



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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45 Before 45

Officials Push to Get Ballots to Military and Overseas Americans

SILVER SPRING, MD – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Defense Department’s Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) are working together with state and local election officials to help ensure the successful delivery and counting of ballots from military and overseas voters in the 2016 Presidential Election and beyond.

As a part of that effort, EAC chair Tom Hicks sat down for a conversation with Matt Boehmer, director of FVAP, to discuss what state and local election officials can do to prepare to send out ballots to these voters starting September 24, 2016, 45 days prior to Election Day as mandated by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. A video of the discussion is available [here](#).

“Today is 45 days before the 45 days prior to Election Day, which is the day federal law requires ballots to be ready to be transmitted to military and overseas voters,” said EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks. “EAC is pleased to help election official identify policies, strategies, and procedures for ensuring that vote by mail ballots get counted in the 2016 election,” he said.

Some highlights of the discussion include:

- How election officials can prepare for sending out ballots to military and overseas voters for the 2016 general election.
- Tips for voters to ensure they receive and can return their ballots in a timely manner.
- Recommendations about how election officials can best communicate with military and overseas voters.
- Recommendations related to the use of the Federal Post Card Application.

Today’s announcement is part of EAC Be Ready 2016 effort. To access a broad range of resources and best practices to help election officials and voters in 2016, visit EAC’s website at [BeReady16](#).

The EAC is an independent bipartisan commission created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. HAVA was passed by the U.S. Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process, address improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election, and to provide federal funding to states for new voting equipment. HAVA mandates that the EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form, conduct research, and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. More information is available at [EAC.gov](#).