



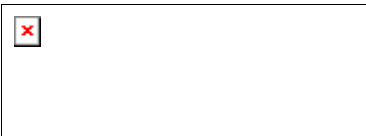
Follow up

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Alcorn, James (SBE)

From: Long, Elisa [elisa.long@norfolk.gov] **Sent:** Tue 7/7/2009 2:06 PM
To: Alcorn, James (SBE)
Cc: jean.cunningham@sbe.virginia.gov; jhopper@oag.va.us; marcal1178@aol.com; Tracy Howard; cquinn@sprintmail.com; Joyce Braithwaite
Subject: Reply to Voter Residency Regulations
Attachments: 2009 MILITARY INFORMATION BROCHURE .pdf(31KB) Voter Residency Regulations - 2nd Draft.doc(51KB)

Office of Elections
808 City Hall Building
Norfolk, Virginia 23510



James,

Thank you for sending the draft and thank you for taking the time last week at training to talk with me concerning the impact of the task force recommendations on military voters. Unfortunately, I do not see the items we discussed reflected in the latest draft.

Although item #6 of the draft provides the right to vote to anyone residing on federal property who is otherwise qualified, the presumption of residence is not automatically given. As we discussed, in order to determine if the applicant is otherwise qualified, it is necessary for our staff to determine residence. Although the military member may choose to establish legal residence in any state as long as they have had physical presence in the state and the intent to remain or make the state their legal residence, the military member must declare their state of residence with the military. In order to know if Virginia is the military member's state of residence and if not, their intent to establish Virginia residence, we must be able to ask those questions.

Because the navy ships and commands are not listed in VERIS, item #16 c) would provide for asking supplemental questions; however, the questions in #17 would not provide the information needed to make a determination of qualification of a military member. Our office needs to know the following: **Are you Active Duty or a Spouse/Dependent?** Under Section 24.2-417.1, we give the presumption of residence to all military spouses and dependents. However, if active duty, we need to know: **What state do you have listed as legal residence with the military? and Do you wish to establish Virginia residence?**

I have attached the brochure Norfolk has used successfully for several years. It provides information from the Federal Voting Assistance Program that is needed to make an informed decision on residence. Of the many thousands of voting age military members from 50 states and territories stationed as base support personnel or sailors aboard 78 ships home ported at the world's largest naval base, **only a fraction of that population claims legal residence in the State of Virginia.** The vast majority of active duty military members respond that **they are a resident of another state and do not wish to establish Virginia residence.**

There are more than 3,100 ship movements in and out of Norfolk each year. Each carrier group has thousands of sailors living on board. In addition to those permanently stationed aboard a ships and in support roles in barracks, there are over 30,000 military personnel that are temporarily stationed here en route to their permanent duty stations. There is a potential for over 100 thousand voting age military members to be physically at the Norfolk Naval Base at some time during the year. Without a way to communicate and provide accurate voting information, we could create an administrative nightmare and a new class of Virginian... one for voting purposes only. I have included my suggestions for avoiding that in the attached draft document.

Best regards,

Elisa