

2024 EAVS Newsletter

Volume 1: August 12, 2024



What's New for the 2024 EAVS

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and its implementing partner, Fors Marsh, are thrilled to begin work on the 2024 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). This is the 11th iteration of this important project to collect data on election administration activities and voting in U.S. federal general elections.

In the coming months, these EAVS newsletters will keep you up to date on important developments and announcements pertaining to the 2024 project. Designated EAVS points of contact (POC) for the states and territories will receive the EAVS newsletters in their inboxes, and each edition will be posted on the [Resources page](https://eavsportal.com/) 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 2024 EAVS data.

This volume of the EAVS newsletter provides more detail on changes to the 2024 survey questionnaires and resources that are available to support you in 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 data sets are released to the public, and (5) how the EAC makes changes to survey questions. This document will be especially helpful to POCs who are new to the EAVS project. The latest version of the EAVS Guide can be found on the Resources page of the EAVS Portal under the header "[EAVS Policy Guide](#)."

Changes to the 2024 EAVS Questions

A PDF of the 2024 EAVS questions can be found on the [Downloads page](#) of the EAVS Portal. The EAVS project team recommends that each state and jurisdiction carefully review the questions before beginning to respond to the survey. The key changes made to the survey questions this year are noted below.

Please be aware that on July 25, 2024, the EAVS team published a new version of the EAVS questionnaire that included the addition of a comment box in question F11. This version of the questionnaire replaces earlier versions that have been circulated.

New Questions

- A4–A9 (registrations by source): New questions have been added to this series to provide data on registrations that updated existing valid registrations (A7) and other types of



registrations submitted (A9). Two new registration sources have been added as well: registrations submitted through an automatic registration program (item d) and registrations submitted at polling places and voting sites (item k). The terminology for these questions, as well as for other questions in Section A, has been updated from “registration forms” to “registration transactions.”

- A11 (reasons for sending confirmation notices): In addition to reporting data on the outcomes of confirmation notices in A10, respondents will also report data on the reasons why confirmation notices were sent to voters.
- A13 (voter registration records merged): To supplement the data reported on voter records removed in A12, this new item collects data on the number of voter registration records in your database that were merged because they were discovered to be duplicates.
- B8, B14, B17d, and B21 (fax UOCAVA ballots) and B9, B15, B17e, and B22 (online UOCAVA ballots): Previously, data on Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots that were transmitted or returned by fax or through online ballot delivery portals were collected in the “other mode” items throughout Section B. In this year’s survey, data on ballots that were transmitted (B8 and B9), returned (B14 and B15), returned as undeliverable (B17d and B17e), and returned and counted (B21 and B22) by these modes should be reported in their own items.
- F8 (use of e-poll books): This new question collects information on whether electronic poll books (EPB) are used in the EAVS jurisdiction, and if so, what makes/models are used and how many e-poll books were deployed.
- F11 (use of VRS to support voting): This new question provides a definition of voter registration systems (VRS) and asks for the number of these systems that were deployed in polling locations to assist with voting and for the makes, models, and version numbers of the deployed VRSs.

Modified Questions

- A1 (registered and eligible voters): In addition to collecting the number of total (A1a), active (A1b), and inactive (A1c) voters who were registered and eligible to vote in the November 2024 election, this question collects data on the number of other types of registered and eligible voters (A1d).
- A3 (registration transactions processed): Previous versions of this question collected data on “registration forms,” but the terminology has been updated to “registration transactions” in recognition of the fact that many voter registration activities do not require a paper form to be submitted. This question also combines into a single item the two separate items that previously asked for data on registration updates.
- A10 (outcomes of confirmation notices): The definition of confirmation notices has been updated, and the item for notices received back from voters has been split into two subitems. One collects data on notices received back from voters confirming registration with no address updates (A10b) and the other collects data on notices received back from voters confirming registration with an updated address (A10c).
- A12 (voter registration records removed): The terminology in this question has been updated from “voters removed” to “voter registration records removed,” and a subitem to collect data on records removed because they were duplicates has been added.
- C7 (mail ballots cured): New subitems have been added to this question to collect data on the total number of mail ballots that entered the cure process (C7a) and the number of these ballots that were not successfully cured by voters (C7c). The 2022 EAVS only collected data on the number of mail ballots that were successfully cured (C7b).



- E2 (provisional ballots by reason cast): A new subitem (E2i) has been added to collect data on provisional ballots cast because the voter registered to vote on the same day they cast their ballot through same-day registration (SDR) or Election Day registration (EDR).
- F1 (voter participation by mode): Additional instruction has been added in items F1d and F1g to provide greater clarification on how to report data on mail ballots based on whether the jurisdiction reporting the data conducts its elections entirely by mail.
- F3–F6 (use of election equipment and counting methods): The wording of the d subitems in this question series, which collect data on which types of ballots are cast or counted on the equipment, has been clarified.
- F9 (uses for e-poll books): A new subitem was added to this question to collect data on whether e-poll books were used to encode ballot marking device (BMD) cards during early voting (F9f). There is no equivalent in question F10 (uses for paper poll books).

Excel Crosswalk Available on EAVS Portal

To further document the changes that have been made to the EAVS questions since 2022, 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 2022 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 that the item appears in for the 2024 EAVS; the question numbering and Excel template column from the 2022 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 [“EAVS Survey Crosswalk.”](#)

Changes to the 2024 Policy Survey Questions

The 2024 Policy Survey has also been updated so that the data collected will provide better context to the EAVS data your state or territory will be submitting after the 2024 general election. Most of the questions in this survey have been renumbered, and additional questions have been added or modified as outlined below.

New Questions

- Q3 (your state election website URLs): This new question asks for the URLs of the main voter website, voter registration web page, and web page for voters with disabilities used in your state or territory.
- Q11b (locations where voters are permitted to use SDR): This question supplements the existing questions Q11 and Q11a that collect information about your state’s policy on individuals registering to vote on the same day they cast a ballot.
- Q13b (whether your state has other voters besides active/inactive): This question will assist in pre-filling and validating the new question A1d in the EAVS.
- Q15 (whether your state tracks registration data as forms or transactions), Q16 (does your state track data on duplicate and/or invalid registrations?), and Q17 (registration modes available in your state): These three questions will assist in pre-filling and validating



questions A3 and A4–A9 in the EAVS to reduce response burden and to improve data accuracy.

- Q20 (does your state make voters who are declared mentally incompetent ineligible to vote?) and Q21 (what happens to duplicate voter registration records?): These questions will assist in pre-filling and validating questions A12f, A12h, and A13a in the EAVS.
- Q27e (the policy on the number of drop boxes made available): This question will assist in validating data on the number of drop boxes provided in EAVS questions C3–C5.
- Q28c and Q28d (details on the mail ballot curing policy): These new questions on how voters are notified of the need to cure their mail ballot and the steps voters must take to cure their mail ballots will provide context to the data collected in EAVS question C7 about the number of mail ballots cured.
- Q32b (whether accessible absentee voting is available to voters statewide or only in certain jurisdictions): This question will provide important information about the availability of voting options for voters who qualify under your state's law to cast their ballots online.
- Q33, Q33a, and Q33b (electronic ballot return): These questions ask for data on the circumstances in which electronic ballot return is available in your state, how voters are verified to be eligible to return their ballots electronically, and the methods by which voters can return their ballots electronically.
- Q36 (whether your state uses poll workers) and Q36a–d (details on poll worker training): These questions will help validate the EAVS data provided on poll workers in questions D5–D9 and will provide details on an important area of election administration.
- Q37 (whether your state offers curbside voting) and Q37a–b (details on the curbside voting policy): These questions will provide voters with important information about their in-person voting options.
- Q38 (how your state determines which voters are covered by UOCAVA) and Q39 (how long a voter keeps their UOCAVA designation): These questions will help validate and explain variations in the data reported in Section B of the EAVS.
- Q52 (whether your state has instituted security policies to protect election workers): This question will allow the EAC to evaluate how the physical safety of election workers is protected. An optional comment space is available for states that wish to elaborate on the implemented security measures.

Modified Questions

- Q2 (changes to the jurisdiction list since the 2024 EAVS): This question has been modified to a yes/no question. If jurisdictions have changed, respondents are asked to provide details in a comment.
- Q5 (VRS data transfers with government entities), Q6 (how VRS is used), and Q7 (VRS internet connectivity mode): Q5 previously asked about data linkages with your state's "voter registration database"; to align with other changes made to the questionnaires, the terminology has been updated to "voter registration system" and a definition has been added. Follow-up questions have been added as Q6 and Q7.
- Q8 and Q8a (automatic registration): These questions previously used the term "automated registration processes" and now use the term "automatic registration."
- Q9a (personal information voter needs to provide to register online): This question previously asked only whether a state driver's license was necessary to register online; the updated question asks more broadly about other types of information voters must provide to register online.



- Q19 (data sources to identify potentially inactive voters): An answer option for “Local/county office records” has been added.
- Q25a (details on state all-mail election policy): States that report conducting all-mail elections only in certain jurisdictions will be required to provide a list of these EAVS jurisdictions in the Q25a comment box. This will assist the EAVS team in reviewing EAVS F1 data on voter turnout by mode.
- Q26a (which voters may register as permanent absentee voters): An answer option for “individuals with a letter from a physician stating that they are unable to vote in person” has been added.
- Q27a–d (drop box policy details): Each of these questions has an answer option for “determined at the discretion of local election offices”; other answer options have revised wording or have had an open-ended text box removed.
- Q28a (types of mail ballot errors that can be cured): The wording of the answer options for “missing witness signature” and “missing or incomplete required document” have been updated.
- Q29 (mail ballot deadlines for domestic civilian mail ballots), Q43 (mail ballot deadlines for domestic UOCAVA voters), and Q44 (mail ballot deadlines for overseas UOCAVA voters): These questions previously asked for the number of days before or after Election Day these deadlines occurred. The updated versions ask for the calendar dates on which these deadlines fall for the November 2024 general election.
- Q31 (domestic civilian mail ballot postmark requirements): The answer options were revised to better clarify between postmarks used by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and other mail carriers.
- Q34b (first and last days of early voting availability): A clarification has been added to the instructions about how to report early voting dates when jurisdictions within your state have discretion on when early voting is available to voters.
- Q35 (election periods for which vote centers are available): A definition of “vote center” has been added to the question.
- Q46a (circumstances in which voters may be offered provisional ballots): An answer option has been added for “an individual registers to vote on the same day they cast a ballot in person” to match the update made in E2 of the EAVS.
- Q48 (circumstances under which a recount may be conducted): The first three answer options have been reworded to be clearer.
- Q49 (audits): Two new answer options for “automated independent ballot audit” and “risk-limiting audit” have been added, along with an explanation of each type of audit.
- Q51 (groups whose voting rights may be affected by conviction or incarceration) and Q51b (what happens to the voter registration record of a person whose voting rights are affected): An answer option for “other” was added to Q51. In Q51b, the answer option for “record is inactivated or canceled” was reworded for clarity.

Policy Survey Crosswalk

For the first time, the EAC is publishing a crosswalk document to track the changes that have been made to the Policy Survey questions between 2022 and 2024. This crosswalk is available on the Resources page of the EAVS Portal under the header [“Policy Survey Crosswalk.”](#)



Reminder: The Policy Survey Closes September 30

On August 1, 2024, you received an email with information on how to complete the 2024 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 2024 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 Monday, September 30, 2024. Your 2016–2022 survey responses are available on the EAVS Portal. If you need assistance as you complete this survey, please contact our help desk by email at eavs@forsmarsh.com or by phone at 833-987-7424 Monday through Friday between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The help desk will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024, and Monday, October 14, 2024, in observance of federal holidays.

Submit Questions for a Section A Webinar

The EAC will be releasing a video webinar this fall about the Section A changes to assist state and local POCs in providing data for this section. If you have a question you would like to see answered in this webinar, send an email to eavs@forsmarsh.com with the subject line “Section A webinar question” by Friday, September 6, 2024.