

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



2010 Election Administration & Voting Survey

Rhode Island

Statutory Overview

In order to better understand state laws governing federal elections, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as part of its biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey, is collecting information on state election laws and procedures. These answers will help EAC to better understand the quantitative data relating to the 2010 general election that we are collecting from all U.S. states and territories.

EAC understands that responding to this Statutory Overview may require significant staff time on the part of your office. Please be assured that we have attempted to minimize the burden, and we appreciate your cooperation in this very important project.

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DIRECTIONS AND EXAMPLE

Please provide your state's legal citation for the responses to these questions (where applicable). Prior to beginning the Statutory Overview, please ensure that "track changes" is turned on; this will provide a record of all changes that are made including insertions, deletions, and formatting changes. To turn on track changes hold down "Control" and "Shift" and "E" at the same time. For additional assistance in working with "track changes" please contact your Technical Assistance point of contact at ICF International.

We have provided you with your answers to the 2008 Statutory Overview. If there has not been a change in your State's laws or legal citation in the response to a question, please mark No Change Since 2008 with an "X" as shown below:

 X No Change Since 2008

If the response has changed since 2008, please mark Changed Since 2008 with an "X" and modify the answer as needed using track changes. If you need to replace the entire answer, please delete the 2008 response and record your 2010 response between the red bracketed text lines, as described below.

 X Changed Since 2008

Please answer each question to the best of your ability. If terms are ambiguous or not relevant, please explain why. If a question is not applicable to your state, please explain why. If a definition or term lacks statutory reference but is widely understood in practice, please explain. If election procedures vary at the local level within your state, please explain to the best of your ability.

If state laws are currently enjoined or otherwise blocked from enforcement by a state or federal court, or executive decision, please specify.

Please keep your responses between the red, bracketed text lines. This will help us extract your answers into our central database.

Example:

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

- a. Over-vote

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

Your answer goes here. You may enter the text directly, or cut and paste from another word processing program.

There is no limit to the length of your response.

[End definition (a) above this line.]

SECTION A: GENERAL

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

a. Over-vote

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

State Statute 17-19-24 (c)

- **Overvote:** occurs if the voter connected the head and tail of the arrow beside too many candidates or choices in an office or question. Each office or question has instructions to "Vote for 1" or "Vote for 2" etc. If more candidates or question choices are selected than allowed under the instructions for that office or question, the tabulator will reject the ballot as an overvoted ballot. The voter may request that the Clerk in the polling place void the ballot and issue them a new ballot to mark. Or the voter may instruct the Warden/Moderator to override the error message, however, the office or question in which the error occurred will not be counted since it was marked incorrectly.

[End definition (a) above this line.]

b. Under-vote

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (b) below this line.]

When a voter fails to connect the tail and the head of the arrow to cast a ballot for the maximum number of the candidates in a race it is considered an under-vote.

[End definition (b) above this line.]

c. Blank ballot

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (c) below this line.]

State Statute 17-19-24 (c)

ballot: the voter did not connect any heads and tails of any arrows on the ballot, or did not mark the ballot correctly. The voter may request that the Clerk in the polling place void the ballot and issue a new ballot to mark. Or the voter may instruct the Warden/Moderator to override the error message and cast the ballot as it is, however, no offices or questions may be counted because the ballot was not marked, or was not marked correctly under

[End definition (c) above this line.]

d. Void/Spoiled ballot

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (d) below this line.]

The optical scan precinct count unit shall be programmed to return a ballot to the voter if the voter has cast votes for more persons than which he or she is entitled to cast. The warden, by reading the message given on the optical scan precinct count unit, must advise the voter of the fact that the ballot has been over-voted. The voter will be instructed by the warden to remove his or her own ballot from the optical scan precinct count unit ballot slot. The warden will then ask the voter to surrender the ballot as void and receive a new ballot. If the voter agrees, the voter will make additional marks on the ballot so as not to identify the actual votes intended by the voter for the ballot. The ballot will be marked void by the warden and deposited in the receptacle for void ballots provided at the polling place. If the voter insists on casting the over-voted ballot, he or she will be advised that all races, other than the over-voted race, will be counted by the optical scan precinct count unit, and if he or she still insists, the warden will manually override the appropriate control on the unit and allow for the ballot to be entered and counted for all races other than the over-voted race.

(d) In the event a voter incorrectly marks a ballot by indicating his or her choices other than in the spaces provided for them, the ballot will be returned to the voter. The warden, by reading the message given on the optical scan precinct count unit, must advise the voter of the fact that the ballot has been marked incorrectly. The voter will be instructed by the warden to remove his or her own ballot from the optical scan precinct unit ballot slot. The warden will then advise the voter to surrender the ballot as void and receive a new ballot. If the voter agrees, the voter will make additional marks on the ballot so as not to identify the actual votes intended by the voter for the ballot. The ballot will be marked void by the warden and deposited in the receptacle for void ballots provided at the polling place. The warden will then provide for the instruction of the voter on the correct manner of marking his or her vote and the voter will be issued a new ballot. If the voter insists on casting the incorrectly marked ballot, the warden will manually override the appropriate control on the optical scan precinct count unit and allow for the ballot to be accepted.

[End definition (d) above this line.]

e. Provisional/Challenged ballot

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (e) below this line.]

State Statute 17-19-24.1 17-19-27

Provisional Voting is a process to insure that all registered voters are allowed to participate in the election process. These qualified voters will be allowed to cast the same ballot as all others however, the disposition (full ballot, federal offices only, or disqualified) of that ballot will be determined by the voter's local board of canvassers. The voter may then determine the disposition of their ballot by clicking on the link below or by calling the Board of Elections at 222-2345.

Who is allowed to vote a provisional ballot?

- A voter whose name is not on the precinct voting list or the master voting list for the Polling Place and the voter does not qualify for the "Affirmation" process.
- The voter's identity has been challenged by an election official.
- The voter has not presented identification as required on the precinct voting list.
- The precinct voting list indicates the voter has applied for a mail or emergency ballot.
- IN A PRIMARY ONLY, the voter claims they are unaffiliated or affiliated with a different party than indicated on the precinct voter list.

Ballot Dispositions

- Full Ballot - All offices and questions on the ballot will be counted.
- Federal Offices Only - Only federal offices on the ballot will be counted. Congressional race will be counted if the ballot was cast in the correct Congressional District.
- Disqualified Ballot - This ballot will not be counted.

A voter can determine if their provisional ballot was counted by visiting this Web site 48 hours after the election. The voter will need to have their Ballot ID number (printed on Provisional Ballot Receipt) and their Last Name in order to access the information. Or, they can contact their local Board of Canvassers.

[End definition (e) above this line.]

f. Absentee

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (f) below this line.]

17-20-1 Voting by mail ballot. – The electors of this state who, for any of the reasons set forth in § 17-20-2, being otherwise qualified to vote, are unable to vote in person, shall have the right to vote, in the manner and time provided by this chapter, in all general and special elections and primaries, including presidential primaries in this state for electors of president and vice-president of the United States, United States senators in congress, representatives in congress, general officers of the state, senators and representatives in the general assembly for the respective districts in which the elector is duly qualified to vote, and for any other officers whose names appear on the state ballot and for any city, town, ward, or district officers whose names appear on the respective city or town ballots in the ward or district of the city or town in which the elector is duly qualified to vote, and also to approve or reject any proposition of amendment to the Constitution or other propositions appearing on the state, city, or town ballot.

[End definition (f) above this line.]

g. Early voting

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (g) below this line.]

N/A

[End definition (g) above this line.]

h. Active Voter

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (h) below this line.]

| Anyone who has ~~voted in the past two federal elections and has not changed their address.~~ Is duly registered in the state's central voter registration system (CVRS) and whose is presumed to be registered from the address at which he/she resides.

[End definition (h) above this line.]

i. Inactive Voter

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin definition (i) below this line.]

(e) If a confirmation notice is mailed to a voter and returned as undeliverable, or if delivered and the voter has not responded within fourteen (14) days from the date of the mailing, the voter shall remain on or be placed on the inactive list and shall not be permitted to vote until the voter has signed an affirmation form at either the approved polling place or at the local board of canvassers as provided in this chapter. If the voter fails to vote by the second general election following the date of the confirmation mailing, then the voter shall be removed from the voting list. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, if the confirmation mailing was based upon the change of address information provided by or through the United States Postal Service National Change of Address Program, and the voter has failed to respond to the confirmation mailing, the voter shall remain on the active list of voters and shall not be required to sign the affirmation form. In these cases, the voter's residence address for voting purposes will be changed by the local board to the new address as indicated by the National Change of Address Program.

(f) Local boards shall be required to maintain for a period of at least two (2) years a record of all outgoing confirmation mailings, including the reasons for the mailing of the confirmations. Records shall be kept in a fashion that may be determined by the state board.

[End definition (i) above this line.]

j. Other terms (please specify) _____

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Identify each TERM and definition separately and begin below this line.]

[End TERM(s) and definition(s) above this line.]

A2. Please provide the legal citation for any *significant* changes to election laws or procedures that have been enacted or adopted since the previous Federal election. "Significant" does not include routine or technical changes (such as changes to election district boundaries or polling place changes). However, EAC would like to learn about any new identification requirements for voters or registrants; changes in eligibility for voting or registering; adoption of alternative voting methods; and other changes that you believe represent a significant change in the way your state runs its elections.

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (A2) below this line.]

N/A

[End response to above question (A2) above this line.]

SECTION B: VOTER REGISTRATION

B1. Is your state's voter registration database system best described as a bottom-up, a top-down, or a hybrid? (Note: A bottom-up system generally uploads information retained at the local level and compiled at regular intervals to form the statewide voter registration list. A top-down system is hosted on a single, central platform/mainframe and is generally maintained by the state with information supplied by local jurisdictions. A hybrid is some combination of both systems described above.)

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B1) below this line.]

~~Bottom-up~~ Top-down

[End response to above question (B1) above this line.]

If your state uses a bottom-up or hybrid system, how often do local jurisdictions transmit registration information to the state list?

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above clarification question to B1 below this line.]

~~Daily~~ N/A

[End response to above clarification question to B1 above this line.]

B2. Please describe the process used in your state to move voters from the active list to the inactive list, and from the inactive list to the active list. Is a different process used for UOCAVA voters?

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B2) below this line.]

If a confirmation notice is mailed to a voter and returned as undeliverable, or if delivered and the voter has not responded within fourteen (14) days from the date of the mailing, the voter shall remain on or be placed on the inactive list and shall not be permitted to vote until the voter has signed an affirmation form at either the approved polling place or at the local board of canvassers as provided in this chapter. If the voter fails to vote by the second general

election following the date of the confirmation mailing, then the voter shall be removed from the voting list. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, if the confirmation mailing was based upon the change of address information provided by or through the United States Postal Service National Change of Address Program, and the voter has failed to respond to the confirmation mailing, the voter shall remain on the active list of voters and shall not be required to sign the affirmation form. In these cases, the voter's residence address for voting purposes will be changed by the local board to the new address as indicated by the National Change of Address Program.

This process is automated in our CVRS and all changes to a voter's status are tracked and recorded.

If an inactive voter becomes active, the appropriate local board makes the changes in the CVRS and again the changes are automatically tracked and recorded.

With respect to UOCAVA voters, all UOCAVA voters coming in to CVRS through an FPCA are notated accordingly. When the FPCA expires, they are notified. This process is automated in our CVRS and local boards are prompted when an FPCA expires and a notice needs to be generated. As indicated above, UOCAVA voters in RI are exempt from registration.

Automated

[End response to above question (B2) above this line.]

B3. Please describe your state's process for removing voters from the voter registration rolls (not merely moving them from active to inactive). Please include information regarding notices and confirmations. Are these procedures the same for UOCAVA voters?

 No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B3) below this line.]

If a confirmation notice is mailed to a voter and returned as undeliverable, or if delivered and the voter has not responded within fourteen (14) days from the date of the mailing, the voter shall remain on or be placed on the inactive list and shall not be permitted to vote until the voter has signed an affirmation form at either the approved polling place or at the local board of canvassers as provided in this chapter. If the voter fails to vote by the second general election following the date of the confirmation mailing, then the voter shall be removed from the voting list.

With respect to UOCAVA voters, all UOCAVA voters coming in to CVRS through an FPCA are notated accordingly. When the FPCA expires, they are notified. This process is automated in our CVRS and local boards are prompted when an FPCA expires and a notice needs to be generated. As indicated above, UOCAVA voters in RI are exempt from registration
See (i) above

[End response to above question (B3) above this line.]

B4. Can your state's voter registration database (or equivalent) share information electronically with your state's drivers license agency (for example, to match records or trace changes in address)? Can your voter registration database be similarly linked with databases in any other state or federal agencies? Please describe these links, including any use of database matching to verify voter registration applications.

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B4) below this line.]

Central Voter Registrations System (CVRS) is linked to the Rhode Island DMV and voter registrations taken at DMV are electronically sent from the DMV to the CVRS

[End response to above question (B4) above this line.]

B5. Please describe how your state uses National Change of Address (NCOA). What has been your state's experience with NCOA?

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B5) below this line.]

NCOA requirements are fully integrated with the CVRS. In every odd-numbered year, the active voter file is passed through NCOA and possible address changes are processed through CVRS. In 2009, NCOA reviewed 692,565 active voters and returned possible address changes for 51,108 records. CVRS electronically sent those records to the appropriate city/town for their review and action. All steps in the process are automated and tracked. This return was typical with our usual returns of approximately 10% which has been categorized as average by the NCOA vendor.

[End response to above question (B5) above this line.]

B6. Please describe your state's voting eligibility requirements as they relate to individuals with a felony conviction. (For example, are convicted felons allowed to vote while in prison or while on parole or probation? Are voting rights automatically

restored or does the individual have to apply for a pardon, certificate of eligibility or other similar certificate? Does an individual whose voting rights have been restored have to produce documentation of his/her status when registering to vote?)

| No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B6) below this line.]

| ~~Once the person is released they are eligible to register to vote. Only persons who are incarcerated are ineligible to vote, upon their release they may re-register.~~

[End response to above question (B6) above this line.]

B7. Does your state currently use the Internet in any way to facilitate voter registration? If yes, please describe how your state allows voters to use the Internet in the registration process (e.g., entire registration completed online; completed online but then must be printed, signed, and mailed by voter, etc.).

| No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (B7) below this line.]

| Voters can download a voter registration form from several web sites throughout the state, it must be printed, signed and returned to the local board of canvassers or the State Board of Elections

[End response to above question (B7) above this line.]

SECTION C: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

C1. Please describe how all votes cast at a place other than the voter's precinct of registration are tabulated (for example, please include descriptions of such votes as absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, votes cast at vote centers, provisional ballots, early voting locations, etc.).

a. Are the votes counted centrally or at the precincts?

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (a) below this line.]

Precincts Centrally at the State Board of Elections

[End response to above question (a) above this line.]

b. If centrally tabulated, are the votes redirected to the appropriate precinct for reporting in the canvass?

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (b) below this line.]

Yes

[End response to above question (b) above this line.]

c. Are the absentee, mail, etc., votes reported separately for each precinct, or are they added to the in-precinct results and reported as just a single number?

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (c) below this line.]

Mail ballots are reported separately.

[End response to above question (c) above this line.]

d. How are UOCAVA ballots counted and reported?

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (d) below this line.]

~~After they are received by fax the are remade on original ballots. They are counted centrally and reported as part of the mail ballot count.~~

[End response to above question (d) above this line.]

C2. Does your state require a reason for voting absentee, or does your state allow no-excuse absentee voting? (If a reason is required, please provide the legal citation.)

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C2) below this line.]

Reason required

§ 17-20-2 Eligibility for mail ballots. – Any otherwise qualified elector may vote by mail ballot in the following circumstances:

- (1) An elector who will be absent from the state on the day of election during the entire period of time when the polls are to be open;
- (2) An elector who will be absent from the city or town of his or her voting residence on the day of election during the entire period of time when the polls are to be open due to the elector's status as a student or the spouse of a student at an institution of higher learning located within this state;
- (3) An elector who is incapacitated to the extent that it would be an undue hardship to vote at the polls because of illness, or mental or physical disability, blindness, or serious impairment of mobility;
- (4) An elector who is forbidden by the tenets of his or her religious faith from engaging in secular activity, including voting, on the day of election;
- (5) An elector who is confined in any hospital, convalescent home, nursing home, rest home, or similar institution, public or private;
- (6) An elector who is being detained while awaiting trial or is being imprisoned for any cause, other than final conviction of a felony, and by reason of that detention or imprisonment is unable to vote at the polls;

(7) An elector who will be temporarily absent from the state because of employment or service intimately connected with military operations or who is a spouse or legal dependent residing with that person;

(8) An elector who is employed by the state board of elections, elections division of the secretary of state, a member of the staff of a local canvassing authority, or a poll worker assigned to work on Election Day outside of their voting district.

[End response to above question (C2) above this line.]

C3. Does your state provide for in-person early voting? If so, how is early voting defined? When early voting is used, are the ballots counted at the precinct or at a central location? How are these votes reported?

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C3) below this line.]

No

[End response to above question (C3) above this line.]

C4. Do any jurisdictions in your state use a vote-by-mail system to replace (and not merely supplement) at-the-precinct voting in any elections?

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C4) below this line.]

N/A

[End response to above question (C4) above this line.]

C5. Please list each of the situations that require a provisional ballot in your state. Please provide the relevant legal citation for each situation.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C5) below this line.]

§ 17-15-26. Challenge of identity as to right to vote

Whenever the identity of any person offering to vote is challenged at the polling place, that person shall be permitted to vote only by using a **provisional** ballot as defined in § 17-19-24.1.

§ 17-19-24.1. **Provisional** voting under the Help America Vote Act of 2002

(a) If an individual's name does not appear on the certified voting list as provided for in § 17-19-24(b) and the individual is eligible to vote in an election for federal office or an election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote in the district in which the individual desires to vote, then the individual shall be permitted to cast a **provisional** ballot as provided in Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act (P.L. 107-252) [42 U.S.C. § 15481].

§ 17-19-27. Challenge of identity as to right to vote

Whenever the identity of any person offering to vote is challenged at the polling place, that person shall be permitted to vote only using a **provisional** ballot as defined in § 17-19-24.1.

The Board of Elections adopted provisional ballot rules and regulations to implement provisional balloting, a copy of the eligibility requirements are below:

See above. An individual shall be eligible to cast a provisional ballot if:

- 1) The individual declares that he/she is a registered voter and eligible to vote in the precinct but is informed by an election official on election day that the individual's name does not appear on the official list of registered voters for the precinct or the that the individual's name is listed in another precinct of the city/town. Except voters who file voter affirmation forms under R.I.G.L 17-9.1-16.
- 2) The official list of registered voters indicates the voter has applied for a mail/emergency ballot; or
- 3) An election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote (including partisan and non-partisan primaries); or
- 4) The individual registered to vote by mail but is unable to provide the required identification prior to or at the time of voting.

[End response to above question (C5) above this line.]

C6. Does your state count provisional ballots of voters who are registered in different precincts, or are those ballots automatically rejected? Please describe the process used by local election officials in determining whether to count a provisional ballot.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C6) below this line.]

If the voter is registered in a city or town in Rhode Island but votes in the wrong precinct, only federal offices are counted.

[End response to above question (C6) above this line.]

C7. Please describe your state's laws regarding post-election audits, if any.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C7) below this line.]

None

[End response to above question (C7) above this line.]

C8. Please describe any state requirements for poll worker training.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (C8) below this line.]

All poll workers are required by law to attend a poll worker training session run by the State Board of Elections.

[End response to above question (C8) above this line.]

SECTION D: ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

D1. Please describe your state's process for capturing "over-vote" and "under-vote" counts.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (D1) below this line.]

Over-votes and under-votes are recorded on the tape printed by the optical scan voting machine, "Eagle", used by the State of Rhode Island.

[End response to above question (D1) above this line.]

D2. What identification does your state require from voters in the following situations:

a. registering to vote;

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (a) below this line.]

| When registering to vote by mail or third party they must provide a valid drivers license number or the last 4 digits of their social security number

[End response to above question (a) above this line.]

b. casting an in-person ballot;

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (b) below this line.]

None

[End response to above question (b) above this line.]

c. casting a mail-in or absentee vote;

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (c) below this line.]

None Unless they are "ID required" under HAVA

[End response to above question (c) above this line.]

d. casting a ballot under UOCAVA;

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (d) below this line.]

None

[End response to above question (d) above this line.]

e. any other stage in registration or voting process in which identification is required (please specify).

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (e) below this line.]

| No. ~~Affirmation Card with no ID when required.~~

[End response to above question (e) above this line.]

D3. Please describe your state's laws regarding access to the polling place for election observers. Election observers are people allowed inside the polling place who are not poll workers, election officials or voters. If decisions on access to observers are left to local jurisdictions, please explain.

| **No Change Since 2008** **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (D3) below this line.]

| Anyone is allowed to observe the process inside the polling place as long as they are not electioneering. They must not enter ~~beyond where voters only are allowed:~~ voting area.

[End response to above question (D3) above this line.]

SECTION E: OTHER

E1. Under HAVA, Section 402, states are required to establish and maintain administrative complaint procedures to remedy grievances. Has your state revised its administrative complaint procedures since they were first implemented? If so, how?

No Change Since 2008 Changed Since 2008

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (E1) below this line.]

Not since they have been implemented.

[End response to above question (E1) above this line.]

E2. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) was signed into law on October 22, 2009. The MOVE Act contains, among other things, provisions regarding States' methods of communication with UOCAVA voters and UOCAVA ballot transmission.

Please describe your State's processes and procedures for implementing MOVE (including any changes in your State's laws or regulations) as they relate to:

- Protecting the security and integrity of the voter registration and ballot application process, the privacy and personal information of the voter, and absentee ballots. (Sect. 577, 578)
- Designating a means of electronic communication for all voting-related materials to UOCAVA voters. (Sect. 577)
- Establishing a ballot tracking mechanism to allow voters to determine whether their ballots were received by the appropriate election official. (Sect. 580(d))

Also, please describe your State's plans to capture data related to the number of registration applications, ballot applications, and blank ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters via mail and electronic means (Internet, email, fax) *and* the number of registration applications, ballot applications, and completed ballots returned by UOCAVA voters via mail and electronic means (Internet, email, fax).

This question was not asked in 2008. Please provide your answer below.

[Begin response to above question (E2) below this line.]

Protecting the security and integrity of the voter registration and ballot application process, the privacy and personal information of the voter, and absentee ballots. (Sect. 577, 578)

▲ FPCA forms and mail ballot applications from UOCAVA voters are currently processed using the same secure processes as we use for all other voters through our

Formatted

state central voter registration system (CVRS), which is HAVA compliant. Additionally UOCAVA voters use the fax transmission program sponsored by the FVAP for the transmittal of their ballot and related ballot materials.

By state law, these processes have been in place for several years.

Designating a means of electronic communication for all voting-related materials to UOCAVA voters. (Sect. 577)

RI law currently allows UOCAVA voters to send and receive mail ballot applications, mail ballots and all related materials through fax transmission.

Local boards of canvassers may also communicate through fax transmissions with UOCAVA voters.

State mail ballot applications and FPCA forms provide a space for applicant to indicate the fax number to which their materials should be sent. Rhode Island also provides this information to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for inclusion in their Voting Assistance Guide.

All voter-related material and applications are also available on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov where UOCAVA voters can download, complete and fax applications to the state.

By state law, these processes have been in place for several years.

Establishing a ballot tracking mechanism to allow voters to determine whether their ballots were received by the appropriate election official. (Sect. 580(d))

In Rhode Island, as indicated above, the CVRS is a state-based "top-down" system and all voter registration and mail ballot data entered is stored real-time in the state CVRS database. The Office of the Secretary of State, local canvassing authorities and the State Board of Elections, as the case may be, enter information regarding the dates each step occurred in the delivery and receipt of each absentee ballot application and official ballot. This information is made available with a nightly update on the Secretary of State's website's Voter Information Center (VIC) application. VIC is easily accessible to any UOCAVA voter that has access to the Internet at www.sos.ri.us/VIC. Their record will show the date the mail ballot application was received by the local board of canvassers; the date it was certified to the Secretary of State; the date the Secretary of State mailed the ballot to the voter; and the date the Board of Elections received the voted ballot.

Again, by administrative procedures, this process has been in place for several years.

Rhode Island's plans to capture data related to the number of registration applications, ballot applications, and blank ballots transmitted to UOCAVA

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voters via mail and electronic means (Internet, email, fax) and the number of registration applications, ballot applications, and completed ballots returned by UOCAVA voters via mail and electronic means (Internet, email, fax).

Every voter has a unique ID assigned to them in our CVRS, all registration and mail ballot events and data are captured and stored by those unique ID's. CVRS has the ability to identify all UOCAVA voters and their activities for a given election. We will be able to report the number of UOCAVA registrations for a given period, the number of ballot applications received for a given election, the number of blank ballots transmitted by fax for a given election, the number of returned voted ballots for a given election; and the number of ballots returned by fax. As UOCAVA voters are exempt from the regular registration process in Rhode Island, UOCAVA voters are entered into the system as UOCAVA and are easily tracked.

[End response to above question (E2) above this line.]

E3. Please add any additional comments or information about your state's election administration processes that would help to inform the EAC's interpretation of your data.

No Change Since 2008 **Changed Since 2008**

2008 Response:

[Begin response to above question (E3) below this line.]

[End response to above question (E3) above this line.]

* The information collection associated with the Election Administration and Voting Survey is required for the EAC to meet its statutory requirements under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15301), the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.), and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). Respondent's obligation to reply to this information collection is mandatory as required under NVRA (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.) and UOCAVA (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). This part of the information collection is being requested to help the EAC to better understand state laws governing federal elections. Respondents include the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories. This information will be made publicly available on the EAC website (www.eac.gov). According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB Control No. 3265-0006 (expires 5/31/2013). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 59 hours per state response. This estimate includes the time for reviewing the instructions, gathering information, and completing the form. Comments regarding this burden estimate should be sent the U.S. Election Assistance Commission – 2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey, 1201 New York Avenue, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005.