2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey

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Project overview

3 major components:

- Statutory Overview

- State Grants Program

- Election Administration and Voting Survey

  – NVRA report

  – UOCAVA report

  – Survey report

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Data overview

- collected data from 55 States and territories
  - total of 4,517 jurisdictions (counties and townships)
  - increase of 45% from number of jurisdictions in 2006
- approximately 800 variables
  - 52 questions and sub-questions
  - options for not available and not applicable
  - comment fields
- total of approximately 3.6 million data points
  - 962,000 numeric data points

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Data collection instruments

- Main tool: a MS Excel-based template
  - MS Word-based template for individual counties or for statewide totals
- Completed by the States and submitted through a Web portal
- Extracted into a SAS database
- Aggregated to create tables for reports
- UOCAVA and Survey report tables vetted with the States

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Technical assistance

- varied widely from State to State

- based on one-on-one contact between 3 RTI staff and State officials

- consultation through email and telephone calls

- supported by material on project Web site:
  - supplementary instructions
  - FAQs
  - updates

- how can RTI make completion of the survey easier for you?

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Accomplishments

- significantly higher response rates due to:
  - improved processes
  - earlier start
  - State familiarity
  - general recognition of importance
- better and more reliable tools
- improved questionnaire
- more stable survey

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Improvements for 2010

- continue to improve timetable
  - questionnaire out earlier
  - more pre-election technical assistance
- better data tracking and validation
- Institute a GIS mapping component

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