The Election Administration and Voting Survey

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

March 9, 2012

Brief Overview

- The Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) and how it has changed over time
- The types of data collected through the EAVS
- How states report their data to EAC
- The challenges EAC has observed with the collection and reporting of states' data
- Looking ahead: The 2014 EAVS

About the EAVS Survey

EAC has administered the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) since 2004.

- Prior to 2004, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) collected data on voter registration and list maintenance at the state level.

- In 2004 EAC issued 3 separate surveys (NVRA, UOCAVA, and EDS).
  - Captured data at the state level
  - Paper format

- In 2006 EAC issued one combined survey.
  - Captured data at the state and county levels
  - Web survey

About the EAVS Survey (cont.)

EAC introduced new changes for 2008:

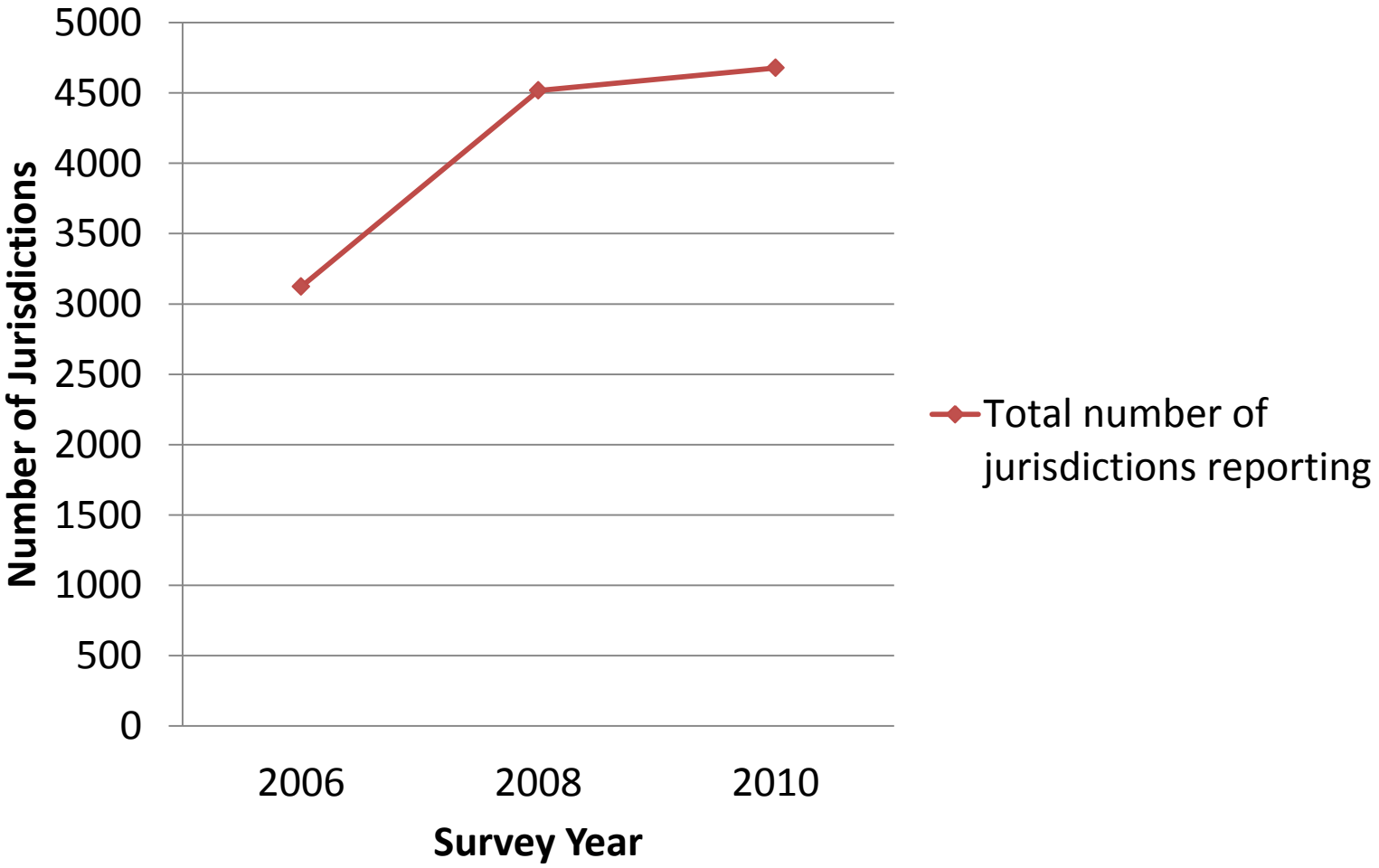
- Instead of a web survey EAC issued an Excel-based template for data reporting

- EAC altered the question wording for clarity, eliminated and/or introduced new questions

- EAC split the survey into two separate parts:
  - Statutory Overview – asks states about their election administration laws and procedures
  - Quantitative section – requests statistical information on NVRA, UOCAVA, and other areas of election administration.
    - Maintained the request for state and county data

This basic structure has remained the same for 2008, 2010, and 2012.

Response to EAVS



About the EAVS Survey (cont.)

The types of data collected in the survey:

- Voter registration
  - Number of registered voters
  - Number of active and inactive voters
  - Sources of the voter registration applications
  - Number of voters removed from the rolls
- UOCAVA
  - Number of ballots transmitted, returned, counted, and rejected
- Poll workers
- Provisional balloting
- Turnout
- Domestic absentee and early voting
- Type of voting equipment used

Reporting data to EAC

- EAC considers the state to be the reporting unit (not the local jurisdictions)

- The states typically rely on their EMSs/VRDs to provide EAC with the requested data

  - Top-down (centralized) vs. bottom-up systems

    - According to the 2010 Statutory Overview, 38 out of 54 states and territories (70%) reported having a top-down system and the remaining 16 a bottom-up system or some sort of hybrid.

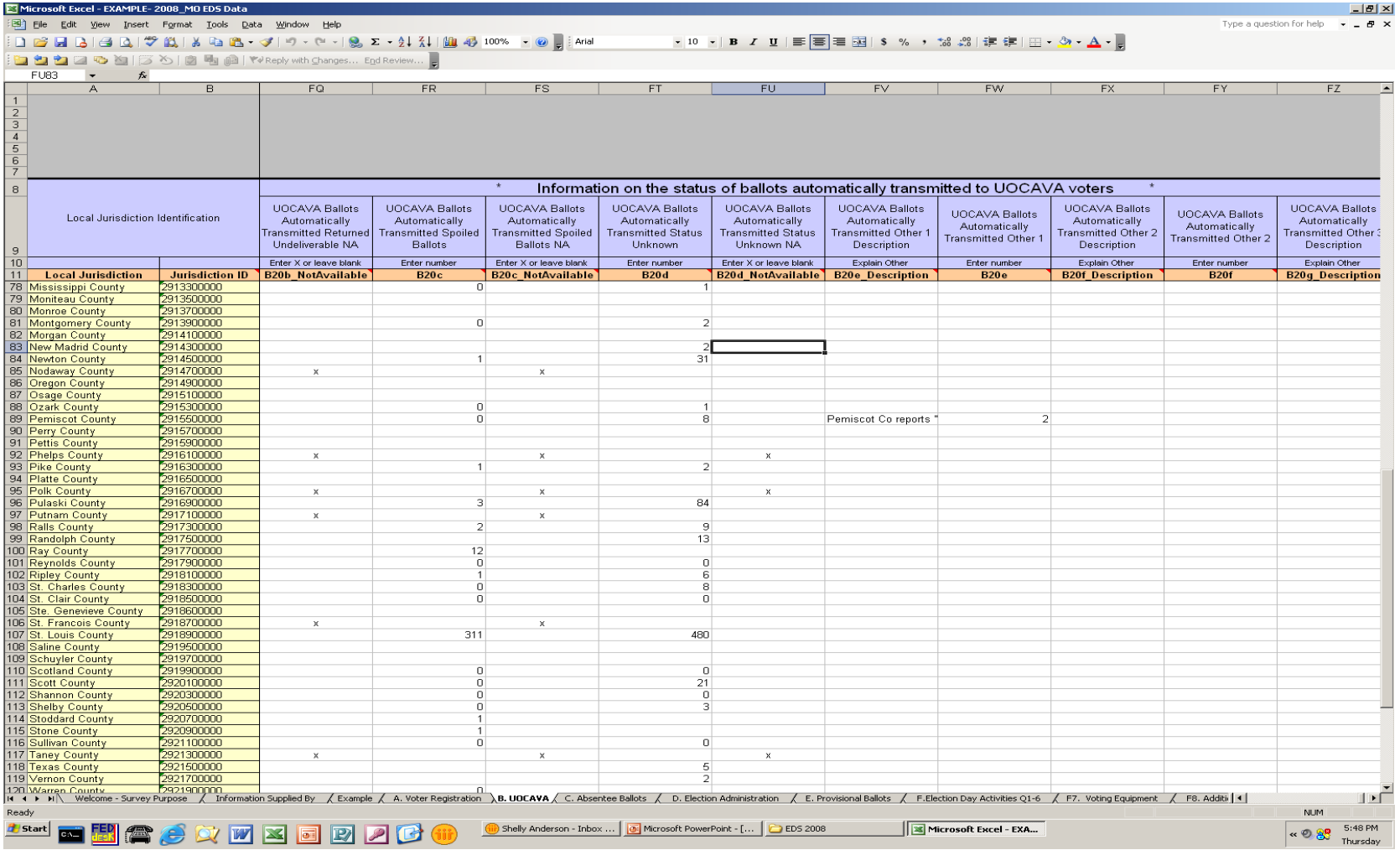
Reporting data to EAC (cont.)

The primary survey instrument designed to assist the States in collecting and reporting their statistical data is a Microsoft Excel-based template, preloaded with each State's jurisdictions. Most States submit their data using this tool.

States also have access to a Microsoft Word-based template that can be distributed to their local jurisdictions.

The length of time it takes a state to respond to the survey varies tremendously.

- Some states indicate that it takes 5-10 days; for others it can take 2-3 months.



Microsoft Excel - EXAMPLE- 2008_MO EDS Data

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

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	A	B	FQ	FR	FS	FT	FU	FV	FW	FX	FY	FZ
8	Local Jurisdiction Identification		* Information on the status of ballots automatically transmitted to UOCAVA voters *									
9			UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Returned Undeliverable NA	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Spoiled Ballots	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Spoiled Ballots NA	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Status Unknown	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Status Unknown NA	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Other 1 Description	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Other 1	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Other 2 Description	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Other 2	UOCAVA Ballots Automatically Transmitted Other 3 Description
10			Enter X or leave blank	Enter number	Enter X or leave blank	Enter number	Enter X or leave blank	Explain Other	Enter number	Explain Other	Enter number	Explain Other
11	**Local Jurisdiction**	**Jurisdiction ID**	**B20b_NotAvailable**	**B20c**	**B20c_NotAvailable**	**B20d**	**B20d_NotAvailable**	**B20e_Description**	**B20e**	**B20f_Description**	**B20f**	**B20g_Description**
78	Mississippi County	2913300000		0		1						
79	Moniteau County	2913500000										
80	Monroe County	2913700000										
81	Montgomery County	2913900000		0		2						
82	Morgan County	2914100000										
83	New Madrid County	2914300000				2						
84	Newton County	2914500000		1		31						
85	Nodaway County	2914700000	x		x							
86	Oregon County	2914900000										
87	Osage County	2915100000										
88	Ozark County	2915300000		0		1						
89	Pemiscot County	2915500000		0		8		Pemiscot Co reports "	2			
90	Perry County	2915700000										
91	Pettis County	2915900000										
92	Phelps County	2916100000	x		x		x					
93	Pike County	2916300000		1		2						
94	Platte County	2916500000										
95	Polk County	2916700000	x		x		x					
96	Pulaski County	2916900000		3		84						
97	Putnam County	2917100000	x		x							
98	Ralls County	2917300000		2		9						
99	Randolph County	2917500000				13						
100	Ray County	2917700000		12								
101	Reynolds County	2917900000		0		0						
102	Ripley County	2918100000		1		6						
103	St. Charles County	2918300000		0		8						
104	St. Clair County	2918500000		0		0						
105	Ste. Genevieve County	2918600000										
106	St. Francois County	2918700000	x		x							
107	St. Louis County	2918900000		311		480						
108	Saline County	2919500000										
109	Schuyler County	2919700000										
110	Scotland County	2919900000		0		0						
111	Scott County	2920100000		0		21						
112	Shannon County	2920300000		0		0						
113	Shelby County	2920500000		0		3						
114	Stoddard County	2920700000		1								
115	Stone County	2920900000		1								
116	Sullivan County	2921100000		0		0						
117	Taney County	2921300000	x		x		x					
118	Texas County	2921500000				5						
119	Vernon County	2921700000				2						
120	Warren County	2921900000		0								

Welcome - Survey Purpose | Information Supplied By | Example | A. Voter Registration | **B. UOCAVA** | C. Absentee Ballots | D. Election Administration | E. Provisional Ballots | F.Election Day Activities Q1-6 | F7. Voting Equipment | F8. Additi

Ready NUM

Start | Shelly Anderson - Inbox ... | Microsoft PowerPoint - [... | EDS 2008 | Microsoft Excel - EXA... | 5:48 PM Thursday

States' Data Collection and Reporting Challenges

- There has been improvement over time
- However, some challenges remain:
  - Differences in how state (local) databases are set up
  - Election terminology
  - Variation in how/whether certain data elements are collected – level of detail
  - Accuracy of the data and ability to categorize the data
  - Facility with the use of technology
  - Turnover in state and local staffing and personnel; loss of historical knowledge

Looking Ahead: The 2014 EAVS

Anticipate changes to the UOCAVA section of the survey

- EAC and the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) have discussed the possibility of merging their respective UOCAVA questions so that States have to answer these questions once.

- In the spring EAC and FVAP will continue discussions around the specific questions that will appear on the 2014 survey and will have a draft finalized soon thereafter.

Questions?

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