

Section B

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



2008 Election Administration & Voting Survey

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 us to better understand the quantitative data relating to the 2008 general election that we are collecting from all U.S. states and territories.

We understand 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.

Information Supplied By	
Name	Filivaa M Mageo, Sr.
Title	Deputy Chief Election Officer
Office/Agency Name	Territorial Election Office
Address 1	PO Box 3970
Address 2	
City	Pago Pago
State	American Samoa
Zip Code	96799
Email Address	asgelect@samoatelco.com
Telephone (area Code and number)	684-633-2522
Fax Number (area code and number)	684-633-7116

DIRECTIONS AND EXAMPLE

Please provide your state's legal citation for the responses to these questions (where applicable).

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 legal standing 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, please specify.

Please put 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

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

If there are more ballots than the Official Roll calls for, there is an overage

[End definition (a) above this line.]

b. Under-vote

[Begin definition (b) below this line.]

If there are less ballots than the Official Roll calls for, there is an Underage

[End definition (b) above this line.]

c. Blank ballot

[Begin definition (c) below this line.]

An unused official paper ballot

[End definition (c) above this line.]

d. Void/Spoiled ballot

[Begin definition (d) below this line.]

Ballots that are marked without following instructions or marking the ballot more than it is required

[End definition (d) above this line.]

e. Provisional/Challenged ballot

[Begin definition (e) below this line.]

Any qualified elector in the polling place may challenge a voter's right to vote. Such challenges are limited to two (2) grounds: the voter is NOT the person he/she claims to be; or the voter is NOT entitled to vote in that district. Provisional ballot is given to an individual who claims to be properly registered and eligible to vote at the election district, but whose name does not appear on the general register and whose registration cannot be determined by poll workers of election; or an individual voting for the first time at the election district, but who is unable to produce required identification; or an individual who presents a judicial order to vote.

[End definition (e) above this line.]

f. Absentee

[Begin definition (f) below this line.]

There are two kinds of absentee ballots: those received from off-island and those that were cast locally before election day and secured at the Election Office. The last day to request local absentee ballot is Monday, November 3, 2008. Therefore, no one should request on election day to vote by absentee ballot.

[End definition (f) above this line.]

g. Early voting

[Begin definition (g) below this line.]

Those who will temporary depart the territory and will not return by election day can vote at the Election Office if ballots are printed. Early voting terminates 4:00 pm, Monday, November 3, 2008.

[End definition (g) above this line.]

h. Active Voter

[Begin definition (h) below this line.]

Voter who is eligible to vote in any election

[End definition (h) above this line.]

i. Inactive Voter

[Begin definition (i) below this line.]

Voter who is either purged or deceased

[End definition (i) above this line.]

j. Other terms (please specify) _____

[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. By “significant,” we do not mean routine or technical changes (such as changes to election district boundaries or polling place changes). However, we 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.

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

A significant change in local election law had been passed in which for the first time our military personnel can register from off-island and vote for our local election. Before, they can register and can only vote for federal election (delegate to Congress).

[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.)

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

Our voter registration database system is best described as a top-down system.

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

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

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

Not applicable

[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?

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

On the sixtieth day after every election, the election files are audit and those who did not vote for the last two consecutive elections will be purged. Notification is sent (recent address on file) out to each purged voter explaining the reason and what to do to have his/her name on active list.

[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?

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

Once a voter first register to vote, his assigned voter registration number will be permanent except when he is transferred from one district to another (change made) or the voter is deceased.

[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.

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

We do not have that capability right now, however, we do have a sort of agreement with the local Social Security office in which we coordinate the double checking of voters Social Security numbers.

[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 using NCOA?

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

No applicable

[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?)

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

Ninety (90) days before any election, the Election Office send letters to various Government Agencies for the verification of Individuals who are in Prison, Probation, or Paroles and their voting status. Purging of these voters will depend on the responses from these Agencies.

[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.).

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

This has been a blessing in disguise for our military people, especially our remote location from the USA, the postal mail takes two weeks for back and forth correspondences. Now, we received a request (email) from our military and we send them instructions of what to do to receive an absentee ballot at the same day. The only thing we can not do in the internet is VOTE.

[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?

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

Early voting is centrally counted. All others at the precincts

[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?

[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?

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

Reported separately for each precinct.

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

d. How are UOCAVA ballots counted and reported?

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

Gubernatorial and Congressional ballots are centrally counted
Local House of Representatives are counted in the precincts

[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.)

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

Local election laws stipulated that only military, federal employees, American Samoa Government employees, plus their dependents, and students attending higher institutes of learning can vote in local elections from off-island. Section 6.1101(a), America Samoa Code Annotated.

[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?

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

[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?

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

No

[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.

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

1. Voter who can not be determined eligibility but claimed to properly register
2. Voter first time and unable to produce required identification
3. Voter presents a judicial order to vote

[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.

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

No

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

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

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

Ninety (90) days after any election, electors' files will be audited

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

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

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

- Poll workers must speak both English and Samoan languages
- Poll workers must be a registered voter of American Samoa

[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.

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

Before counting ballot boxes in the precincts, poll workers counted the number of voters signatures in the Official Roll. The two counts (ballot boxes & signatures in the Roll) should be the same, or an overage/underage exists.

[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;

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

1. Birth certificate, Social Security Number, and Government issued ID with photo. OR Passport with Social Security Number.

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

b. casting an in-person ballot;

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

Voting Registration card or above documents

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

c. casting a mail-in or absentee vote;

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

Comparing signature to signature on files

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

d. casting a ballot under UOCAVA;

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

Comparing signature with on on file

[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).

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

[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.

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

Special permission can be given by the Chief Election Officer

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

SECTION E: OTHER

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

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

No

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

E2. 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.

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

None

[End response to above question (E2) 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 3/31/09). 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 – 2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey, 1225 New York Avenue, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005.