What's New for the 2022 EAVS

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and its implementing partner, Fors Marsh Group (FMG), are thrilled to begin work on the 2022 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). This is the 10th iteration of this important project to collect data on election administration activities and voting in U.S. federal general elections.

In the coming months, this EAVS newsletter will keep you up to date on important developments and announcements pertaining to the 2022 project. In addition to receiving it in your inbox, each EAVS newsletter will be posted on the [Resources page](#) of the EAVS Portal (https://eavsportal.com/). These newsletters can be shared with local election officials, IT staff, data vendors, and others who will assist in providing 2022 EAVS data for your state.

The EAC continually seeks to improve the survey experience for its state and local partners. Since the 2020 EAVS, the EAC has talked with dozens of election officials and other election experts and has listened to their feedback. This feedback has helped the EAC clarify areas of the survey that were difficult to complete, adapt to evolving practices in election administration, and improve the overall quality of data. Because of this, you will notice some changes this year to the survey questions and other EAVS processes. This newsletter has more detail on these changes as well as resources that are available to support you in completing this important data collection effort.

Updated EAVS Guide

The EAC has issued an updated version of the Guide to the Election Administration and Voting Survey, which outlines information on (1) what data are collected through this project, (2) the process and timeline for data submissions, (3) how the EAC reports the results of the data, (4) how updates to EAVS datasets are released to the public, and (5) how the EAC makes changes to survey questions. Updates made since the previous version of this guide include additional information on how the EAC reviews draft EAVS and Policy Survey data submissions, opportunities for points of contact (POC) to correct their data before certification, and information on how states may update their EAVS POCs during a data collection cycle. The latest version of this guide can be found on the Resources page of the EAVS Portal under the header ["EAVS Policy Guide."](#)

Changes to the Data Review Process

Based on feedback from the 2020 EAVS, the EAC has made two important changes to the data review process this year. The EAC will review your state's Policy Survey submission and ask for corrections and clarifications shortly after it is submitted. In addition, the EAC will provide states with two opportunities to review and correct their EAVS data submission before it is certified as final. The first EAVS data review will be the same as in previous years (within 10 business days of your state's draft EAVS submission, the EAC will provide you with a written memo of items that need further review), and the second review will show state POCs how their state's data will appear in the descriptive tables of the EAVS report. Following this review, POCs will be

able to provide final data corrections or request the addition of footnotes to these tables to provide more context on their data. Future volumes of the 2022 EAVS Newsletter will provide more detail on the EAVS data review process.

Upcoming Changes to 2024 EAVS Section A

As a reminder, the EAC intends to make questionnaire changes to Section A of the EAVS for 2024. These changes will not affect the data you submit for the 2022 EAVS. Because the data collected for the 2024 EAVS Section A will cover a period of approximately 2 years—from the close of registration for the 2022 general election to the close of registration for the 2024 general election in your state—the EAC is announcing these changes now to provide states ample time to prepare this data in the future.

The EAC has made available a report that outlines the changes that will be made and the new questions that will go into effect starting with the 2024 EAVS. This report can be found on the Resources page of the EAVS Portal under the header "Planned Changes to Section A of the 2024 EAVS." Please share this information with IT staff, data vendors, jurisdiction election officials, and others who will be involved in working on the 2024 EAVS for your state.

Changes to the 2022 EAVS Questions

A PDF of the 2022 EAVS questions can be found on the Downloads page of the EAVS Portal. The EAVS project team recommends that each state and jurisdiction should carefully review the survey questions before beginning to respond to the survey. The key changes made to the survey questions this year are noted below.

Deleted Questions

The fields that collected the address, city, state, ZIP code, and telephone number of the person submitting the data have been deleted. The only contact information collected through the EAVS will be the name, title, office/agency name, and email address. This data will not be part of the public data sets that will be released in summer 2023.

The question in Section D that collected the number of in-person voters during Election Day and early voting and the questions in Section F that collected information on punch card and lever voting machines have been removed from the 2022 EAVS. Question F1 of the EAVS will continue to collect the data on the number of voters who cast a ballot that was counted in-person on Election Day and during early voting, and questions F5–F9 will continue to collect data on the use of direct-recording electronic (DRE) equipment both with and without voter-verified paper audit trails (VVPAT), ballot marking devices (BMD), scanners, and hand-counting of paper ballots.

New Questions

- C3 collects data on the total number of drop boxes used to collect mail ballots during the 2022 general election. This question includes instructions on how to respond if your state or jurisdiction does not use drop boxes or does not track data on drop boxes.
- C4 collects data on the total number of drop boxes used on Election Day, including how many were located at election offices and how many were located at non-election office sites.
- C5 collects data on the total number of drop boxes used during early voting, including how many were located at election offices and how many were located at non-election office sites.
- C6 collects data on the number of mail ballots returned at drop boxes for the 2022 general election.
- C7 collects data on the number of mail ballots that were successfully cured for the 2022 general election. This question includes instructions on how to respond if your state or jurisdiction does not cure ballots or does not track data on the number of ballots that were cured.
- D2 collects data on the total number of physical polling places used for the 2022 general election. Although the survey previously collected information on the number of polling places used during both early voting and on Election Day, there was no item to collect information on the total number of polling places. Each polling place should be counted only <u>once</u> in D2, regardless of the number of voting days it was used for.
- D9 collects data on the number of poll workers who served as poll workers for the first time in the 2022 general election. This question includes instructions on how to respond if these data are not tracked.
- E2 collects data on the reasons for casting provisional ballots. This question includes instructions on how to respond if these data are not tracked.

Modified Questions

- A2 (number of same-day voter registrations [SDR]): The definition of SDR has been clarified to match with Q8 of the 2022 Policy Survey, and the instructions in A2 state that both new and updated SDRs should be reported in this question.
- A8 (confirmation of registration notices sent to voters): The definition of a confirmation notice has been updated in the instructions with a clarification that non-National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) confirmation notices should be reported in this question. The instructions pertaining to items A8d and A8e have been clarified and the description of A8e has been updated from "Status unknown" to "Unreturned confirmation notices (neither received back from voters nor returned as undeliverable)."
- A9 (voters removed from the registration rolls): The instructions have been clarified to state that voters removed from the list of registered voters should be included in this question.
- B3 (Federal Post Card Applications [FPCA] rejected): The instructions about ballot requests that originated from FPCAs that were rejected have been clarified.
- B4 (FPCAs rejected because they were received late): The language about eligibility for a federal-only ballot has been removed.
- B5–B8 (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act [UOCAVA] ballots transmitted) and B9–B13 (UOCAVA ballots returned): The instructions now state that duplicate ballot transmissions and returns should be included in the data reported in these questions and that blank ballots transmitted to voters and returned as undeliverable should be included.
- B21 (UOCAVA ballots rejected because the ballot lacked a postmark): The instructions state that if your state or jurisdiction does not reject UOCAVA ballots for lacking a postmark, the response should be "Does not apply" (-88).

- Section C: This section has been updated to use the terminology "mail voting" and "mail ballot," and a definition of mail voting has been added. In addition, the instructions now state that duplicate mail ballot transmissions and returns should be included in the data reported in this section.
- C1 (number of mail ballots transmitted): Several of the instructions and descriptions in this question have been updated. C1a should include duplicate ballot transmissions. C1b should include mail ballots that went through the cure process (if applicable in your state). C1d should include mail ballots that were voided so a replacement ballot could be sent. C1f has been renamed as "Unreturned mail ballots."
- C2 (number of mail ballots transmitted to permanent mail voters): The definition of permanent mail voting has been updated to exclude voters who received a mail ballot because they reside in a state or jurisdiction that automatically sends mail ballots to every registered voter (or every active registered voter) in an election.
- C9 (number of mail ballots rejected by reason they were rejected): The rejection reason for "No election official's signature on ballot" has been removed and new items for "Ballot not placed in required secrecy envelope," "Returned ballot did not have required postmark," and "Voter was not eligible to cast a ballot in the jurisdiction" have been added. Additional answer options have been reworded.
- D5–D6 (Election Day and early voting poll workers): The instructions for these questions have been updated to specify that regular office staff who served as poll workers for the 2022 general election should be included in the data reported.
- D7 (number of poll workers and ages of poll workers): The instructions in this question now specify that the total number of poll workers should be reported in D7a even if data on poll worker ages cannot be provided.
- D8 (ease of recruiting poll workers): The comment space in this item was previously optional and is now required.
- F2 (source of data for total participation in the 2022 general election): This item was previously a single-select question and is now a multiselect question.
- F3–F4 (use of electronic and paper poll books): Items for reporting on using poll books to assist with SDR and with checking mail ballot status have been added to these questions.

Excel Crosswalk Available on EAVS Portal

To further document the changes that have been made to the EAVS questions since 2020, the EAC is providing an Excel crosswalk to assist state and local EAVS POCs. This crosswalk serves as a guide to the EAVS Excel template and maps the current survey questions to the 2020 EAVS questions. This crosswalk is split into seven tabs (one for the contact information and one for each of the six survey sections), and each tab has a section that details the EAVS question, question description, and the column of the Excel template the item appears in for the 2022 EAVS; the question numbering and Excel template column from the 2020 EAVS; and how the question numbering, Excel template column, and wording of the question have changed between the two surveys. States and jurisdictions that use database queries to compile their EAVS data will find this document especially helpful. The crosswalk is available on the Resources page of the EAVS Portal under the header "Excel Crosswalk."

Reminder: The Policy Survey Closes September 30

On August 1, 2022, you received an email with information on how to complete the 2022 Policy Survey for your state. The Policy Survey is fielded before the EAVS and collects information on the laws, policies, and practices that will govern the November 2022 general election for your state. This survey is submitted one time by the state election office.

Your responses to the Policy Survey are due by <u>Friday, September 30, 2022</u>. If you need assistance as you complete this survey, please contact our help desk by email at <u>eavs@forsmarshgroup.com</u> or by phone at 800-889-7738 Mondays through Fridays