 2006.

Mississippi requires that the absentee ballot return envelope be sworn to before a commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, petty officer or other person authorized to administer oaths.

Mississippi allows electronic transmission of the following:

- citizens may register and request the absentee ballot via fax
- receive the blank ballot via fax
- return the voted ballot via fax.
- active duty overseas military members may also register and request the ballot, receive the blank ballot and return the voted ballot as an email attachments

Military members inside the U.S. and overseas (including APO/FPO addresses), as well as citizens located outside the United States who have applied for a regular ballot early enough so that the request is received by the appropriate local election official at least 30 days before the election for unregistered voters and 20 days before the election for registered voters, and have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state may vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). FWABs are available from Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) in military units, embassies and consulates worldwide. The FWAB with specific instructions is available online at www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html.

Citizens who receive their Mississippi ballot after submitting the FWAB should vote and submit their state ballot up to and including election day. The voter should note on the state ballot envelope that a FWAB was submitted. If the voter's official absentee ballot is received by the deadline described above, the official absentee ballot will be counted instead of the FWAB.

VAOs should contact those citizens they assist who are Mississippi voters, inform them of this news release, and provide help to them in returning their absentee ballots.

Further information on elections and voting in Mississippi is available at the website, www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/elections.asp.

The FVAP can be contacted through the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC). Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free from 64 countries using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov.

Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20311-1155. Additionally, the FVAP can be reached via e-mail at vote@fvap.ncr.gov.