



Counting All Military Votes Act

Every American has the right to vote, including when serving overseas as deployed active duty military. Geographic barriers naturally can interfere with the delivery of absentee ballots, but on traditional military bases, there are designated *Express Mail Labels* for Military Absentee Voting to expedite and track absentee ballots for successful, on-time delivery. These *Express Mail Labels*, administered by military postal operations of the Department of Defense (DoD), however, are not currently assessible to deployed active duty military serving on our embassies, consulates, and/or in diplomatic posts.

The **Counting All Military Votes Act** ensures that the absentee ballots of all deployed active duty military personnel serving overseas are shipped by *Express Mail*, as currently mandated under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). This legislation provides clarifying language to administer the *Express Mail Label* to all deployed active duty military serving overseas, guaranteeing equal access to absentee voting for all active duty military serving overseas.

Why It's a Problem:

Currently under UOCAVA, the mandated transit time of an absentee ballot is no more than (7) days. The unique *Express Mail Label*, which is currently only used for absentee ballots originating from overseas military postal operations, has an average (6) day transit time from military location, to an International Service Center, to the election destination all via the *Express Mail* stream.

For diplomatic postal operations at embassies and consulates, absentee ballots of active duty military serving overseas can be sent through a "Diplomatic Pouch" service, but it does not enter the *Express Mail* stream until it reaches the United States, making the transit time of an absentee ballot much longer than (7) days to reach the election destination. The only other option for guaranteed tracking and expedited delivery is to mail the absentee ballot through a private courier service at the personal expense of the voter.

How We Fix It:

The Counting All Military Votes Act provides the necessary fix for lawful access to the *Express Mail Label* for military absentee voting to all deployed active duty military personnel that are serving overseas by:

1. Instructing the Department of State (DoS) to coordinate with DoD to administer the *Express Mail Label* for military absentee voting to the active duty military stationed at our embassies and consulates.
2. Clarifying the definition of an "absent uniformed service voter" to include "active duty member serving at a diplomatic or consular post."

Ensuring access to the *Express Mail Label* for military absentee voting to the approximately 10,143 military personnel currently stationed at our nearly 200 embassies, consulates, and diplomatic posts overseas will cost an estimated \$211,785. The value of guaranteeing all our active duty military serving overseas are able to trust that their ballot counts greatly outweighs the cost of protecting their right to vote.