



DEMOCRATS ABROAD

2017 Congressional Door Knock

Talking Points

1. Importance of the Overseas Vote
 - 6.7 million American voters live abroad
 - These voters must register for every election
 - Rules, deadlines and ballots vary by state
 - 13 states don't allow those who never lived in the U.S. (citizens born abroad) to vote
 - **Asks:**
 - Enforce the MOVE Act
 - Fund the Election Assistance Commission ("EAC") and Federal Voting Assistance Program ("FVAP")
 - Ensure secretaries of states' report full and accurate information to the EAC
2. Election Assistance Commission
 - Important to us - information on ballots requested and voted
 - **Asks:**
 - Fully fund the EAC
 - Full complement of commissioners (fill 2nd Democratic spot)
3. Taxes
 - Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") - Same country safe harbor
 - Residence Based Taxation ("RBT")
 - Only the U.S. and Eritrea have citizenship-based taxation
 - DA has advocated for RBT since 1996
 - **Asks:**
 - Same country safe harbor for FATCA
 - Support HR2136 (Rep. Carolyn Maloney's bill) for same country safe harbor
 - Combine FATCA and Foreign Bank and Financial Account Reporting ("FBAR") forms
 - Reduce penalties and let the IRS have discretion regarding penalties and their application
4. Americans Abroad Caucus
 - **Asks:**
 - In the House: join the Americans Abroad Caucus
 - In the Senate: start interest group regarding Americans abroad in the Senate
5. Windfall Elimination Provision ("WEP")
 - Some Social Security payments reduced by 50%
 - Impacts any American with a private pension
 - Never meant for Americans abroad with a foreign pension
 - Overseas Americans in an unequal situation
 - **Asks:**
 - Repeal WEP
 - Pass the Social Security Fairness Act