Washington State: 2010 MOVE Act Implementation

EAC Standards Board
February 25, 2011

Shane Hamlin
Co-Director of Elections
Office of the Secretary of State
shane.hamlin@sos.wa.gov
(360) 725-5781
Snapshot of Washington

50,000 UOCAVA voters

5th largest UOCAVA population

Five military bases
UOCAVA turnout

2008 General Election
• 67,500 ballots issued
• 73% turnout among military and overseas voters
• 99% of all military and overseas ballots were counted

2010 General Election
• 52,000 ballots issued
• 40% turnout among military and overseas voters
• 99% of all military and overseas ballots were counted
Pre-MOVE program for UOCAVA Voters

- Washington tracks UOCAVA status, on an ongoing basis, as part of registration; not election-by-election.
- Exempt from voter registration deadlines.
- Don’t need to request an absentee ballot; sent automatically.
- FPCAs are registered and then automatically sent a ballot for each election.
- 51 days of total transit time for a General Election ballot.
- Accept the FWAB for all elections.
- Accept the FWAB for voter registration.
- 15 years of experience sending blank ballots via fax and email.
Why did WA apply for a waiver?

Primary: August 17
Primary Certified: September 7
45 day deadline: September 18

Nine business days between certification and the 45 day deadline was not sufficient to prepare 55,000 to 65,000 accurate ballot packets.
Electronic Ballot Delivery

We surveyed our 50,000 UOCAVA voters to learn how they preferred to receive their ballot – for all elections.

Noteworthy findings:

• 21% response rate
• Learned that 4% are no longer UOCAVA voters
• 54% want their ballot emailed, or to access it online
• 46% preferred to receive their ballot by traditional mail
Electronic Ballot Delivery

• **Scytl**
  – FVAP’s Electronic Voting Support Wizard
  – 2 counties

• **Democracy Live**
  – County self-funded

• **MyBallot & MyBallot Status**
  – SOS solution
  – 36 of 39 counties
2010 Turnout Details

• 52,422 UOCAVA ballots issued
• 40% turnout
• 20,830 received
• 20,561 were counted; 269 were rejected
• 99% were counted
Next Steps

• Legislation
  – Move the Primary two weeks earlier
  – Accept voted ballots returned by email or fax
• Complete MyBallot – on screen markable
• Decide whether to apply for an FVAP grant
Questions?

Shane Hamlin
Co-Director of Elections
Office of the Secretary of State
Shane.hamlin@sos.wa.gov
(360) 725-5781