## Using the 2020 Policy Survey to Validate EAVS Data

The Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) project consists of two surveys that are administered separately. The Policy Survey is completed at the state or territory level and provides information about the election laws and policies that will be in place for the November 2020 General Election. The EAVS collects data points at the jurisdiction level about voter registration, overseas voting, mail voting, in-person voting and polling operations, provisional ballots, total participation, and voting technology.

The Policy Survey provides important context to your state's EAVS data and will help data users better understand the EAVS data that you submit. In addition, this year the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will use your Policy Survey data to create customized validations for your state's EAVS data collection templates. These validations will ensure your two data submissions align with each other, will reduce the response burden for states and jurisdictions, and will help your state submit more accurate EAVS data.

The following validations will be programmed into both the online and Excel data collection templates (stay tuned for a future EAVS newsletter that will give you a glimpse into what these two templates will look like and how they will differ).

**Reminder**: The Policy Survey is closing at the end of this month. Seven states and territories have completed their responses so far. As you can see from this newsletter, it is vital that the EAC has every state's response by September 30, so we can correctly program your data collection templates before we release them in early November. If you need assistance with completing the Policy Survey, please contact our help desk at eavs@forsmarshgroup.com.

| Policy Survey Question | EAVS Question(s) | If… | …Then |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q7: Does your state have online registration? | A4c, A5c, A6c, and A7c: Number of registration forms received through web-based online registration systems between the close of registration for the 2018 General Election and the close of registration for the 2020 General Election | Q7 = No | A4c, A5c, A6c and A7c will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q7 = Yes | A4c, A5c, A6c, and A7c cannot be answered "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |

| Policy Survey Question | EAVS Question(s) | If… | …Then |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q9: Does your state have same-day registration (SDR)? | A2a: Total number of SDRs received for the November 2020 General Election<br><br>A2b: Number of SDRs received on Election Day<br><br>A2c: Number of SDRs received before Election Day (e.g., during early voting) | Q9 = No | A2a, A2b, and A2c will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q9 = Yes (either Yes option) | A2a cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| | | Q9 = Yes, on Election Day | A2b cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| | | Q9 = Yes, during early voting or a period of overlap between the start of early voting and the close of voter registration | A2c cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| Q10: Does your state allow persons to pre-register to vote before they are 18 years of age? | A3c: Number of pre-registrations of persons under age 18 received between the close of registration for the 2018 General Election and the close of registration for the 2020 General Election | Q10 = No | A3c will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q10 = Yes | A3c cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |

| Policy Survey Question | EAVS Question(s) | If… | …Then |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q11: Does your state differentiate between active and inactive voters in your voter registration records? | A1c: Number of inactive registered voters for the 2020 General Election | Q11 = No | A1c will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q11 = Yes | A1c cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| Q13: Does your state send confirmation notices? | A8a: Total number of confirmation notices sent between the close of registration for the 2018 General Election and the close of registration for the 2020 General Election | Q13 = No | A8a will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q13 = Yes | A8a cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| Q16: Does your state or any jurisdiction use electronic poll books? | F3a, F3b, F3c, and F3d: Use of electronic poll books for the 2020 General Election | Q13 = No | F3a, F3b, F3c, and F3d will be pre-filled in the templates as "No." |
| Q18: Does your state or any jurisdiction in your state use an all-vote-by-mail system? | F1g: Number of mail ballots that were cast in an all-vote-by-mail jurisdiction that were counted | Q18 = No | F1g will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| Q18a: Will an all-vote-by-mail system be used for the November 2020 General Election? | F1g: Number of mail ballots that were cast in an all-vote-by-mail jurisdiction that were counted | Q18a = Statewide | F1g cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |

| Policy Survey Question | EAVS Question(s) | If… | …Then |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q19 Does your state allow some or all registered voters to request to be a permanent absentee voter? | C2a: Number of mail ballots that were transmitted to permanent absentee voters | Q19 = No | C2a will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| Q24: What terminology does your state use to describe the process of allowing individuals to cast their ballots in person before Election Day? | D1b: Number of individuals who voted at an early voting location<br><br>D4a, D4b, and D4c: Number of in-person early voting polling places<br><br>F1f: Number of people who cast an early voting ballot that was counted | Q24 = No in-person voting is allowed before Election Day | D1b, D4a, D4b, D4c, and F1f will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q24 ≠ No in-person voting is allowed before Election Day | D1b, D4a, D4b, D4c, and F1f cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| Q32: Does your state use provisional ballots? | E1a–e and E2a–m: Number of provisional ballots cast, counted, and rejected<br><br>F1e: Number of people who cast a provisional ballot that was counted<br><br>F5d_3, F6d_3, F7d_3, F8d_3, F9d_3, and F11d_3: Usage of election technology to cast provisional ballots<br><br>F12c: Location where provisional ballots were tallied | Q32 = No | E1a–e, E2a–m, F1e, F5d_3, F6d_3, F7d_3, F8d_3, F9d_3, F11d_3, and F12c will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q32 = Yes | E1a, E1b, E1d, E2a, and F1e cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |
| Q32c: How does your state treat provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct? | E2d: Number of provisional ballots rejected for being cast in the wrong precinct | Q32c = Fully count the ballot OR Partially count the ballot | E2d will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |

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| Q37: Which groups of people can have their voting eligibility suspended or revoked due to a qualifying criminal conviction? | A9d: Number of persons whose voter registration was removed due to a disqualifying felony conviction | Q37 = No one | A9d will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply." |
| | | Q37 ≠ No one | A9d cannot be answered as "Does not apply." A validation message will appear and ask the user to correct their response. |