OVF 2012 Post-Election Survey Results

Dr. Claire M. Smith

Research Director

Overseas Vote Foundation

claire@overseasvotefoundation.org

2012 Post-Election Survey

- Time period: Nov. 6 Dec. 26
- Military and Overseas Voter Survey
 - ➤ Invitations and Open URL
 - ➤ 13,676 Respondents (14%)
- Local Election Survey
 - ➤Invitation only
 - **>**2,071 Respondents (27%)

EVALUATING THE MOVE ACT IN 2012

I. Transmit Ballots 45 Days Before Election

- 81% received a ballot
- More voters sending ballots back earlier
- However: 22% could not vote because of missing or late ballot

| | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Sept. | 18% | 31% | 33% |
| 1st half Oct | 45% | 41% | 36% |
| 2nd half Oct | 28% | 15% | 22% |
| Election Week | 9% | 4% | 2% |
| Election Day | 1% | .5% | .3% |

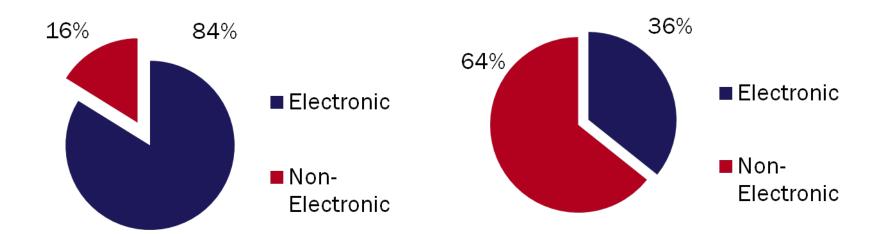
II. Electronic Registration/Ballot Requests and Blank Ballots

- Full Compliance
- 2012 tipping point in use of technology in voting process

Registration Options

Completing Forms

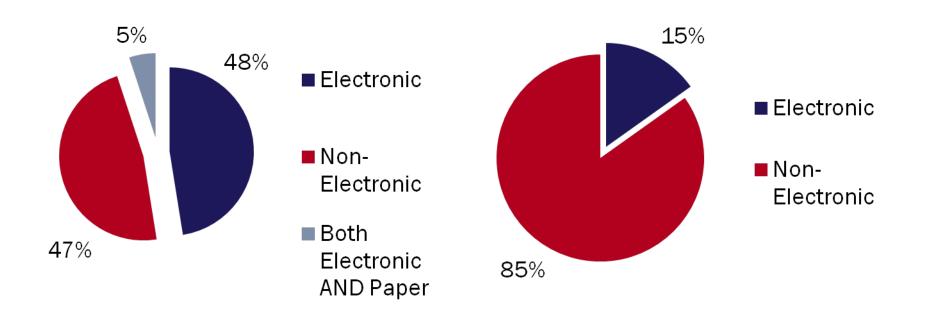
Returning Forms



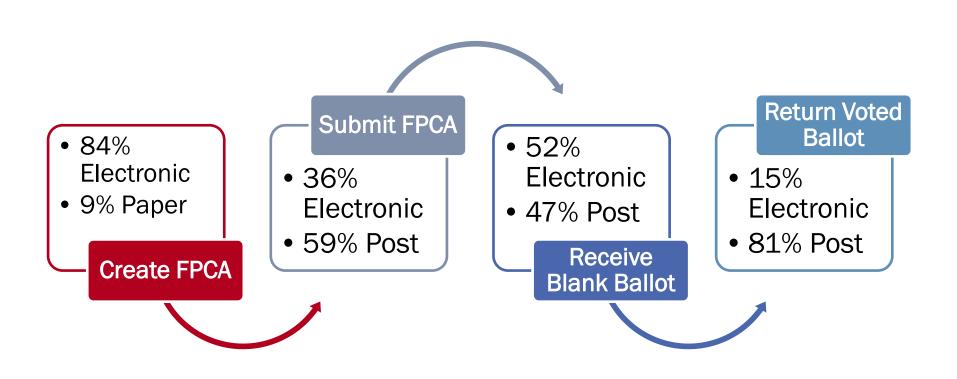
Balloting Options

Receiving Blank Ballot

Returning Voted Ballots



Voting Process Overview



New Solutions, New Problems

- Reported by both voters and election officials
- Paper Size
- Computer Compatibility
- PDF files are especially problematic
- Security and privacy concerns

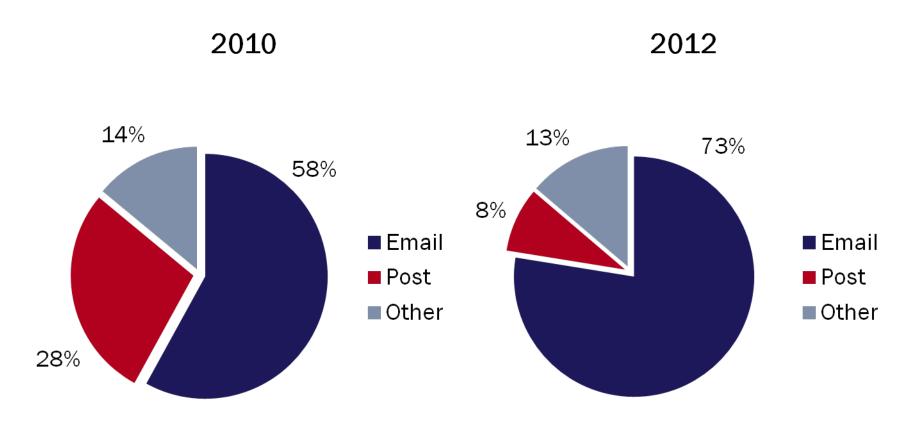
- Technology and usability issues should be addressed now before becoming systemic and widespread.
- Tech Support

III. Online Ballot Tracking Mechanism

- Election Officials
 - 18% offered tracking on local website
 - 56% offered tracking via state website
- Voters
 - 28% used registration look-up tool
 - 13% used ballot tracking tool

Voter outreach is essential to informing individuals about the innovative tools available to them.

IV. Establish Online Communication with Voters



V. Single Application for Each Election

Confusing, inconsistent implementation

| | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Those registered in 2010 received ballots without filing | 57% | 53% | 22% |
| Those registered in 2010 required to file new form | 6% | 15% | 24% |
| If voter was registered and contacted us, we sent a ballot | 20% | 18% | 24% |
| Voters were required to file a request for each election in 2012 | | | 5% |

Application provision should be reinstated so that the FPCA is valid over one complete general election cycle. It must be uniform for both military and civilian voters.

VI. Expansion of the FWAB

- For first time,
 awareness above
 50%
- LEOs report improper use

| Aware- ness | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Yes | 44% | 47% | 59% |
| No | 56% | 53% | 41% |

Further study of the FWAB must be conducted regarding its use across states, websites, and widgets.

Unique Military Voter Issues

- How to receive a ballot
 - Plane crash in Afghanistan
 - -Security filters on email addresses
- Use of online ballot tracking slightly higher

Conclusions: Lessons from 2012

- 2012 a tipping point in the use of technology
- New solutions create new problems
- Outreach is still the key