The Election Administration and Voting Survey
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

Number of Jurisdictions

Survey Year

Total number of jurisdictions reporting
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.
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.
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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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