

The U.S Election Assistance Commission (EAC), as mandated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), collects comprehensive data on voting, elections, and election administration in the United States. This is the second report on voting produced by the EAC; the first, the *2004 Election Day Report*, was released in September 2005. Improvements, which are detailed below, were made for the 2006 survey administration process.

To study the 2004 elections, the EAC administered two separate surveys to collect and report the information required under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (42 U.S.C. 1973gg) and Section 102(c) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S.C. 1973ff). In addition, the EAC conducted another survey to collect information regarding the November 2004 Federal general elections. To reduce the response burden for the States, facilitate data collection and reporting, and encourage participation in the 2006 survey, the EAC created a single survey instrument (hereafter referred to as the *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey*).

The 2006 survey was designed using feedback received from State and local election officials, political scientists, researchers, members of election and voter registration groups, and the general public. In May 2005, the EAC met with a group of election officials to solicit their feedback regarding the *2004 Election Day Survey*. The group discussed the challenges faced by election officials when collecting the survey's data, the interpretation of the survey questions and terms, and the methods for assembling the data. In April 2006, the EAC convened a second group of election officials, social scientists, and voter interest groups to discuss recommendations to improve the EAC's data collection efforts, including the design of one survey instrument to collect all of the data.

One month later, the EAC completed the first draft of the *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey* and presented it to the EAC's Standards Board and Board of Advisors. The Standards Board is comprised of 110 State and local election officials. The Board of Advisors consists of 37 members from various national associations and government agencies who play a role in the implementation of HAVA, as well as science and technology-related professionals appointed by members of Congress. In addition, a presentation of the survey was made to the annual meeting of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASD) in the summer of 2006. The survey was revised based on the input from all of these groups, and a second draft was produced.

The second draft of the survey was posted in the Federal Register on August 1, 2006 (71 FR 43477) for a period of 60 days to solicit public comment, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The survey was revised again based on the comments received during the 60-day public comment period and was published for an additional 30 days in the Federal Register on October 31, 2006 (71 FR 63755). States were notified of both comment periods, and the draft survey was made available on the EAC Web site in August, 2006.

The *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey* was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on November 30, 2006 (OMB Control No. 3265-0006, exp. 11/30/2009). The final, approved version of the survey contained 58 questions; 28 questions required information only at the State level, and 30 required information at both State and county levels. The actual questions from the survey instrument used in this report are contained in appendix C.

The EAC designed a Web-based survey application for States and local jurisdictions to use for submitting their data. In early December 2006, the EAC provided States with a username and password to log in to enter data into the online survey. Although the deadline for States to submit data was March 7, 2007, data were collected and tabulated, and States were allowed to submit supplementary or corrected data for this report up to November 19, 2007. The 2006 survey asked for information for States and their county/local election jurisdictions rather than a single statewide number as in previous surveys. State totals were, in most cases, merely the sum of the information from the local jurisdictions that responded.

The *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey* was sent to 55 State-level election jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia and four territories—Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The survey sought information for the States' local jurisdictions, and some States allowed their local jurisdictions to fill in the Web-based survey instrument. Other State offices collected the information from local governmental bodies, created a statewide compilation, and entered the data into the Web-based survey. Finally, almost half of the States sought to submit the statewide compilation of data to the EAC via spreadsheets rather than entering data online. EAC staff, temporary employees, and the contractor then entered the data into the Web-based survey database for those States.

During the process of analyzing the EAC survey data, all States were sent the information extracted from their survey responses at several different

times. They were allowed to review the compiled information and submit amendments, corrections or clarifications, and footnotes. Some States and/or local jurisdictions either do not track the specific data asked for by the EAC and/or required by HAVA or do not track the required statistics in a manner compatible with that requested by the survey. These problems resulted in gaps in the data in this report—some of a significant nature. To reflect the irregularities in States' collection of data by local jurisdictions, all tables in appendix B of this report show the overall number of jurisdictions in a State and the number responding for a particular question in the columns labeled "Jur."

This report does not cover all jurisdictions (i.e., county and township level) in each State. States were able to submit county-level and local-level data, although in a number of instances, the States' data were incomplete. Some States only submitted statewide figures and did not report data from local jurisdictions. As a result, this report is based on survey results from 50 States, the District of Columbia, and two territories. Depending upon the specific question, at most 3,004 jurisdictions out of 3,123 total jurisdictions possible responded, although the number of jurisdictions responding was usually much lower for most questions. Puerto Rico had no Federal election in 2006, so it did not submit any information.

Note: *The number of jurisdictions reporting data for each question varies. All statistics and numbers provided in this report are based on information reported to the EAC by States and jurisdictions. Complete information on the number of jurisdictions reporting on a specific question is available in the full data tables in appendix B of this report and at www.eac.gov.*