



## 2010 Post-Election Voting Survey of Local Election Officials

### Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to summarize data from the *2010 Post-Election Voting Survey of Local Election Officials (2010 LEO)*. This paper includes results from survey topics related to voter registration and turnout, Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs), regular absentee ballots from Uniformed Service Members and Overseas Citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs).

### Summary of Topics Covered in Questionnaire

#### Voter Registration and Turnout

- Of the **193,576,684** ( $\pm 10,681,735$ ) registered and eligible voters, **48%**<sup>1</sup> ( $\pm 2.2$ ) participated in the election (**92,953,243** [ $\pm 5,157,261$ ]) (Q3/Q1).<sup>2</sup>
- Of the **1,468,641** ( $\pm 341,544$ ) registered and eligible UOCAVA voters, **41%** ( $\pm 11$ ) participated in the election (**597,490** [ $\pm 237,067$ ]) (Q4/Q2).<sup>3</sup>
  - Of the **915,779** ( $\pm 212,435$ ) registered and eligible Uniformed Service Members, **38%** ( $\pm 11$ ) participated in the election (**348,878** [ $\pm 139,771$ ]).
  - Of the **552,861** ( $\pm 132,353$ ) registered and eligible Overseas Civilians, **45%** ( $\pm 12.1$ ) participated in the election (**248,611** [ $\pm 97,815$ ]).

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<sup>1</sup> All percentages in this note are rounded.

<sup>2</sup> Question 1 asked respondents for the total number of persons in their jurisdiction who were registered and eligible to vote in the November 2010 general election. Question 3 asked respondents for the total number of persons in their jurisdiction who participated in the November 2010 general election.

<sup>3</sup> Question 2 asked respondents for the total number of registered and eligible voters in their jurisdiction who were covered by UOCAVA. Question 4 asked respondents for the total number of UOCAVA covered voters in their jurisdiction who participated in the November 2010 general election.

### Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs)

- Of the **256,755** ( $\pm 35,370$ ) FPCAs received from UOCAVA voters, **7%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were unsuccessfully processed (**18,280** [ $\pm 4,171$ ]) (Q10/Q9).<sup>4</sup>
  - Of the **167,574** ( $\pm 27,534$ ) FPCAs received from Uniformed Service Members, **8%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were unsuccessfully processed (**14,193** [ $\pm 3,466$ ]).
  - Of the **89,181** ( $\pm 13,443$ ) FPCAs received from Overseas Civilians, **5%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were unsuccessfully processed (**4,087** [ $\pm 964$ ]).
- Of the **256,755** ( $\pm 35,370$ ) FPCAs received from UOCAVA voters, the percentage successfully processed was **Not Reportable (NR)**<sup>5</sup> (Q10/Q9).
  - Of the **167,574** ( $\pm 27,534$ ) FPCAs received from Uniformed Service Members, the percentage successfully processed was **NR**.
  - Of the **89,181** ( $\pm 13,443$ ) FPCAs received from Overseas Civilians, the percentage successfully processed was **NR**.

### Transmission of Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **16%** ( $\pm 3.3$ ) were transmitted after the state send out date (**89,695** [ $\pm 11,956$ ]) (Q23/Q22).<sup>6</sup>
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **16%** ( $\pm 3.3$ ) were transmitted after the state send out date (**56,083** [ $\pm 8,359$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **15%** ( $\pm 3.3$ ) were transmitted after the state send out date (**33,611** [ $\pm 4,565$ ]).

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<sup>4</sup> Question 9 asked respondents for the total number of FPCAs received from UOCAVA voters. Question 10 asked respondents for the total number of FPCAs received from UOCAVA voters that were either unsuccessfully or successfully processed.

<sup>5</sup> NR indicates that the estimate is not reportable and is suppressed based on criteria defined in terms of nominal sample size, effective sample size, or relative standard error. These criteria are used to ensure the reliability of findings with suitable statistical precision.

<sup>6</sup> Question 22 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were transmitted to UOCAVA voters. Question 23 asked participants of the total number of regular absentee ballots that were originally transmitted to UOCAVA voters on or after their state's initial send out date.

- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **9%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were returned as undeliverable (**49,992** [ $\pm 7,133$ ]) (Q25/Q22).<sup>7</sup>
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **12%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were returned as undeliverable (**42,941** [ $\pm 6,580$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **3%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were returned as undeliverable (**7,051** [ $\pm 1,005$ ]).

### Modes of Transmission of Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **82%** ( $\pm 4.4$ ) were transmitted by mail (**467,608** [ $\pm 58,685$ ]) (Q24/Q22).<sup>8</sup>
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **87%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were transmitted by mail (**305,501** [ $\pm 43,746$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **73%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were transmitted by mail (**162,107** [ $\pm 22,250$ ]).
- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **1%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were transmitted by fax (**3,381** [ $\pm 967$ ]) (Q24/Q22).
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **0%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were transmitted by fax (**1,175** [ $\pm 379$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **1%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were transmitted by fax (**2,206** [ $\pm 656$ ]).
- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **14%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were transmitted by e-mail (**77,691** [ $\pm 7,789$ ]) (Q24/Q22).
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **11%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were transmitted by e-mail (**38,823** [ $\pm 4,246$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **17%** ( $\pm 3.3$ ) were transmitted by e-mail (**38,868** [ $\pm 4,213$ ]).

<sup>7</sup> Question 22 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were transmitted to UOCAVA voters. Question 25 asked participants of the total number of regular absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, how many were returned as undeliverable.

<sup>8</sup> Question 22 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were transmitted to UOCAVA voters. Question 24 asked participants of the total number of regular absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters by mail, fax, or e-mail.

### Returned Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **34%** ( $\pm 3.3$ ) were returned (**193,661** [ $\pm 19,059$ ]) (Q27/Q22).<sup>9</sup>
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **34%** ( $\pm 4.4$ ) were returned (**118,135** [ $\pm 15,000$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **34%** ( $\pm 4.4$ ) were returned (**75,527** [ $\pm 7,996$ ]).

### Modes Used to Return Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, **82%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were returned by mail (**159,090** [ $\pm 17,445$ ]) (Q29/Q27).<sup>10</sup>
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, **82%** ( $\pm 7.7$ ) were returned by mail (**96,924** [ $\pm 13,929$ ]).
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, **82%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were returned by mail (**62,167** [ $\pm 7,411$ ]).
- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, **4%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were returned by fax (**7,423** [ $\pm 2,306$ ]) (Q29/Q27).
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, **3%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were returned by fax (**3,797** [ $\pm 1,648$ ]).
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, **5%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were returned by fax (**3,626** [ $\pm 885$ ]).
- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, **4%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were returned by e-mail (**8,318** [ $\pm 1,092$ ]) (Q29/Q27).
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, **4%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were returned by e-mail (**4,137** [ $\pm 671$ ]).
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, **6%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were returned by e-mail (**4,181** [ $\pm 654$ ]).

<sup>9</sup> Question 22 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were transmitted to UOCAVA voters. Question 27 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters.

<sup>10</sup> Question 27 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 29 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters using mail, fax, or e-mail.

## Rejection of Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

- Of the **573,201** ( $\pm 60,146$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to UOCAVA voters, **2%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were rejected (**10,176** [ $\pm 2,506$ ]) (Q30/Q22).<sup>11</sup>
  - Of the **351,012** ( $\pm 43,800$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Uniformed Service Members, **2%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were rejected (**7,266** [ $\pm 1,992$ ]).
  - Of the **222,189** ( $\pm 25,272$ ) absentee ballots transmitted to Overseas Civilians, **1%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were rejected (**2,910** [ $\pm 603$ ]).
- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, **5%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were rejected (**10,176** [ $\pm 2,506$ ]) (Q30/Q27).<sup>12</sup>
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, **6%** ( $\pm 2.2$ ) were rejected (**7,266** [ $\pm 1,992$ ]).
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, **4%** ( $\pm 1.1$ ) were rejected (**2,910** [ $\pm 603$ ]).
- Of the **10,176** ( $\pm 2,506$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected, **35%** ( $\pm 11$ ) were rejected because they were received after the statutory deadline (**3,600** [ $\pm 473$ ]) (Q31/Q30).<sup>13</sup>
  - Of the **7,266** ( $\pm 1,992$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members that were rejected, **30%** ( $\pm 9.9$ ) were rejected because they were received after the statutory deadline (**2,149** [ $\pm 353$ ]).
  - Of the **2,910** ( $\pm 603$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians that were rejected, **50%** ( $\pm 12.1$ ) were rejected because they were received after the statutory deadline (**1,452** [ $\pm 244$ ]).

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<sup>11</sup> Question 22 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were transmitted to UOCAVA voters. Question 30 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected.

<sup>12</sup> Question 27 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 30 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected.

<sup>13</sup> Question 30 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected. Question 31 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected because they were received after the statutory deadline.

### Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots Submitted for Counting

- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, the percentage submitted for counting was **NR** (Q37/Q27).<sup>14</sup>
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, the percentage submitted for counting was **NR**.
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, the percentage submitted for counting was **NR**.

### Regular UOCAVA Absentee Ballots Counted

- Of the **193,661** ( $\pm 19,059$ ) absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, the percentage counted was **NR** (Q38/Q27).<sup>15</sup>
  - Of the **118,135** ( $\pm 15,000$ ) absentee ballots returned by Uniformed Service Members, the percentage counted was **NR**.
  - Of the **75,527** ( $\pm 7,996$ ) absentee ballots returned by Overseas Civilians, the percentage counted was **NR**.

### Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs)

- Of the **6,784** ( $\pm 734$ ) FWABs returned by UOCAVA voters, **38%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were rejected (**2,602** [ $\pm 426$ ]) (Q41/Q40).<sup>16</sup>
  - Of the **4,428** ( $\pm 587$ ) FWABs returned by Uniformed Service Members, **43%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were rejected (**1,900** [ $\pm 373$ ]).
  - Of the **2,356** ( $\pm 253$ ) FWABs returned by Overseas Civilians, **30%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were rejected (**702** [ $\pm 115$ ]).

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<sup>14</sup> Question 27 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 37 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were submitted for counting.

<sup>15</sup> Question 27 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 38 asked participants for the total number of regular absentee ballots returned by UOCAVA voters that were counted.

<sup>16</sup> Question 40 asked participants for the total number of FWABs that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 41 asked participants for the total number of FWABs returned by UOCAVA voters that were rejected.

- Of the **6,784** ( $\pm 734$ ) FWABs returned by UOCAVA voters, **65%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were counted (**4,383** [ $\pm 477$ ]) (Q44/Q40).<sup>17</sup>
  - Of the **4,428** ( $\pm 587$ ) FWABs returned by Uniformed Service Members, **59%** ( $\pm 6.6$ ) were counted (**2,593** [ $\pm 326$ ]).
  - Of the **2,356** ( $\pm 253$ ) FWABs returned by Overseas Civilians, **76%** ( $\pm 5.5$ ) were counted (**1,791** [ $\pm 209$ ]).

### Survey Methodology

#### Data Sources

The 2010 Post-Election Surveys are a series of Web and paper-and-pen based surveys that allow the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to: (1) determine participation in the electoral process by citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, (2) to assess the impact of the FVAP's efforts to simplify and ease the process of voting absentee, (3) to evaluate other progress made to facilitate voting participation, and (4) to identify any remaining obstacles to voting by these citizens. Surveys were fielded to military members and their spouses, overseas civilians, unit and Department of State voting assistance offices, and U.S. local election officials.

The *2010 LEO* was administered via Web and paper from November 30, 2010 through February 16, 2011. The target population for the *2010 LEO* consisted of all local election officials who were in voting districts within the United States (including the District of Columbia, as well as the territories Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa). The survey was a census of all 7,296 local election official jurisdictions yielding 3,894 eligible respondents and a weighted response rate of 53%.

#### Margins of Error

Estimates from the LEO survey have uncertainty due to unit and item nonresponse. Unit nonresponse was about 47 percent and item nonresponse was about 40 percent for most survey questions that estimated numeric totals. We used weighting to compensate for unit nonresponse and imputation to adjust for item nonresponse. To create national estimates, missing information from responding jurisdictions was imputed and a weighting process was developed so that totals would represent all jurisdictions.

To properly account for the variance in the estimated totals due to item nonresponse, we used multiple imputations and created estimates using SAS<sup>18</sup> PROC MIANALYZE. As a result, the variance of national estimates increased 5% to 10% due to the imputation variance.

For estimates of ratios between two survey items, we estimated the variance using SUDAAN<sup>19</sup> PROC RATIO (Research Triangle Institute, 2004). However, this procedure computed ratios using a single

<sup>17</sup> Question 40 asked participants for the total number of FWABs that were returned by UOCAVA voters. Question 44 asked participants for the total number of FWABs returned by UOCAVA voters that were counted.

<sup>18</sup> SAS<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC, USA.

imputed dataset, which underestimates the variance for failing to account for the imputation variance. To approximately account for the increased variability of multiple datasets, variances for the ratios were inflated by 10%.

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For further information see U<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/surveys>.