



Reporting Mail Voting in the 2024 EAVS

Recent Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) data have shown an overall increase in the number of voters who cast their ballots by mail in federal general elections, and many states and territories have changed their laws regarding mail voting in recent years. In this newsletter, the EAVS team provides guidance on how to report data related to mail voting in this year's survey. Election officials who provide EAVS data are encouraged to consult the [2024 EAVS Glossary](#) for definitions of terms related to mail voting to ensure that all states and jurisdictions report their data in the same way.

The mail voting data you will report in the 2024 EAVS generally falls into three categories: (1) ballots sent to voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), (2) ballots sent to domestic civilian registered voters, and (3) ballots in states, territories, and jurisdictions that conduct all-mail elections. Figure 1 outlines the differences between these three types of mail voting.

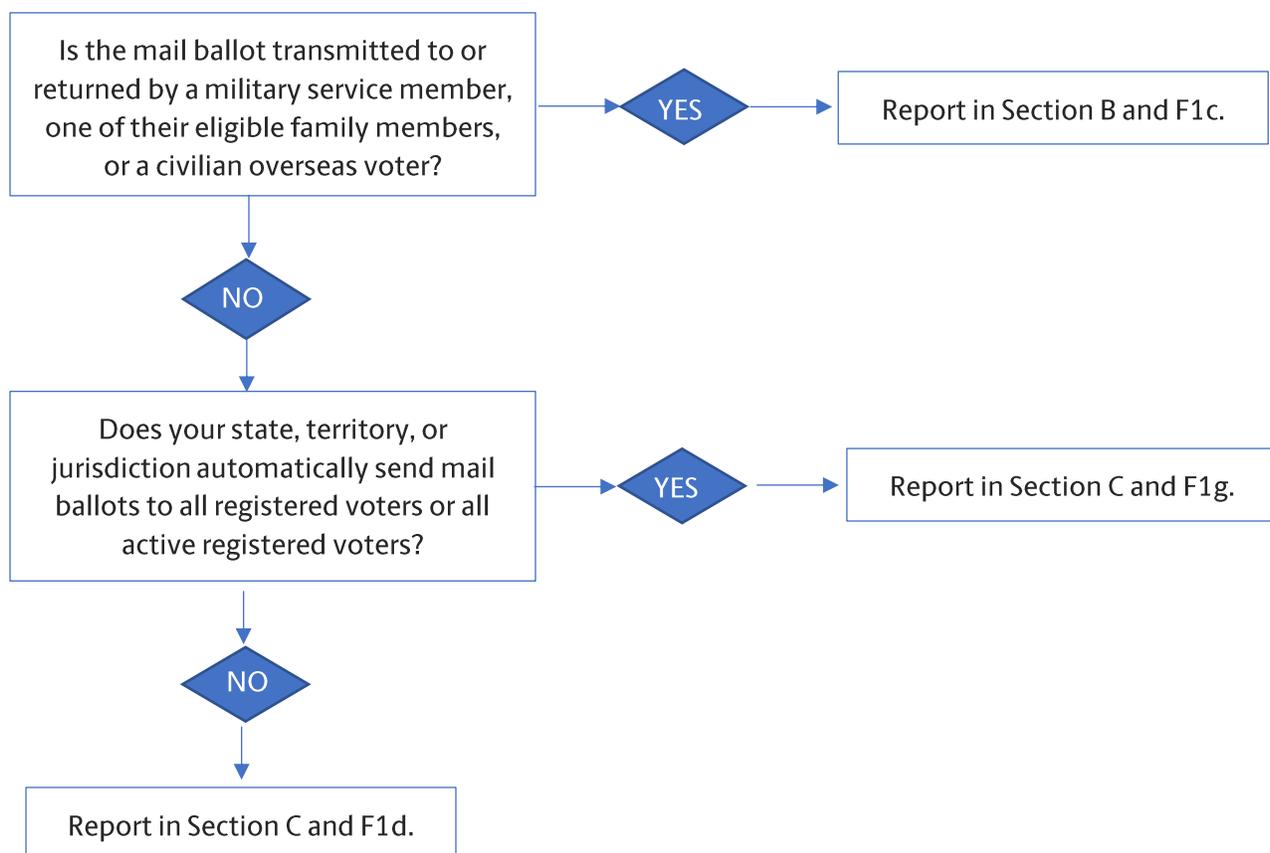


Figure 1: Flow Chart Describing How to Report Mail Ballots in the 2024 EAVS



UOCAVA Ballots (Section B and F1c)

Mail ballots sent to voters covered by UOCAVA—which covers military service members and service members' eligible family members, as well as non-military civilians living overseas—will be reported primarily in Section B of the EAVS. State, territory, and local officials will report the following information about these ballots:

- The number of UOCAVA ballots that were transmitted to voters, including information on the mode by which they were transmitted and the type of UOCAVA voter they were transmitted to (B5–B10).
- The number of transmitted UOCAVA ballots that were returned by voters, including information on the mode by which they were returned and the type of UOCAVA voter they were returned by (B11–B16).
- The number of transmitted UOCAVA ballots that were returned as undeliverable, including information on the mode by which they were transmitted (B17).
- The number of transmitted UOCAVA ballots that were returned by voters and counted, including information on the mode by which they were returned and the type of UOCAVA voter they were returned by (B18–B23).
- The number of transmitted UOCAVA ballots that were returned by voters and rejected, including information on the reason for rejection and the type of UOCAVA voter they were returned by (B24–B28).
- The number of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWAB) that were returned, counted, and rejected, including information on the reason for rejection and the type of UOCAVA voter they were returned by (B29–B33).
- The total number of UOCAVA voters who cast a ballot via regular absentee ballot or FWAB and whose ballots were counted (F1c).

Regular Mail Ballots (Section C and F1d)

Mail ballots (which are called absentee ballots in some states and territories) sent to domestic civilian voters—that is, voters who reside in the United States or its territories and who are not covered by UOCAVA—will be reported primarily in Section C of EAVS. State, territory, and local officials will report the following information about these ballots:

- The total number of these ballots transmitted to voters and their outcome, including the number of ballots returned by voters; the number of ballots returned as undeliverable; the number of ballots that were surrendered, spoiled, or replaced; the number of mail voters who instead voted in person at the polling place with a provisional ballot; the number of unreturned mail ballots; and the number of mail ballots that had another outcome (C1).
- The number of mail ballots sent to permanent mail voters, if your state or territory uses this distinction (C2).
- The number of mail ballots returned via drop box (C6).



- The number of mail ballots returned by voters that entered the cure process and the number that were successfully cured and that were not successfully cured (C7).
- The number of mail ballots returned by voters and counted (C8).
- The number of mail ballots returned by voters and rejected, including the reasons behind those rejections (C9).
- The number of voters who cast a mail ballot and whose ballots were counted (F1d). In addition, report “Does not apply” in the item for the number of voters who cast a mail ballot in a jurisdiction that conducts elections by mail and whose ballots were counted (F1g).

All-Vote-by-Mail States or Jurisdictions (Section C and F1g)

If your state or jurisdiction conducted its general election entirely by mail, then you will report data on those mail ballots in Section C, as outlined above. Instead of reporting the number of voters who cast a ballot by mail that was counted in F1d, you will report this number in F1g. Please note that the subcategories in F1b–F1h are mutually exclusive, and voters who are reported in F1g should not also be reported in F1d. Instead, jurisdictions with all-mail elections should report “0” in F1d (voters who cast a mail ballot and whose ballot was counted).

The EAC defines all-mail elections as elections in which every registered voter, or every active registered voter, was automatically sent a mail ballot. This does not include voters who were required to request an absentee or mail ballot, nor does it include any states, territories, or jurisdictions that automatically mailed absentee or mail ballot applications to voters. Voters in all-mail elections are not considered to be permanent absentee voters and should not be included in the data reported in C2 of the EAVS.

Reporting In-Person Absentee Voting

Some states offer in-person absentee voting, which allows voters to receive, fill out, and cast their absentee ballot in person at an election office or a satellite location rather than returning it through the mail (your state may use another term to describe this process). Because these ballots are cast or returned at a physical polling place, the EAC classifies in-person absentee voting as in-person early voting for the purposes of EAVS. If possible, in-person absentee ballots should be reported in question F1f (voters who cast a ballot at an in-person early voting location and whose ballots were counted), election offices or satellite locations where in-person absentee voting took place should be counted in D4 (number of in-person physical polling places used for early voting), and the total number of poll workers who worked in-person early voting in D6 (counting each poll worker only once, regardless of the number of early voting shifts the poll worker worked).

If you cannot distinguish between in-person absentee ballots and other types of mail ballots, then please report your data on mail ballots in Section C and question F1d, and note when your data include these in-person absentee ballots in the question’s comments. You should also complete questions D4 and D6 as described in the previous paragraph.



Updates to Question on Mail Ballot Curing (C7)

The 2022 EAVS included a question on mail ballot curing for the first time in the survey’s history. Ballot curing refers to the process of allowing a voter who has returned a mail ballot with an error (such as a missing or nonmatching voter signature or missing documentation) to correct the error so that their mail ballot will be counted. Although the 2022 EAVS only collected data on successfully cured mail ballots—those for which the voter corrects the error and the ballot is counted in the election—the 2024 EAVS has revised question C7 to also collect data on the total number of ballots that enter the cure process and the number of unsuccessfully cured ballots.

If your state reported in the 2024 Policy Survey that voters may not cure errors on their mail ballots, then items C7a–C7c will be pre-filled in your data collection templates as “Does not apply.” If your state allowed ballot curing, then C7a–C7c require a numerical response of “0” or greater or a response of “Data not available.”

Mail ballots that go through the cure process are a subset of mail ballots that are returned by voters and that are counted and rejected. The flow chart in Figure 2 shows how cured ballots fit into the data reported on mail ballots in Section C of the EAVS.

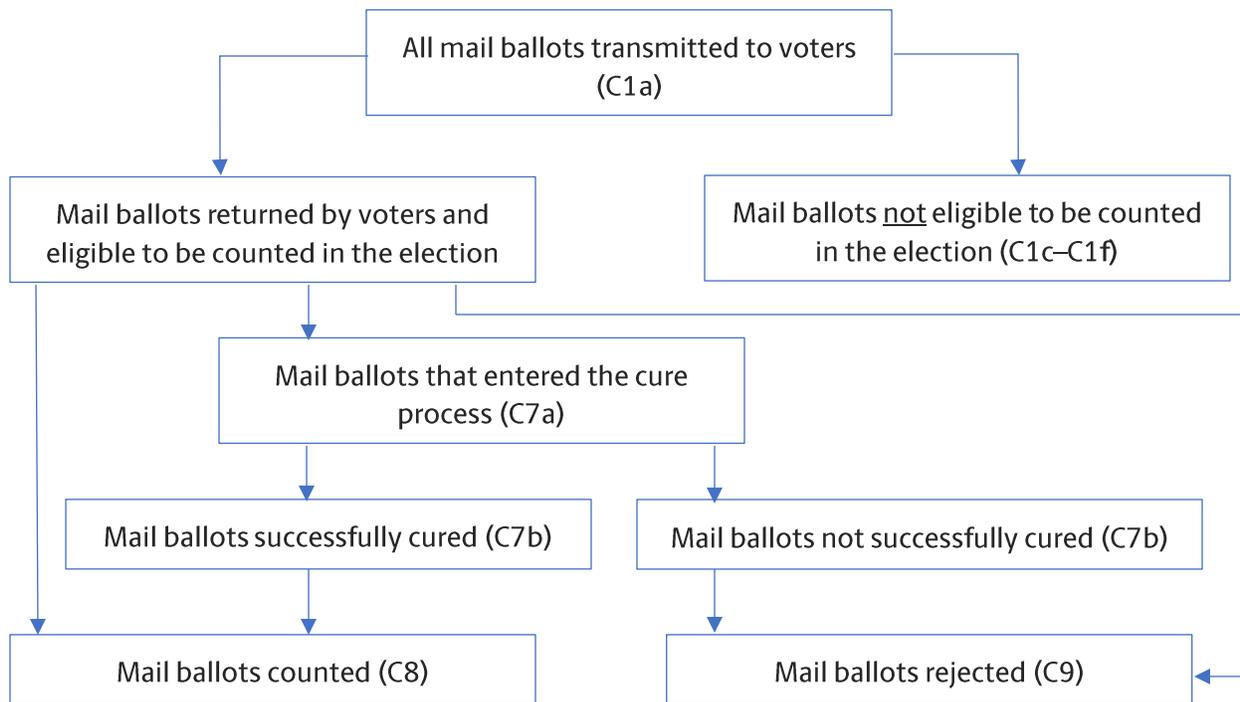


Figure 2: Flow Chart Describing How to Report Mail Ballots Returned, Cured, Accepted, and Rejected in the 2024 EAVS