
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

**Need to Improve Military Voting
Resolution No. 17-08**

WHEREAS, military personnel, overseas citizens and their families residing outside their election districts deserve every reasonable opportunity to participate in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, in every federal election tens of thousands of military and family members are being deprived of the right to vote by ballots not delivered, received or counted by States and local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, of over 420,000 ballots distributed in accordance with the 1986 Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) just 33 percent were cast or counted in the 2014 election; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, 6 percent of the overseas ballots received were rejected by election officials, half of them for being received too late; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 12642, dated June 8, 1988, designated the Secretary of Defense or his designee as responsible for carrying out the federal functions under UOCAVA; and

WHEREAS, despite DoD's Federal Voting Assistance Program's outreach efforts, the military absentee voting process often leaves overseas voters with insufficient time to complete and return ballots; and

WHEREAS, Congress amended UOCAVA to require all states to transmit UOCAVA ballots at least 45 days before any general, special, primary, or runoff election for federal office,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Department of Justice to monitor compliance with local election officials (LEO) relating to the 45-day rule and to take legal action against any LEO who misses the deadline for any reason; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States urge the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with States and local jurisdictions, to gather and publish national data for the most recent national elections. on disqualified military and overseas absentee ballots and reasons for disqualification; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States urge ROA Departments to work within their States to improve the absentee voting process for absentee and overseas voters, and urge chapters to contact their LEOs to remind them of the requirement to mail ballots 45 days before an election.

Renewed by National Convention, 2 February 2011 as 11-05, 4 March 2014 as 14-01 and 23 July 2017
Adopted by the National Council, 4 February 2009 as 09-03