



# Relational Organizing WORKBOOK

# Why is this important?

MILLIONS OF ELIGIBLE U.S. VOTERS LIVE, WORK, OR SERVE AWAY FROM THEIR HOME STATE.

AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN VOTE IN THEIR HOME STATE NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE.

THESE VOTES CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN ELECTIONS BOTH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE.

YOU PROBABLY KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN VOTE AWAY FROM HOME.

REACH OUT TO THESE VOTERS YOU KNOW AND ASK THEM TO SEND THEIR VOTES HOME.



BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA



# IDENTIFYING YOUR NETWORK

**Who do you know who lives abroad or away from their home state?**

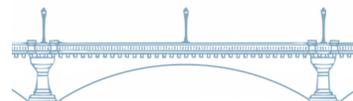
**Go through the contacts in your phone and email. Check your social media. Ask family members if they know anyone.**

- **Your niece who is in a study-abroad program in Tokyo**
- **Your former neighbor in the Air Force who is now serving in Alaska**
- **That family friend who retired to Costa Rica**

**PUT THEM ON YOUR LIST**



BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA





# THE CONVERSATION

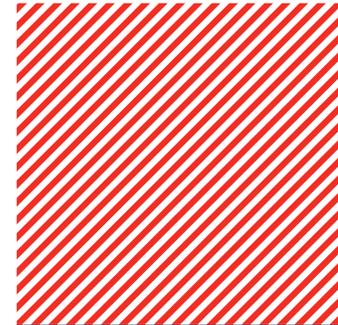


Make a commitment to be intentional and reach out to each person on your list.

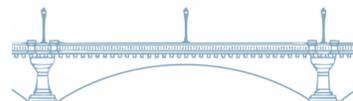
Your ask is non-partisan. Tell them they can send their vote home. Ask them to vote.

If they do not know how to vote while away, say "Let's look that up together."

Then make a commitment with yourself to reach out to them again. Follow up and ask them if they send their vote home yet.



BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA



# KNOW ANY U.S. CITIZENS ABROAD?

*Let them know that they have the right to vote.*



## MYTHS

**I can't vote while I am abroad or out of state.**

**I can't vote in a midterm election.**

**I have been away too long to vote.**

**I don't know how to do it. It's complicated. It's too late.**

**Break myths.  
Begin a conversation.**



**BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA**



Your Role:

## INVITE, ENCOURAGE, INFORM, CONFIRM

Invite - “Are you ready to vote?” “Have you sent your vote home yet?”

Encourage - “Your vote matters.” “It’s easy, important.”  
Friendly. Not partisan. No pressure.

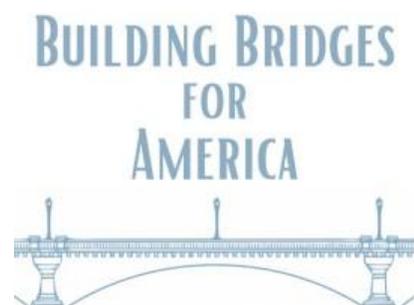
Inform - “You can request your ballot now.”  
Set a plan together.



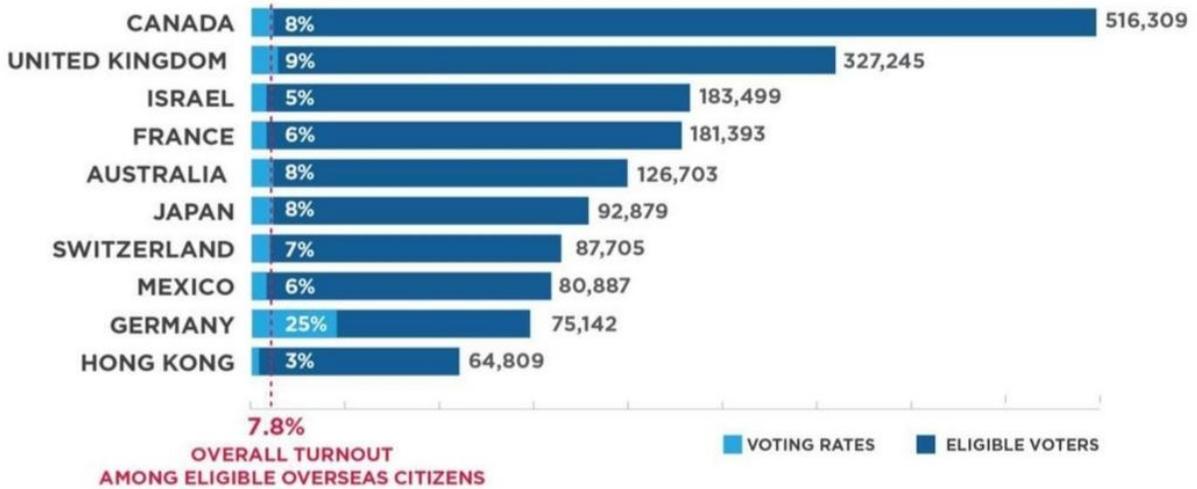
Military families serving away from their home state, in the US or abroad, should go to **fvap.gov** to register or request a ballot. (Federal law sets special voting provisions and timelines for military personnel stationed outside their voting jurisdiction—as well as their families.)

Civilians living overseas should go to **votefromabroad.org** to register or request a ballot. Military families serving overseas (but not in the US) can also go to this site.

People who are simply temporarily away from their voting location should follow their jurisdiction's absentee voting rules.

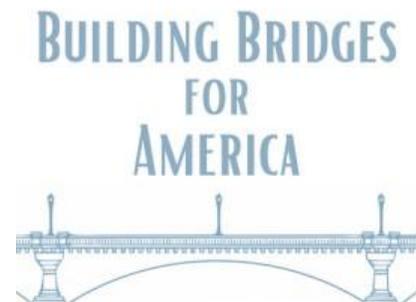


**ESTIMATED TURNOUT AMONG OVERSEAS CITIZENS IN 2020**



There are state-by-state guides available at **FVAP.gov** and **Votefromabroad.org** and authoritative answers to almost every possible question. It is a huge help to get people to the right place!

Both sites also have real-time help-desks and multiple language options. Overseas and military voters can usually vote electronically. This varies by state. So do dates. Consult the guides at the two sites above for authoritative answers. (No need to hunt.)



**\*Confirm - “Have you sent your ballot home?  
Was it received?”**

***It is crucial to follow up.*** Make contact and specifically confirm that your friend has **received and returned** the ballot.

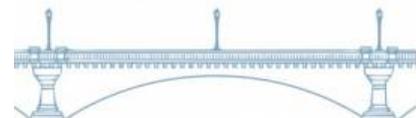
Has the local election office received and accepted it? Help them through any problems,

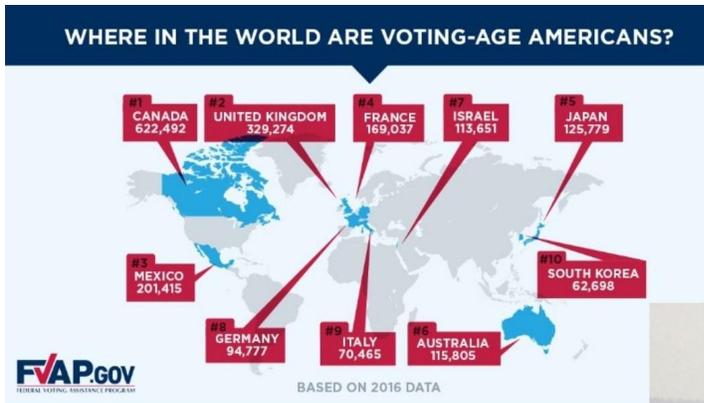


Don't guess: Use the sites above for authoritative guidance. Note: There are cure and correction provisions in the law.

Did they send their ballot home? **Celebrate with them!** This could be the first time they've ever sent their ballot home. And you helped them do it!

BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA





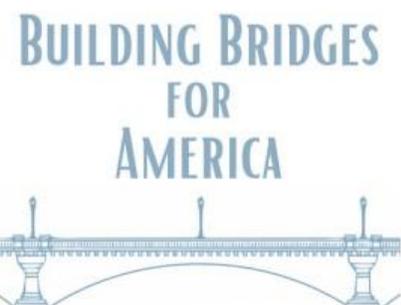
US CITIZENS  
CAN VOTE  
FROM  
ANYWHERE IN  
THE WORLD

They're more  
likely to vote  
if someone asks.



\*Encourage them to reach out to their friends too. They are now crucial in reaching their own network. And they are priceless—because they have done it already!

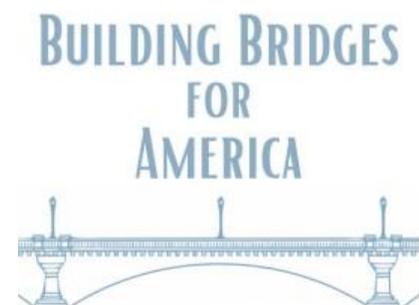
\*Are your friends willing to reach out personally to other eligible voters in their network? Are they willing to write postcards? (We can give them customized addresses.)



Give them a copy of the form. *Keep the relational organizing going!* It's one of the simplest and most important tools we have to mobilize voters.



Building Bridges will be meeting live every Wednesday. Let us know how you're doing. Bring any questions and we'll help you. We want to hear how it goes!



**BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA**

# **SEND YOUR VOTE HOME TEAM**



**WES EDWARDS**

Director of Send Your Vote Home

**CAZ MARGENAU**

Director Leadership Development, Building Bridges for America

**BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR  
AMERICA**

