



## Data Validations in the 2020 EAVS Templates

Both the Excel and online templates for the 2020 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) are customized to improve the accuracy and quality of your state's or territory's data submission and reduce the response burden for state, territory, and local election officials. The validations have been revised since 2018 so that they run faster in the Excel template, better highlight potential errors, and reduce the incidence of false positive error messages. The following types of validations are used in the templates:

- **Sum validations:** These validations will highlight when subcategories do not sum to the expected total.
  - Example: The total number of voters participating in the 2020 General Election, as reported in F1a, should match the sum of the number of voters who used different modes of voting, as reported in items F1b to F1h.
- **Logic validations:** These validations will highlight whether a value is incompatible with a response previously entered in the survey.
  - Example: The number of domestic civilian by-mail votes counted, as reported in C3a, should not exceed the number of domestic civilian by-mail ballots returned by voters, as reported in C1b.
- **Policy Survey validations:** These validations will appear when an EAVS item conflicts with the state's Policy Survey data submission.
  - Example: If a state has an online voter registration system (i.e., responds "Yes" to Q7 of the Policy Survey), then no jurisdiction from that state should respond "Does not apply" to online registrations in items A4c, A5c, A6c or A7c.
- **Missing data validations:** Except for comment boxes and "Other" subcategories, all items in the survey require a response. An alert will appear if a response to a required item is not provided.
  - Example: If a state reports the total number of registered voters in A1a but leaves the subitems for active and inactive registered voters blank, then A1b and A1c will be flagged. Instead of leaving items blank when you do not have a response to provide, report "Does not apply" (if your state does not have an applicable law or policy), "Data not available" (if your state does not track data for an item), or zero (if no instance of an item occurred).

Errors found in the Excel template will be color coded. The Excel template has a tab named "ColorCodeValidationsGuide" that delineates which error types are associated with each color code. You can also see the section titled "Error Checking in the Excel Template" in the EAVS Template User Guide (available on the [Resources page](#) of the EAVS Portal) for more details about these errors.

Errors found in the online template will not be color coded. Instead, when an error is present, a message in red text with a description of the error will appear above the question grid. The section titled "Error Checking in the Online Template" in the EAVS Template User Guide provides further instruction on how to identify and address errors within the online template.



**B1. Total Registered and Eligible UOCAVA Voters**

For question B1a, report the total number of registered and eligible voters in your jurisdiction who were covered by UOCAVA in the November 2020 general election.

For questions B1b and B1c, separate the number of registered and eligible voters that were reported in B1a into the categories Uniformed Services voters or non-military/civilian overseas voters. The amounts should sum to the total provided in B1a. If you are unable to distinguish between different UOCAVA voter types, complete B1a and select “Data not available” as the response to B1b–B1c.

Provide any comments about the nuances of how your jurisdiction categorizes registered UOCAVA voters in the B1 Comments box.

The amounts you report in B1b-c should equal the total number of registered and eligible UOCAVA voters you reported in B1a. Please correct your responses or use the comments section to explain why these subitems don't add up.

	[?]	Data not available[?]
<b>B1a. TOTAL registered and eligible:</b> Report the total number of registered and eligible voters covered under UOCAVA for the November 2020 general election. Include active and inactive voters and any persons who might have registered as UOCAVA prior to or on Election Day.[?]  If the total number of registered and eligible voters who were covered by UOCAVA in the November 2020 general election in your jurisdiction is zero, report “0” for B1a and please skip to C1 in Section C.	200	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B1b. Uniformed Services voters:[?]</b> Members of the Uniformed Services and their eligible dependents—domestic or foreign	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>B1c. Non-military/civilian overseas voters</b>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>

Although the online template can be used to collect data directly from local jurisdictions ([Vol. 3 of the EAVS newsletter](#) and the [EAVS Template User Guide](#) contain more details on this), every state and territory will submit its first and final EAVS data submissions to the project team through the Excel template.

## Pre-Filled Policy Survey Data

[Vol. 2 of the EAVS newsletter](#) discussed how the 2020 Policy Survey is being used to validate EAVS data. When you access your EAVS templates, you may notice the following items are pre-filled depending on your state’s election policies:

- **A1c** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not designate voters as “inactive” in your voter registration database.
- **A2a, A2b, and A2c** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not have same-day voter registration.
- **A3c** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not allow pre-registration of people under the age of 18 years old.
- **A4c, A5c, A6c, and A7c** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not have an online registration system.
- **A8a** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not send confirmation notices to people who may no longer be eligible to vote in the jurisdiction in which they are registered.
- **A9d** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not remove people from the voter registration rolls due to a disqualifying felony conviction.
- **C2a** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not allow voters to register as permanent absentee voters.
- **D1b, D4a, D4b, D4c, D6a, and F1f** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not allow in-person voting prior to Election Day.



- **E1a–e, E2a–m, F1e, F5d\_3, F6d\_3, F7d\_3, F8d\_3, F9d\_3, F11d\_3, and F12c** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not offer provisional ballots.
- **E2d** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state does not partially count provisional ballots cast in the wrong jurisdiction.
- **F1g** will be pre-filled as “Does not apply” if your state was not an all-vote-by-mail state for the 2020 General Election.
- **F3a, F3b, F3c, and F3d** will be pre-filled as “No” if your state does not use electronic poll books.

## Revisiting the 2020 Policy Survey

2020 saw seismic changes to states’ and territories’ election laws and policies. These laws are crucial to understanding the election landscape and they provide important context for the EAVS data your state or territory will submit in the coming months. Because some states experienced late-breaking changes to their election procedures, whether because of administrative changes or court decisions, we invite all EAVS points of contact (POC) to review their submissions for accuracy. The Policy Survey will be part of the public data release in June 2021 and the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) wishes to ensure that the data is as accurate as possible.

If your state or territory changed an election policy after you completed your Policy Survey submission, please contact the EAVS project team by email at [eavs@forsmarshgroup.com](mailto:eavs@forsmarshgroup.com) to discuss your update. Examples of Policy Survey updates may include:

- Whether voters must provide an excuse in order to vote by mail (item Q17) or in-person prior to Election Day (item Q24a)
- Deadlines for when mail voters—whether domestic civilians, domestic UOCAVA, or overseas UOCAVA—must postmark and/or return their mail ballots (items Q20, Q29, and Q30)
- How long your state tracks mail ballots that are received after the ballot return deadline (item Q21)
- Identification requirements for in-person voters who are not voting for the first time (item Q36)

Your state’s or territory’s 2020 Policy Survey submission can be found on the State Files page of the [EAVS Portal](#)—you will need to log in with your credentials to access it.