

2024 EAVS Newsletter

Volume 2: September 3, 2024



Using the Policy Survey to Validate 2024 EAVS Data

The 2024 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) project will require the completion of two surveys: The Policy Survey is completed at the state or territory level and collects information about the election laws and policies that will be in place for the November 2024 general election. The Policy Survey is submitted *before* the November 2024 election occurs. The second survey, the EAVS, is completed *after* the election and collects data on voter registration, voting by citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), mail voting, in-person polling operations, provisional ballots, voter participation, and voting technology at the jurisdiction level.

The Policy Survey provides important context to your EAVS data and will help the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and other data users better understand the EAVS data that you will submit. For instance, knowing states' policies on mail voting (e.g., using all-mail elections, requiring an excuse to vote by mail, the use of drop boxes and ballot curing, the deadlines for submitting mail ballots) can help explain why the number of mail ballots transmitted, returned, counted, cured, and rejected and the percentage of voters who vote by mail varies widely among states.

In addition, the data collection templates that you will use to submit EAVS data will include validations customized according to your state's Policy Survey responses. 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 validations listed in this newsletter will be programmed into both the online and Excel data collection templates (stay tuned for a future EAVS newsletter that will give you a preview of what these two templates will look like and how they will differ). When a validation dictates that the response "Does not apply" cannot be selected for an EAVS item, template users will see an error message explaining why this response cannot be selected and providing an explanation of which alternative response would be appropriate.

Reminders: 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.

Also, the Policy Survey closes at the end of this month. It is vital that the project team has every state's response by September 30, so we can correctly program your data collection templates before we release them to you in November. Your state's responses to the 2022 Policy Survey are available to download from the State Files page of the EAVS Portal (you will need to log in with your Portal credentials at <https://eavsportal.com/Account/Login>) and can be used to assist with your 2024 Policy Survey submission. If you need support while completing the 2024 Policy Survey, please contact our help desk at eavs@forsmarsh.com.



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
<p>Q8: Does your state have automatic voter registration?</p> <p>Q16: Does your state track data on duplicate and invalid registrations?</p>	<p>A4d, A5d, A6d, A7d, A8d, and A9d: Number of automatic registration transactions received between the close of registration for the 2022 general election and the close of registration for the 2024 general election</p>	Q8 = No	A4d, A5d, A6d, A7d, A8d, and A9d will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q8 = Yes, to any of the automatic registration options.	A4d, A5d, and A7d cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q8 = Yes, to any of the automatic registration options AND Q16 = Yes, tracks data on duplicate registrations.	A6d cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q8 = Yes, to any of the automatic registration options AND Q16 = Yes, tracks data on invalid or rejected registrations.	A8d cannot be answered “Does not apply”
<p>Q9: Does your state have online registration?</p>	<p>A4c, A5c, A6c, A7c, A8c, and A9c: Number of registration transactions submitted online between the close of registration for the 2022 general election and the close of registration for the 2024 general election</p>	Q9 = No	A4c, A5c, A6c, A7c, A8c, and A9c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q9 = Yes	A4c, A5c, A6c, A7c, and A8c cannot be answered “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
<p>Q11: Does your state have same-day voter registration (SDR)?</p> <p>Q11a: Under which circumstances can a voter register on the same day they cast a ballot?</p>	<p>A2a, A2b, and A2c: Number of SDRs received for the 2024 general election</p>	Q11 = No	A2a, A2b, and A2c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q11 = Yes	A2a cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q11 = Yes AND Q11a = On Election Day	A2b cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q11 = Yes AND Q11a = During in-person early voting, OR during an overlap	A2c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
<p>Q12: Does your state allow pre-registration of individuals under 18 years of age?</p>	<p>A3c: Number of new pre-registrations of people under the age of 18 received between the close of registration for the 2022 general election and the close of registration for the 2024 general election</p>	Q12 = No	A3c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q12 = Yes	A3c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
<p>Q13: Does your state differentiate between active and inactive voters?</p> <p>Q13b: Does your state track data on other types of voters other than active and inactive?</p>	<p>A1b, A1c, and A1d: Types of registered voters for the 2024 general election</p>	Q13 = No	A1c and A1d will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q13 = Yes	A1c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q13 = Yes AND Q13b = Yes	A1d cannot be answered “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q16: Does your state track data on duplicate and invalid registrations?	A3d and A6a–A6n: Number of duplicate registration transactions	Q16 = Neither duplicate nor invalid	A3d, A3f, A6a–A6n, and A8a–A8n will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
	A3f and A8a–A8n: Number of invalid or rejected registrations	Q16 = Yes, tracks data on duplicate registrations.	A3d, A6a, A6b, and A6e cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		Q16 = Yes, tracks data on invalid or rejected registrations.	A3f, A8a, A8b, and A8e cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q17: Methods for submitting and/or updating registrations	A4a–n: Total registrations by source	Q17 = One of the registration sources <u>is not</u> selected.	The subitems collecting information from that source in A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, and A9 will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
	A5a–n: New valid registrations by source	<u>Example:</u> Q17 (Mail, fax, and email) = Not selected	<u>Example:</u> A4a, A5a, A6a, A7a, A8a, and A9a will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
	A6a–n: Duplicate registrations by source		
	A7a–n: Updates to existing registrations by source	Q17 = One of the registration sources <u>is</u> selected.	The subitems collecting information from that source in A4 and A7 cannot be answered “Does not apply”
	A8a–n: Invalid or rejected registrations by source	<u>Example:</u> Q17 (online registration) = Selected	<u>Example:</u> A4c and A7c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
	A9a–n: Other types of registrations by source		



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q18: Does your state send confirmation notices?	A10a–i: Number of confirmation notices sent to voters and the outcomes	Q18 = No	A10a–A10i and A11a–A11n will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
	A11a–n: Number of confirmation notices sent by reason	Q18 = Yes	A10a cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q18a: Which voters are sent confirmation notices?	A11a–n: Reasons for sending confirmation notices	Q18a = One of the reasons for sending confirmation notices <i>is not</i> selected.	The subitem collecting information for that reason in A11 will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q18a (A registered voter who has surrendered their driver license) = Not selected	<u>Example:</u> A11h will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q18a = One of the reasons for sending confirmation notices <i>is</i> selected.	The subitem collecting information for that reason in A11 cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q18a (A registered voter who is incarcerated) = Selected	<u>Example:</u> A11d cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q21: Are duplicate registration records merged together, removed, or something else?	A13a: Number of merged or linked voter registration records	Q21 = Records are merged.	A13a cannot be “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q23: Does your state (or any jurisdiction within your state) use electronic poll books?	F8a: Use of electronic poll books F9a–g: Uses for electronic poll books	Q23 = No	F8a and F9a–g will be pre-filled in the templates as “No”
Q25: Will your state (or any jurisdiction within your state) conduct an all-mail election in the November 2022 general election?	F1g: Number of voters who cast a ballot that was counted in a jurisdiction that conducts elections by mail	Q25 = No	F1g will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
Q25a: Will the all-mail system be used statewide or in certain jurisdictions?	F1g: Number of voters who cast a ballot that was counted in a jurisdiction that conducts elections by mail	Q25a = Statewide	F1g cannot be answered as “Does not apply”
Q26: Does your state allow permanent absentee voting?	C2a: Number of mail ballots transmitted to permanent absentee voters	Q26 = No	C2a will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q26 = Yes, any registrant OR Yes, certain registrants	C2a cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q27: Will your state (or any jurisdiction in your state) use drop boxes?	C3a: Total number of drop boxes used C4a–c and C5a–c: Number of drop boxes used during Election Day and early voting C6a: Number of mail ballots returned via drop box	Q27 = No	C3a, C4a–c, C5a–c, and C6a will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q28: Will your state allow ballot curing?	C7a–c: Mail ballot curing	Q28 = No	C7a–c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q28 = Yes	C7a–c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q29: What is the ballot postmark deadline for domestic civilian mail ballots?	C9k: Number of mail ballots rejected for not having a required postmark	Q29 = Postmark dates not applicable OR Q31 = “Does not apply”	C9k will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
Q31: What satisfies the postmark requirements for mail ballots?		Q31 = Some form of postmark requirement	C9k cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q34: What terminology does your state use for early voting? *NOTE: In-person absentee voting is considered early voting for purposes of the EAVS.	D4a–c: Number of early voting polling places D6a: Number of poll workers who assisted with early voting F1f: Number of voters who cast a ballot that was counted through early voting	Q34 = Early voting is not allowed	D4a–c, D6a, and F1f will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q34 = Some form of early voting is allowed	D4a–c, D6a, and F1f cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q36: Will your state or any jurisdictions use poll workers to assist with in-person voting?	D5a: Number of Election Day poll workers D6a: Number of early voting poll workers D7a–g: Ages of poll workers D8a: Ease of recruiting poll workers D9a: Number of new poll workers	Q36 = No	D5a, D6a, D7a–g, D8a, and D9a will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q41: What methods does your state use to transmit blank UOCAVA ballots?	B6–B10: Number of UOCAVA ballots transmitted by method of transmission	Q41 = One of the ballot transmission methods <u>is not</u> selected	The item collecting information for that transmission method in B6–B10 will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q41 (Fax) = Not selected	<u>Example:</u> B8a–c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q41 = One of the ballot transmission methods <u>is</u> selected	The item collecting information for that transmission method in B6–B10 cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q41 (Other) = Selected	<u>Example:</u> B10a–c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q42: What methods does your state allow for voters to return UOCAVA ballots?	B12–B16: Number of UOCAVA ballots returned by method of return B19–B23: Number of UOCAVA ballots counted by method of return	Q42 = One of the ballot return methods <u>is not</u> selected	The item collecting information for that return method in B12–B16 and B19–B23 will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q42 (Email) = Not selected	<u>Example:</u> B13a–c and B20a–c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q42 = One of the ballot return methods <u>is</u> selected	The item collecting information for that return method in B12–B16 and B19–B23 cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q42 (Postal mail) = Selected	<u>Example:</u> B12a–c and B19a–c cannot be answered “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q43: Domestic military UOCAVA mail ballot return deadline Q44: Overseas UOCAVA mail ballot return deadline	B27a–c: Ballots rejected because they lacked a postmark	Q43 = Postmark not required AND Q44 = Postmark not required	B27a–c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
Q46: Does your state use provisional ballots?	E1a–e: Number of provisional ballots submitted and their adjudication	Q46 = Yes	E1a, E1b, E1d, E3a, F1e, and F12c cannot be answered “Does not apply”
	E2a–l: Number of provisional ballots cast by reason E3a–m: Number of provisional ballots rejected by reason F1e: Number of voters who cast a ballot that was counted through provisional voting F3d_3, F4d_3, F5d_3, F6d_3, and F7d_3: Use of voting machines to support provisional balloting F12c: Location of vote tally for provisional ballots	Q46 = No	E1a–e, E2a–l, E3a–m, F1e, F3d_3, F4d_3, F5d_3, F6d_3, F7d_3, and F12c will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q46a: Under what circumstances does your state use provisional ballots?	E2a–I: Reasons for casting provisional ballots	Q46a = One of the circumstances to use provisional ballots <i>is not</i> selected	The item collecting information for casting provisional ballots for that reason in E2a–I will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q46a (A voter is not a resident of the precinct in which they are attempting to vote) = Not selected	<u>Example:</u> E2e will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q46a = One of the circumstances to use provisional ballots <i>is</i> selected	The item collecting information for casting provisional ballots for that reason in E2a–I cannot be answered “Does not apply”
		<u>Example:</u> Q46a (A federal or state judge extends the polling place hours in a federal election) = Selected	<u>Example:</u> E2h cannot be answered “Does not apply”
Q46c: How will your state treat provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct?	E1c: Provisional ballots counted in part E3d: Number of provisional ballots rejected because voter attempted to vote in the wrong precinct	Q46c = Fully count OR partially count the provisional ballot	E3d will be pre-filled in the templates as “Does not apply”
		Q46c = Partially count the provisional ballot	E1c cannot be answered as “Does not apply”
		Q46c = Reject the provisional ballot	E3d cannot be answered “Does not apply”



Policy Survey Question(s)	EAVS Question(s)	If...	...Then
Q51: Which populations' voting rights are affected by criminal conviction or incarceration?	A12d: Number of voters removed from the voter registration rolls for receiving a disqualifying felony conviction	Q51 = No one; criminal convictions do not limit a person's right to vote	A12d will be pre-filled in the templates as "Does not apply"
		Q51 ≠ No one; criminal convictions do not limit a person's right to vote	A12d cannot be answered "Does not apply"