

# Military Voter Issues

Vote Indiana Team 2009

# Issues:

- Difficulty in Process
- Political Influence in Material
- Voter Disenfranchisement

# Difficulty in Process

## Factors

- Deadlines
- Lack of Information

# Deadlines

- Although FVAP recommends “a minimum of 45 days between the date the ballot is mailed to the voter and the voted ballot return deadline,” Indiana allows (on average) only 35 days.
- Indiana meets FVAP recommendations for ballot transit time, but only if electronic means are used.
- #1 Reason for ballot discount in 2008 and 2004 were deadline-related.

State	Allow Electronic Submission of Registration	Allow Electronic Submission of Ballot Request	Allow Electronic Transmission of Blank Ballot	No Notary/ Witness Requirement	Allow Electronic Submission of Completed Ballot	Provide Minimum 45-day Transit Time
Idaho		•	•	•		•
Illinois	•	•		•		•
Indiana	•	•	•	•	•	

Source: Pew Center on the States 2008: “No Time To Vote”

# Lack of Information

- Despite a wealth of information, variations in state and federal communication standards and density of beauraucracy continue to impede availability of information.

# Political Influence

- Pictures and personal messages from elected officials could be seen as an attempt to influence voters toward a specific party.

# Voter Disenfranchisement

- Although military votes are ultimately counted, the late and seemingly insignificant nature of the count is discouraging to many military voters.

# Recommendations

- **Grace Period**
- **Communication/ Raising Awareness**
  - Web
  - Direct to Command
- **Election Day Count and/or Publicity of Absentee Results**

Questions?

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# Further Resources

- **The Pew Center on States: No Time To Vote, January 2009**  
[http://www.nationaldefensecommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/nttv\\_finalemb.pdf](http://www.nationaldefensecommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/nttv_finalemb.pdf)
- **2008 OVF Post Election UOCAVA Survey and Analysis**  
[https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/OVF\\_2009\\_PostElectionSurvey\\_Report.pdf](https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/OVF_2009_PostElectionSurvey_Report.pdf)