

2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey

The Statutory Overview

- **Provides information about States' definitions, laws, processes and procedures related to administering elections.**
 - EAC provided States with their 2008 responses and asked that they update their 2010 responses with any new information. **Response rate:** 54 out of 55 States and territories submitted their overviews.
- **The 2010 Statutory Overview was the same as the 2008 overview with the following exceptions:**
 - A new question requesting information about the States' processes and procedures for implementing the MOVE Act related to 1) protecting voter registration and absentee balloting information; 2) methods for electronic communication of voting-related materials; and 3) establishing mechanisms for ballot tracking.
 - A question related to States' plans to capture UOCAVA data regarding the number of registration and ballot applications, and the number of blank ballots transmitted to and returned by UOCAVA voters via electronic means.

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Statutory Overview Highlights

- **The MOVE Act**
 - The Act requires that States transmit voter registrations, absentee ballot applications, and other election-related information to voters electronically. For the 2010 Statutory Overview, 85% of States reported using e-mail and 24% of the States used a web-based application to deliver applications.
 - In 2006, fewer than 15 States allowed election officials to e-mail voting materials. And, some States only allowed postal mail transmission of materials.
 - (For local election officials, EAC has made recommendations for administering a successful electronic transmission system for UOCAVA voting.)

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Statutory Overview Highlights

- **Absentee Voting**
 - **23 States** require an “excuse” (such as expecting to be out of town) for a voter to request a mail-in ballot. **30 States** do not require an excuse, and allow any person to cast a mail-in ballot. Oregon votes entirely by mail.
 - **8 States** permit all vote-by-mail (VBM) elections for State and/or Federal elections. **4 other States** allow all VBM elections for local elections. In these States, a local election official usually must request permission to conduct an all VMB election. State laws often stipulate that the election not include any candidates, and only issues such as bonds, amendments, initiative, and referenda.

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Statutory Overview Highlights

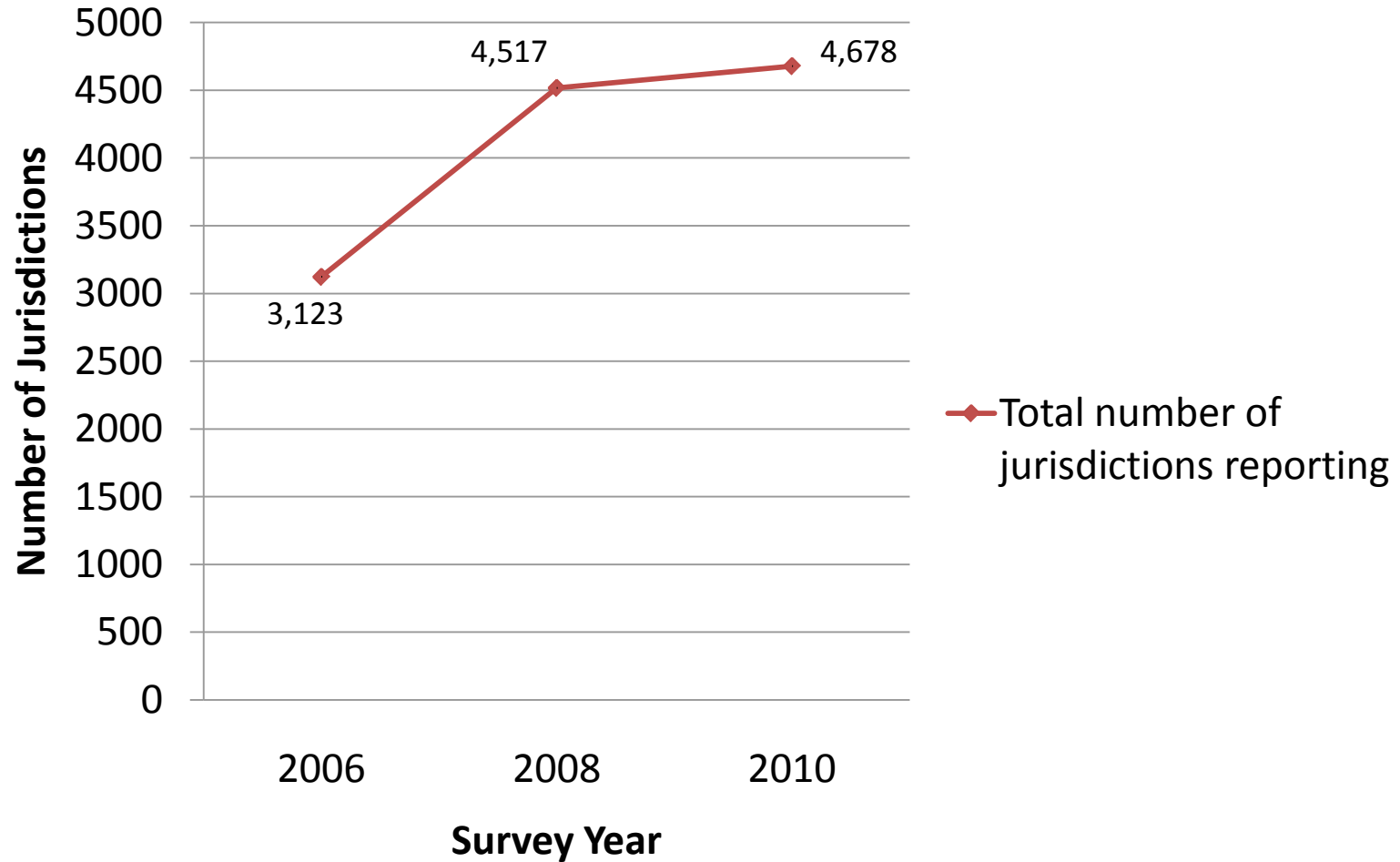
- **Provisional Voting**
 - The most common reason for issuing a provisional ballot is 1) when the voter's name does not appear in the poll book, followed closely by 2) when the voter fails to present sufficient ID (**34 States**).
 - **26 States** require a provisional ballot when a voter is challenged as ineligible and **13 States** require a provisional ballot when a voter's qualifications cannot be immediately established.
 - **22 States** indicated that they require a provisional ballot when a voter is voting during extended polling hours.
 - Other commonly cited reasons include: a voter's registration containing an error in the voter's party listing (**11 States**), and a voter requests an absentee ballot and does not cast it (**17 States**).

EAVS Biennial Reports

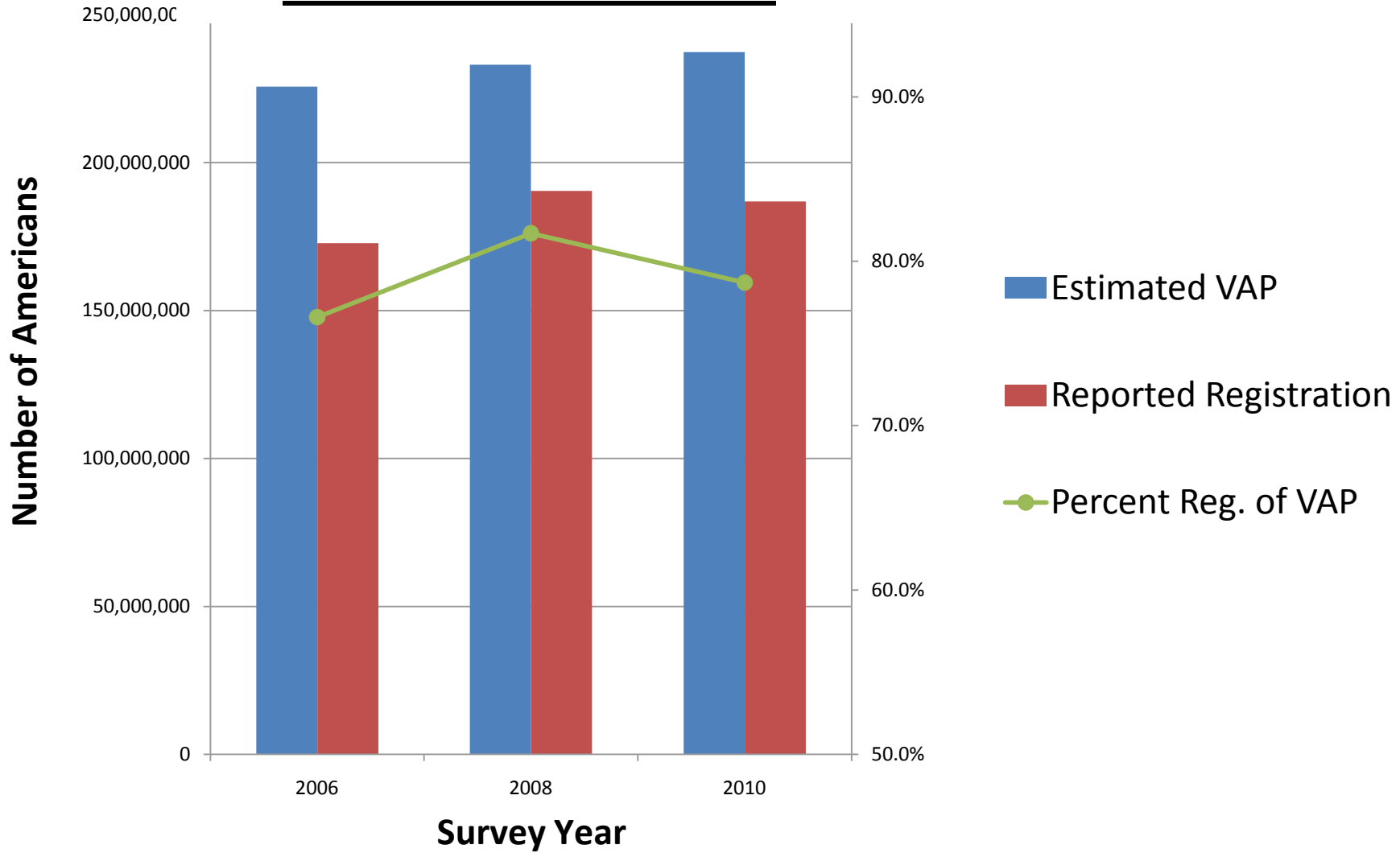
- **2010 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act Report**
 - Will provide the number of UOCAVA ballots sent, received, and counted, along with some key findings and analysis related to UOCAVA voting. *To be released early fall 2011.*
- **Impact of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) 2008-2010 Report**
 - EAC is required to submit a report to Congress assessing the impact of the NVRA on the administration of elections for Federal office during the preceding 2-year period. Topics include voter registration data , the sources of voter registration applications, numbers of active and inactive voters, and voter registration list maintenance processes. *To be released June 30, 2011.*
- **2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Report**
 - Provides quantitative data related to the National Voter Registration Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and other election administration issues such as the counting of provisional ballots and poll worker recruitment. *To be released fall 2011.*



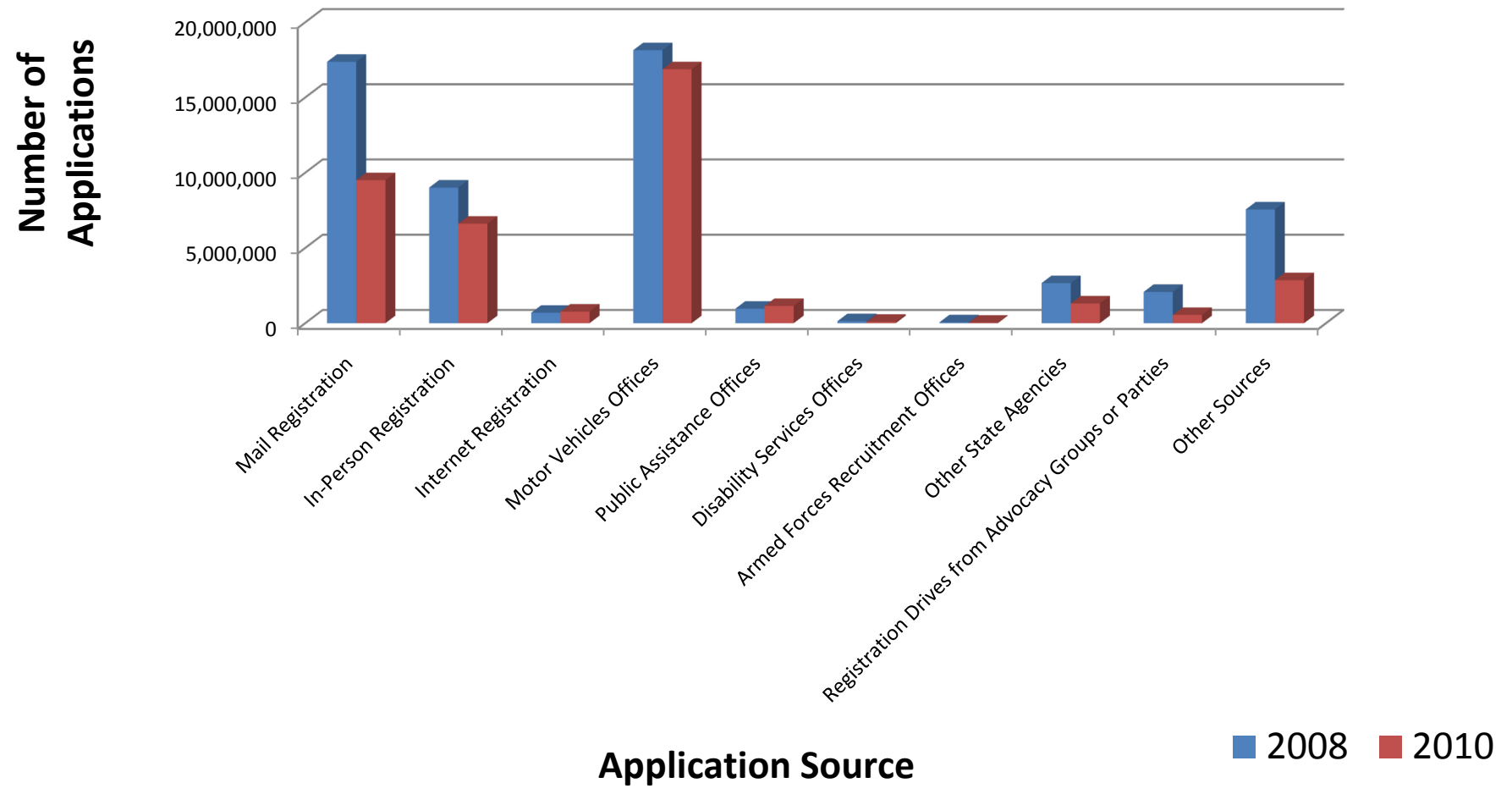
Response to EAVS



Select 2010 NVRA Data



Select NVRA Data



The 2012 Election Administration and Voting Survey

- In April EAC held conference calls with the States to discuss the 2010 survey experience. 31 States participated in these calls that will help EAC prepare for 2012.
- EAC staff anticipates the 2012 survey will be similar to the 2010 version.
 - As a result of collaborating with FVAP, the UOCAVA section may change slightly to include revised questions.
- EAC anticipates having a draft 2012 survey available in September 2011 (pending a Commissioner quorum). The Paperwork Reduction Act process will begin once EAC staff have a Commission-approved draft of the survey.
- Final determinations about the 2012 survey will be made once EAC has a quorum.

How EAVS Benefits the Field

[Transparency of Information](#) – Having accurate data readily available to the public (including the media) increases transparency. States often post the EAVS data on their websites.

[Responding to additional data requests](#) – Collecting the EAC survey data could help to reduce the burden on election officials of responding to other data requests. With EAC data on hand, responding to other data requests can be a huge time-saver.

[Budget requests](#) – Allocating funding can be based on hard numbers on election administration.

[Comparative data](#) – Election officials, policymakers, advocates, and the public can compare one state's election numbers to other states.

[Resource allocation](#) – Officials can see where they may need to allocate more resources by accurately tracking the number of provisional ballots issued, the number of poll workers who served, or how many UOCAVA voters returned their ballots.

HAVA-Mandated Studies

HAVA-mandated Studies

(to be completed)

Urban/Rural Study (HAVA 241 (b)(15))

- EAC must study “[m]atters particularly relevant to voting and administering elections in rural and urban areas.”
- Preliminary work on this study began last year with RPP staff holding a conference call and convening a day-long working group in D.C. to discuss the potential direction for this study. Proposed study components include:
 - Examining and comparing certain election administration practices in urban and rural jurisdictions that relate to voter outreach and personnel matters.
 - The statistical data would be obtained by conducting a nationally representative sample survey of election officials in urban and rural areas.
 - The qualitative portion of the study would tentatively involve in-depth interviews conducted with a select group of local election officials in urban and rural jurisdictions.

HAVA-mandated Studies

(to be completed)

Social Security Act Study (HAVA 244)

- EAC, in consultation with the Social Security Administration, is to study the various issues raised by using social security numbers when administering elections.
- Staff will continue to work on a draft report throughout the fiscal year.
- EAC research staff has begun to receive data from SSA to commence developing a report, including State-by-State information about matches and non-matches in the Help America Vote Verification program.

HAVA-mandated Studies

(to be completed)

Recounts and Contest Study (HAVA 241 (b)(13))

- This study requires that EAC produce a report about the laws and procedures used by States that govern recounts of ballots cast, contests of determination, and standards for determining what constitutes a vote in Federal elections.
- Staff have completed a draft report and once the data are vetted with the States, staff anticipate having a final draft of the study to present to the Commissioners once a quorum has been reestablished.