

# Voting & Election Reform

---

- **OVF-hosted FAWCO voter registration website**
  - **724 users** - 50.27% voting either for the first time ever (6.4%) or for the first time abroad (43.9%) and 32.6% had never voted before moving abroad; 4 under 18 at time of request
  - **Top 10 states – no change** (in ascending order, FL, OH, VA, NJ, MA, PA, IL, NY, TX and CA)



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# Voting – OVF Summit

---

## OVF post- election survey:

- **22%: “No Time To Vote”**
- **2012 “tipping point” in use of technology** (80% used internet download; but only 16% used online ballot tracking and only 14 states allow electronic ballot return) **and** “new solutions produce new problems”.
- Download report at [https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/OVF\\_ElectionReport\\_2013\\_web.pdf](https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/OVF_ElectionReport_2013_web.pdf)



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# Voting & Election Reform

---

- **FAWCO initiatives:**

- Comments on 2011 FPCA
- State of Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona et al.
- UMOVA – where does it stand?
  - Enacted in **13 states**: CA, CO, HI, KY, MO, MT, NV, NC, ND, OK, PA, UT, VA, and the District of Columbia and introduced in **CT**

- **Legislative initiatives**

- “The kids” – now **26 states** (AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, IL, IA, MA, MI, NE, NH, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, RI, SD, TE, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY) + **DC**



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# Overseas Americans Week 2013

---

- AARO, ACA & FAWCO - over 75 offices visited
  - Main issues:
    - **HR 597** (Carolyn Maloney) – now 16 co-sponsors – over half, members of the Americans Abroad Caucus
    - FAWCO/AARO – loss of access to financial services at home and abroad, onerous filing & reporting requirements, voting, State Department
    - + ACA – Residence-based taxation
    - National Taxpayer Advocate Service



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# Meetings with Treasury

---

- **Main recommendations**
  - **Advisory Council**
  - **Redefine “foreign” - Concept of “tax home” => non-discrimination clause in new IGAs**
  - **Raise reporting threshold => done for 8938**
  - **Increase budget for IRS information/support + joint IRS Treasury website**
  - **FBAR/8938 filing deadlines**



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# Meetings with Treasury/GAO

---

- IGAs: CH, DE, DK, EI, ES, MX, NO, JP, + UK (FFIs report high-risk, very high value accounts to their governments which report to the IRS) – some dependent on reciprocity (?!)
- Exempt certain tax-free foreign pension plans (PFICs) => **work in progress**
- Conference call on Thursday with GAO – FEIE and other tax-related questions



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931

# We're here to help!

---

- **Transmission of U.S. nationality**
- **Visas for non-American spouses and children**
- **Access to financial services in the U.S. and abroad**
- **Voting from overseas**
- **Burdensome FBAR / FATCA filing requirements – cost of IRS filings – “impossible” or “risky” requirements...**

[usliaison@fawco.org](mailto:usliaison@fawco.org)



serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931