



United States  
**Election Assistance Commission**  
*EVOTE 2010*

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[www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)

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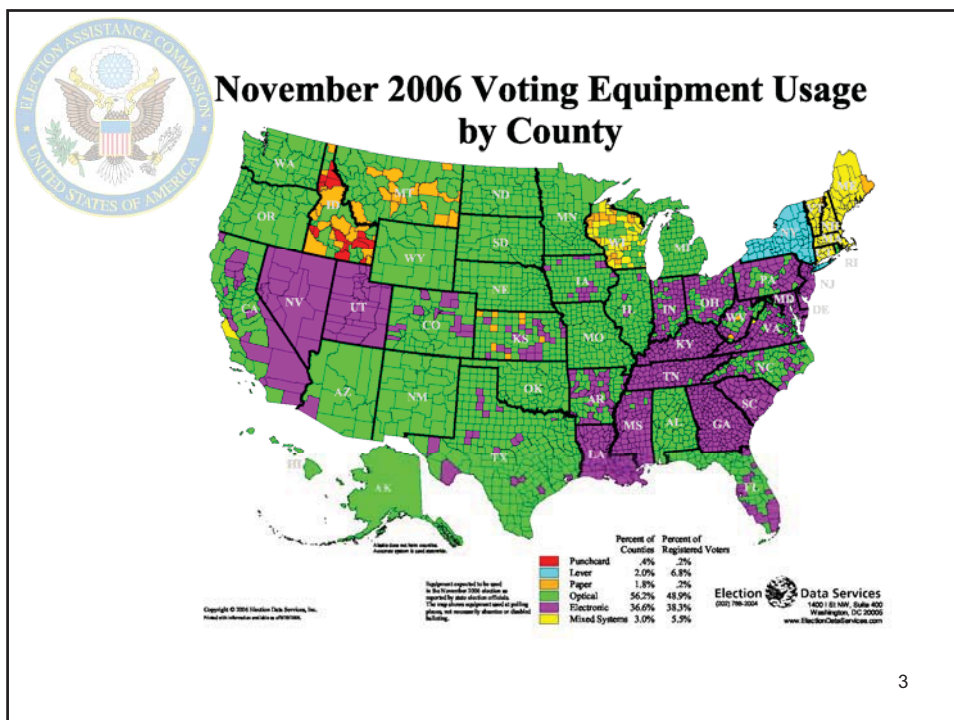


## U.S. Electoral System

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- Unlike most countries, decentralized system
- Each of 50 states, DC and US territories have an election authority that oversees 6800 local election jurisdictions that serve 177+ million voters
- More than 70% of election officials are elected to office in the USA, most on a partisan basis
- Most laws, rules, and State Constitutions governing elections have come from the states

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## Federal Elections

- Federal Elections are held every two years
- Offices voted for include:
  - House of Representatives (*Every 2 years*)
  - Senate (*Every 6 years*)
  - President (*Every 4 years*)

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## Help America Vote Act - 2002

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- Created the Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
  - First time federal government has funded an election reform effort
  - Requires that states implement
    - Provisional voting
    - Information for voters
    - Administrative complaint procedures
    - Statewide voter registration list
    - Voting systems that meet the requirements detailed in HAVA, such as accessibility.

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## Testing & Certification

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- HAVA mandates that EAC:
  - accredit voting system test laboratories and
  - certify voting equipment, marking the first time the federal government has offered these services to the states.
- EAC is committed to running the program in a transparent manner, releasing voting system test plans and reports for the public to review and posting detailed information about:
  - the voluntary voting system guidelines
  - program policies
  - related correspondence

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## Voting System Test Labs

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- Currently the EAC has 3 accredited VSTLs:
  - Wyle Laboratories – Huntsville, AL
  - iBeta Quality Assurance – Denver, CO
  - SysTest Laboratories – Denver, CO
- Test Laboratories are reviewed yearly by either EAC or NIST.

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## EAC Certified Voting Systems

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- ES&S Unity 3.2.0.0 (2002 VSS)
- Premier Assure 1.2 (2002 VSS)
- MicroVote EMS 4.0 (2005 VVSG)
- Unisyn OpenElec Voting System 1.0 (2005 VVSG)
- **Systems Currently in Test:**
  - Dominion Democracy Suite 4.0
  - ES&S Unity 3.2.1.0
  - ES&S Unity 5.0.0.0
  - Sequoia WinEDS 4.0.34

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## Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)

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- 2002 Voting System Standards adopted by FEC
- 2005 VVSG adopted by EAC
- EAC currently working to updated 2005 VVSG to improve testability
- EAC also working on next iteration of the standards which will test the next generation of voting systems

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## FVAP's Role in Internet Voting

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- Permitted to conduct pilot projects to explore the use of the internet to aid Overseas & Military Voters
- Required to conduct an internet based demonstration project for military voters.
  - Must use the EAC developed testable requirements to design the voting system for the demonstration project

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## EAC's role in Internet Voting

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- Required to provide best practices and guidelines to aid FVAP in conducting pilot projects
- Required to create a full set of testable requirements for a remote electronic voting system to be used by Military Voters
- EAC has developed a standard for the remote electronic voting kiosk architecture
  - Remote electronic voting kiosk architecture is used as a stepping stone, and viewed as low hanging fruit
  - Will be used to inform pilot projects & for the development of the full set of testable requirements

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## UOCAVA

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- The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* protects the absentee voting rights for U.S. Citizens, including active members of the uniformed services and the merchant marines, and their spouses and dependents. It also protects the voting rights of U.S. civilians living overseas
- Election administrators are charged with ensuring that each UOCAVA voter is able to cast a ballot. Election officials must provide a variety of means to obtain information about voter registration and voting procedures, and to receive and return their ballots.
- UOCAVA also establishes requirements for reporting statistics on the effectiveness these mechanisms to the EAC
- The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administers the federal responsibilities of UOCAVA

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## NDAA FY 02 & FY05

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**The 2002 and 2005 National Defense Authorization Acts require EAC to develop guidelines for the electronic return of voted ballots.**

*“(a) Establishment of Demonstration Project.—*

*“(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a demonstration project under which absent uniformed services voters are permitted to cast ballots in the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office for November 2002 through an electronic voting system. The project shall be carried out with participation of sufficient numbers of absent uniformed services voters so that the results are statistically relevant.*

*“(2) Authority to delay implementation.—...the Secretary [of Defense] may delay the implementation of such demonstration project until the first regularly scheduled general election for Federal office which occurs after the Election Assistance Commission notifies the Secretary that the Commission has established electronic absentee voting guidelines and certifies that it will assist the Secretary in carrying out the project. ...”*

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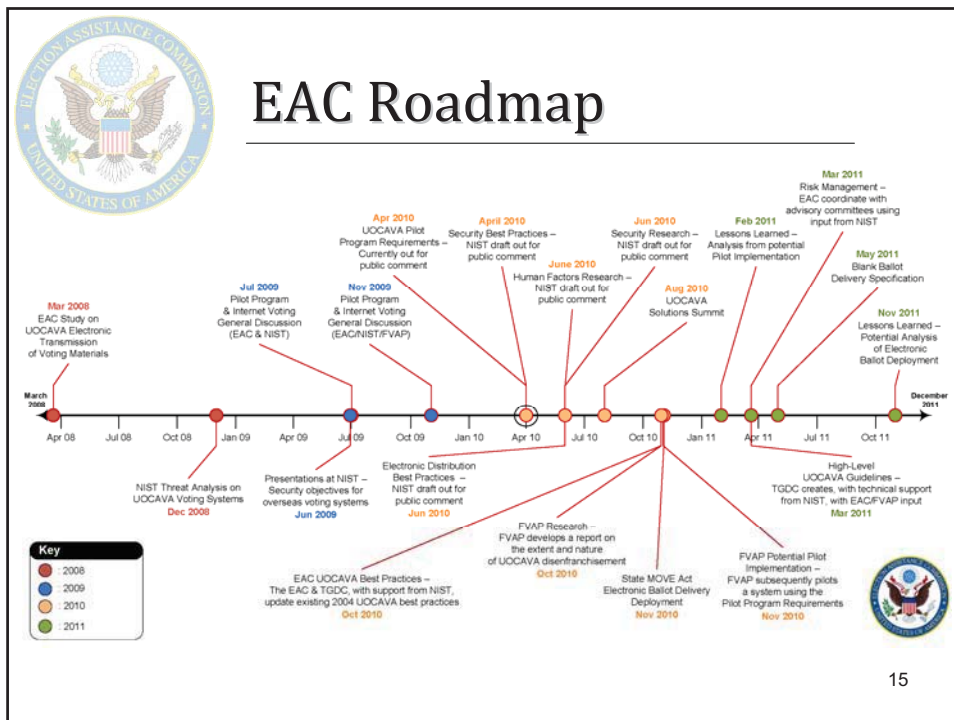


## MOVE Act

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- In 2009, Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act (MOVE) instructing FVAP that they may run pilot programs to test the ability of new or emerging technology
- MOVE goes on to mandate that should FVAP choose to run a pilot program EAC and NIST are to help support FVAP by providing best practices or standards to support the projects
- In addition, MOVE reiterated the 2004 mandate from Congress requiring EAC to create guidelines to be used by FVAP for the development of a remote electronic voting system

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## Pilot Testing Requirements

- To provide a quick and cost effective method to certify pilot program voting systems for use by States requiring EAC certification
- Draws heavily from Next Iteration VVSG, Update to the 2005 VVSG, and the 2005 VVSG
- Created with input from NIST, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Election Officials, and Manufacturers
- Recently adopted by EAC





## Development Process

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- The drafting of the Pilot Standards was an iterative process:
  - EAC held three in-person meetings
  - Numerous teleconferences
  - An estimated 86 versions of the document were created
- The work was divided into two separate groups: Security and 'Verification & Validation'

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## State Pilot Projects

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- California Internet Voting Task Force Report, January 2000
  - FVAP Voting Over the Internet (VOI) Pilot Project, 2000
  - Arizona Democratic Primary, 2000
  - Michigan Democratic Caucus, 2004
  - FVAP SERVE Project, 2001-2004
  - Project Bravo, 2008
  - Democrats Abroad, 2008

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## State Pilot Projects

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- **CA Internet Voting Task Force Report, 2000**
  - Would open participation up to millions
  - “Evolutionary rather than revolutionary” change
  - Entails both voter kiosks and remote home/work access
  - Possible with appropriate balance of accessibility, security and usability
- **FVAP Voting Over the Internet (VOI) Pilot Project, 2000**
  - Conducted for the 2000 General Election
  - 91 service members, citizens registered to vote with pilot
  - 84 voted in the election over the internet
    - 1<sup>st</sup> time binding votes in Federal election cast online

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## State Pilot Projects

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- **Arizona Democratic Primary, 2000**
  - Democratic voters received a unique PIN in the mail
  - Voting lasted over 3 days
    - PIN entered either for e-voting or at the polling place
  - 41% (35,768) voted using the internet
- **Michigan Democratic Caucus, 2004**
  - Run entirely by Democratic Party, no government involvement
  - Applied for a paper ballot which was returned via mail or used to vote online with unique IDs printed on ballot
  - 37% (46,000) cast votes online

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## State Pilot Projects

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- **FVAP SERVE Project, 2001 - 2004**

- Authorized by Congress after VOI success
- Web-based registration and voting system for 2004 election
- Intergovernmental cooperation: FVAP, 7 states, 50 countries
- Anticipated handling 100,000 online votes
- Security Peer Review Group Report
  - Recommended termination of program due to security concerns
  - Potentially undetectable cyber attack might occur from any number of parties
  - Argued that until great technological advances take place, internet voting was too unreliable

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## State Pilot Projects

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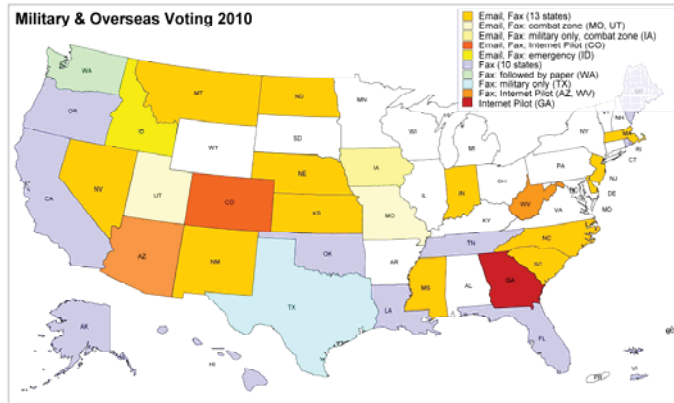
- **Project Bravo, 2008**

- Pilot Project run by State of Florida in Okaloosa County
- Staffed absentee voting locations in England, Germany, and Japan
  - Votes cast electronically using laptops
- Paper record printed for each vote and used to verify results upon tabulation
- **Democrats Abroad, 2008**
  - Overseas citizens worldwide able to cast a ballot in the 2008 Democratic Primary
  - Traditional drop-in voting centers were also open in more than 30 countries around the globe.
  - Run entirely by Democratic Party, no government involvement
  - Postal ballot, fax, and Internet Voting as possible voting mechanisms

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## Current State Projects



June 17, 2010

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## Available Information

More information available at [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)

- EAC Testing and Certification Program Manual
- Registered manufacturers
- Voting systems being tested
- Certified voting systems
- Test plans
- Accredited test laboratories
- Anomaly reports from election officials (voluntary)
- Anomaly reports from manufacturers in EAC's program (mandatory)

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