



2018 EAVS Newsletter

Volume 1

October 2, 2018

Announcing the EAVS Newsletter!

This bi-weekly newsletter will keep you up to date on important developments and announcements pertaining to the EAC's 2018 EAVS survey. Thank you to the states that suggested this idea in their needs assessment calls!

The next edition will be released Oct. 15. Newsletters will be sent out via email and will be available in the Resources section of the EAVS Portal (<https://eavsportal.com/>).

Changes to the 2018 EAVS Questionnaire

In preparation for the 2018 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), we spoke with representatives from 38 states (and counting). During those calls, we received a number of questions regarding changes to EAVS 2018. The good news is that the data being requested for 2018 remains the same; however, the survey has been restructured to improve its “flow” and instructions have been clarified to make it easier to understand what election offices should—or should not—include in reported counts. Most notably, the survey no longer includes policy-based questions; instead, you are asked to specify ‘Data Not Available’ when you do not collect the data necessary to respond to a particular question, or ‘Not Applicable’ when a question does not apply due to policy or administrative procedures.

In addition, while the 2018 survey asks for the same information as previously, the ordering of questions has changed somewhat. We have created a “crosswalk” spreadsheet linking questions/columns from 2016 and the equivalent questions/columns in the 2018 EAVS. You can find that spreadsheet attached to this email or in the Resources section of the EAVS Portal.

Below is a section-by-section description of changes made for the 2018 EAVS.

Section A: Voter Registration

Just as in previous years, Section A asks about jurisdictions’ voter registration activities. This includes 1) the number of registered voters in a jurisdiction; 2) the number of registration forms received and processed; and 3) the number of confirmation notices and removals from registration rolls.

There have been some changes to Section A that affect the ordering of questions in this section:

- Removed policy-based questions on active and inactive voters and same day registration.
- Clarified definitions of active and inactive voters, and where same day registrations and pre-registrations should be included, if those options are available in a state or jurisdiction.
- Reduced the number of ‘Other’ categories available across various questions.



Section B: Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

Just as in previous years, Section B asks about UOCAVA voters and ballots. This includes 1) the number of registered and eligible UOCAVA voters in a jurisdiction; 2) the number of Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) received and rejected; 3) the number of regular absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters; 4) the number of regular UOCAVA absentee ballots returned, counted, and rejected; and 5) the number of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) received, counted, and rejected. You are also asked to divide these by UOCAVA voter type (Uniformed Services voters and their family members, and Non-military/civilian overseas voters).

For 2018, the recommendations from the Section B working group supported by the Federal Voting Assistance Program and Council of State Governments have been fully implemented. Rather than “greying out” questions that are no longer required, these items have been removed from the survey. Changes affecting question order include:

- All date and timing questions have been removed. While you are still asked to report about ballots transmitted, returned, and counted by mode (mail, email, other) and by UOCAVA voter type, you do not need to divide these numbers by ballot transmission timeframe (before or after the 45-day deadline).
- Clarified FWAB rules and moved all FWAB questions to the end of Section B. FWABs are no longer included in counts related to regular absentee ballots.
- Specified that returned ballots are any received by a jurisdiction, whether or not they were ultimately counted or rejected (and removed language about “returned and submitted for counting”).
- Reduced the number of ‘Other’ categories available across various questions.
- Reasons for rejection will be broken down by voter type, but not by mode (i.e., how a rejected ballot was transmitted or returned).
- Ballots transmitted, returned, and counted are broken down by UOCAVA voter type and by mode, creating some new mode by voter type items.
- Reasons for regular ballot and FWAB rejection are broken down by UOCAVA voter type, creating some new reason by voter type items.

Section C: Domestic Civilian By-Mail Voting

This section of the EAVS used to be called “Domestic Civilian Absentee Voting,” but now uses the term “by-mail” to reflect that many states no longer require a voter to be absent from his or her voting location to cast a by-mail ballot. Just as in previous years, this section asks for 1) the number of by-mail ballots transmitted to voters; 2) the number of by-mail ballots received, counted and rejected; and 3) the number of by-mail ballots rejected for various reasons. Some changes affecting question order include:

- Removed policy-related question about permanent absentee voting.
- Specified that returned ballots are any received by a jurisdiction, whether or not they were ultimately counted or rejected (and removed language about “returned and submitted for counting”).
- Added a ballot outcome category for by-mail voters who voted in-person with a provisional ballot.



- Reduced the number of 'Other' categories available across various questions.

Section D: Total Votes Cast and In-Person Voting

This section was previously called "Election Administration" but has now been renamed to better reflect Section D's goal to understand in-person voting and election administration in your jurisdiction. The section still asks questions about 1) the number of precincts in a jurisdiction; 2) the number of physical polling places; 3) the number of people voting in-person (either on Election Day or during early voting); and 4) poll workers who serve in a jurisdiction. However, some changes affect the question ordering, including:

- The section begins with questions requesting the total number of voters participating in an election, then asks how many voted in-person, on Election Day or during early voting. The in-person at an election office option has been removed.
- The total number of poll workers is reported overall, and then broken down into Election Day and early voting.
- Reduced the number of 'Other' categories available across various questions.

Section E: Provisional Ballots

The goal of Section E is to understand provisional voting in your jurisdiction. This includes 1) the number of provisional ballots submitted; 2) the number of provisional ballots counted, in part or in full; and 3) the number of provisional ballots rejected for various reasons. Some changes that affect question ordering include:

- The section begins with questions requesting the total number of provisional ballots submitted, and then breaks this number down into provisional ballots counted in part, counted in full, and rejected.
- Rejected ballots are then broken down into various reasons for rejection.

Section F: Voter Participation and Election Technologies

The goal of Section F is to 1) collect information on the number of individuals who participated in the 2018 general election; and 2) identify the type of election technologies that were used in your jurisdiction. There are several changes that affect question ordering, including:

- Removed the question about how many first-time voters were required to show identification.
- Poll book questions have been simplified. Now you are simply asked whether a jurisdiction used electronic and/or paper poll books for various activities (to sign voters in, update voter history, look up polling places, or for other reasons).
- The voting technology section has been reformatted to ask about the type of equipment used for various purposes (In-precinct, Election Day, regular ballot voting; Special device accessible to disabled voters; Provisional ballot voting; In-person, early voting; By-mail voting), rather than asking about use of particular equipment types (DRE, DRE w/ VVPAT, DRE w/o VVPAT, Optical Scan, etc.).