



EAS & UOCAVA

**MONTANA'S ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM FOR
MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZEN VOTERS**

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services Division

sos.mt.gov

soselections@mt.gov

2014 Election Official Certification Training

February 2014

WHAT WILL BE COVERED

- **New Legislation**
 - State
 - Federal
- **EAS**
 - What it is/Why it's valuable
 - A Quick demo
 - From a voters perspective
 - From the County perspective
 - Reporting
 - Outreach

Past EAS Stats



NEW LEGISLATION

State Level

- **2013 saw new legislation that altered Title 13, Chapter 21 (Montana Absent Uniformed Services and Overseas Voter Act). SB0057**
- **Major Changes include:**
 - Language cleanup to the definitions in 13-21-102.
 - Added reporting specifications to align with the federal reporting requirements for their biannual survey.
 - EAS (or a similar system) is now required for all covered elections.
 - If a covered voter's address is not a recognized address in Montana Votes, the voter must be assigned an address for voting purposes.



NEW LEGISLATION

- **Continued**
 - Ballots must be sent to the voter in their chosen method. The FPCA indicates a preference for how the voter would like to receive the ballot.
 - Email addresses of covered voters are not available to the public.
 - Email addresses are only to be used for official communication about the voting process.



NEW LEGISLATION

Federal

- **SENTRI Act (The bill is still in committee, and the bill has changed numerous times)**
- **If a request is received by a voter less than 46 days but not less than 30 days before an election, the state has three days to transmit the ballot to a voter**
- **If a state fails to transmit an absentee ballot by the 46th day , and no electronic transmission is requested by voter, state must transmit the ballot by express delivery.**
- **DOD must offer, on an ANNUAL basis, each active duty armed forces member, the opportunity through an online system to register to vote, update info, request absentee ballot, or decline to register.**

EAS



WHAT IS THE EAS?

It stands for Electronic Absentee System. It allows qualified voters to request and mark a ballot electronically.

WHO CAN USE THE EAS?

Voters covered by UOCAVA under 13-21-102.

WHY USE THE EAS?

The EAS is ideal for covered voters because it allows them to register and mark a ballot. It also allows this voter to easily submit both of these items electronically.

LETS SEE A QUICK DEMO.

This demo will cover the following:

- **This first section we will act as a UOCAVA voter.**
 - The first example, we will use a voter that encounters no issues and accesses a ballot right away.
 - Secondly, we will register a voter that has an address issue.
- **The next section we will act like an Election Official.**
 - We will fix the voter with the address issue.

LINKS (TEST SITE)

- <http://test.vote4montana.us> (Front End of the system)
 - Demo Part 1
- <http://test.vote4mt.us> (Back End)
 - Demo Part 2

EXAMPLE #1

Voter that is currently registered.

1ST EMAIL

Dear casey,

You are receiving this message because you recently logged into the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

If you were unable to complete the ballot marking process, you may use the link and PIN below to re-access your ballot for ten days. After that time, you will be required to start over in the process by re-entering all of your information.

Link: <http://test.vote4montana.us/MT/VoterLogin.aspx>

PIN: IFBA8VWW3UJUOHD (case sensitive)

If you have any questions about marking or returning your absentee ballot, please contact your county election official.

Lewis & Clark County Elections Office
Paulette DeHart, County Election Administrator
316 N Park Ave Rm 168
Helena MT 59623

Email: laura@konnech.com
Phone: (406) 447-8338
Fax: (406) 457-8598

2ND EMAIL

Dear casey,

You are receiving this message because you recently logged into the Montana Electronic Absentee System and generated a PDF of your ballot. Your ballot and affirmation coversheet must be received by your county election office no later than 8 pm on Tuesday, 11/06/2012.

As soon as the information you submitted is entered by your county election administrator, you can track the status of your ballot online using the [My Voter Page \(https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/\)](https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/).

The re-entry PIN emailed to you earlier can be used to access your ballot and materials in the EAS for 10 days. After that time, you will be required to re-enter your information to access the EAS.

For security reasons, the EAS does not automatically submit your ballot. You must attach your ballot PDF to an email, or print it out and fax or mail the ballot and supporting materials to your county election administrator at the address below.

If you have any questions, please contact your county election official.

BACKEND EMAIL

The following Montana Voter has generated a ballot using the Montana Electronic Absentee System:

Name: casey

County: Lewis & Clark

Request ID: 3650

Date/Time: 1/9/2014 1:47:13 PM

Please login to the Montana Electronic Absentee System at <http://test.vote4mt.us> to view and track all Voters using the Electronic Absentee System.

EXAMPLE #2

Voter that encounters an address error.

EMAIL TO VOTER

Dear Test Voter,

Thank you for using Montana's Electronic Absentee System. Your request for an absentee ballot has been submitted. Once reviewed, you will receive an email with further instructions on how to access your ballot.

If you have any questions about your absentee ballot request, please contact the Montana Secretary of State's Office at

soselections@mt.gov or 406-444-9685.

BACKEND EMAIL

The following individual has encountered a problem logging into the Montana Electronic Absentee System:

Name: Sally Ride

DOB: 1/1/1986

County: Carbon

Request ID: 3915

Please login to the Montana Electronic Absentee System at <http://test.vote4mt.us> to view and track all Voters using the Wizard.

EXAMPLE #3

The Backend.

CONFIRMATION EMAIL

Dear Test Voter,

You are receiving this message because you recently logged into the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

If you were unable to complete the ballot marking process, you may use the link and PIN below to re-access your ballot for ten days. After that time, you will be required to start over in the process by re-entering all of your information.

Link: <http://test.vote4montana.us/MT/VoterLogin.aspx>

PIN: W4ZBQACK0JADIQW (case sensitive)

If you have any questions about marking or returning your absentee ballot, please contact your county election official.

Lewis & Clark County Elections Office
Paulette DeHart, County Election Administrator
316 N Park Ave Rm 168
Helena MT 59623

Email: laura@konnech.com

Phone: (406) 447-8338

Fax: (406) 457-8598

REJECTION EMAIL

Dear Test Voter,

Your absentee ballot request has been rejected by the election official at Lewis & Clark County for the following reason:

Test

Please try again to request your absentee ballot with corrected information at the UOCAVA voting website by clicking on the link below.

<http://test.vote4montana.us>

If you have any questions about your absentee ballot voting, please contact your county election official.

Lewis & Clark County Elections Office
Paulette DeHart, County Election Administrator
316 N Park Ave Rm 168
Helena MT 59623

Email: laura@konnech.com
Phone: (406) 447-8338
Fax: (406) 457-8598

FPCA

You will get an FPCA with every submitted EAS ballot. The EAS system automatically generates an FPCA regardless of whether they are registered or not.

So what do you do with them?

- **If the voter is not registered, verify the information and use the FPCA to register the voter.**
- **If the voter is registered:**
 - Ensure that the voter is assigned a UOCAVA absentee status and the source of registration is updated to reflect the FPCA.
 - Verify the residence on the FPCA matches what is in MT Votes, use the FPCA to update their UOCAVA absentee date range.
 - If the residence on the most recent FPCA is different than what is in MT Votes, issue the ballot for the current MT votes address. Use the FPCA to update the voter's registration address after the election.

UPDATE THE REGISTRATION SOURCE

Registration	Misc Info	Custom	Duplicate Req.	Undeliverable
Party	No Party	Last Verified Date	10/02/2008	
Status	Active - A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MVD Verified		
Reason		<input type="checkbox"/> SSA Verified		
Source of Registration	Armed Forces - 04	Verify		
Old Voter ID	Armed Forces - 04			
	FPCA - 05			
Vote Eligible	In person - 00			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Signatu	Mail - 07			
	Other - 08			
Comments	NVRA Notice 1 - 09			
	NVRA Notice 2 - 10			
	Provisional ballot cast - 11			

Registration	Misc Info	Custom	Duplicate Req.	Undeliverable
Party	No Party	Last Verified Date	10/02/2008	
Status	Active - A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MVD Verified		
Reason		<input type="checkbox"/> SSA Verified		
Source of Registration	Mail - 07	Verify		
Old Voter ID	Mail - 07			
Vote Eligible	Other - 08			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Signatu	NVRA Notice 1 - 09			
	NVRA Notice 2 - 10			
	Provisional ballot cast - 11			
	Registration Drive - 12			
Comments	Polling place - 13			
	FPCA-EAS - 14			

- When you receive an FPCA, either through the EAS or through another source, please ensure that you change the source of registration in Montana Votes.
- Update the source with the applicable information when creating a new or updating an existing registration.

UPDATING UOCAVA STATUS

Residence **Absentee** Contacts History **Voting History**

Dates/Elections	Absentee ...	Address
9/15/2010 To 1/31/2...	Military Ov...	[REDACTED]

◀ [] ▶

Absentee Status ▼

Add Details Remove



UPDATING UOCAVA STATUS

Voter Registration - Absentee Detail [X] [Help](#)

Absentee Type: **Military Overseas** (indicated by a red arrow) | To: 9/15/2010 to 1/31/2013

Absentee Application Source: Mail | Issue Method: [] | Issue Details: []

Date Requested: 09/15/2010 | Political Party: []

Use Address On File

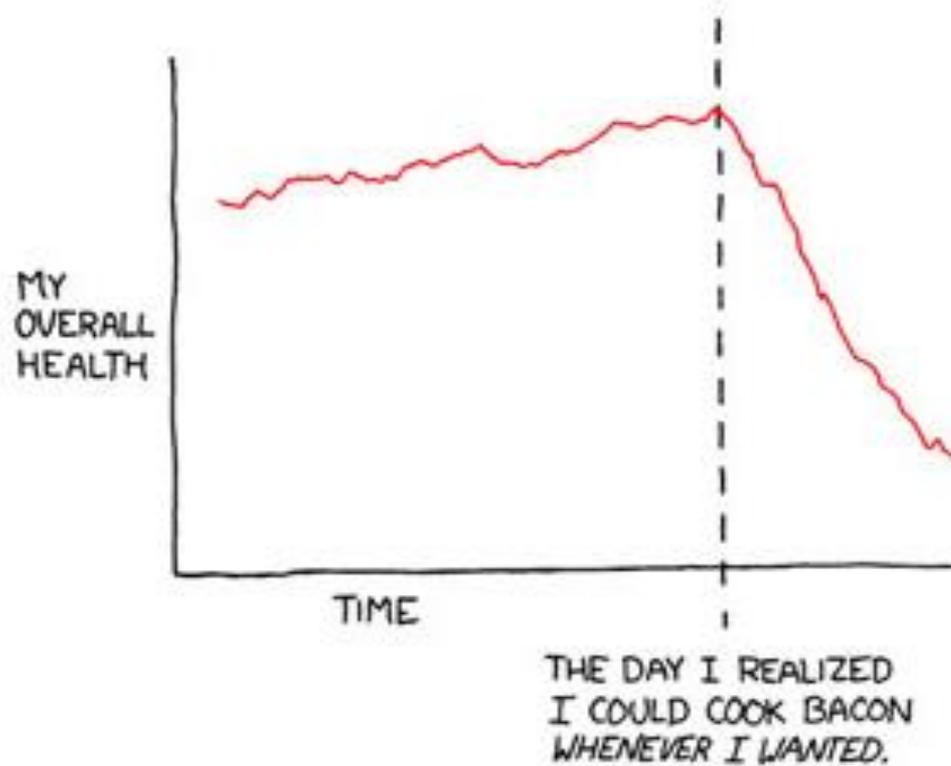
[Redacted]

Print Application

Absentee Address

Country: EMAIL [] USA

Address: [Redacted]



EAS STATS

**BALLOT MARKING WIZARD &
ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM**

BMW DATA

BMW = Ballot Marking Wizard (Montana's first electronic ballot marking system)

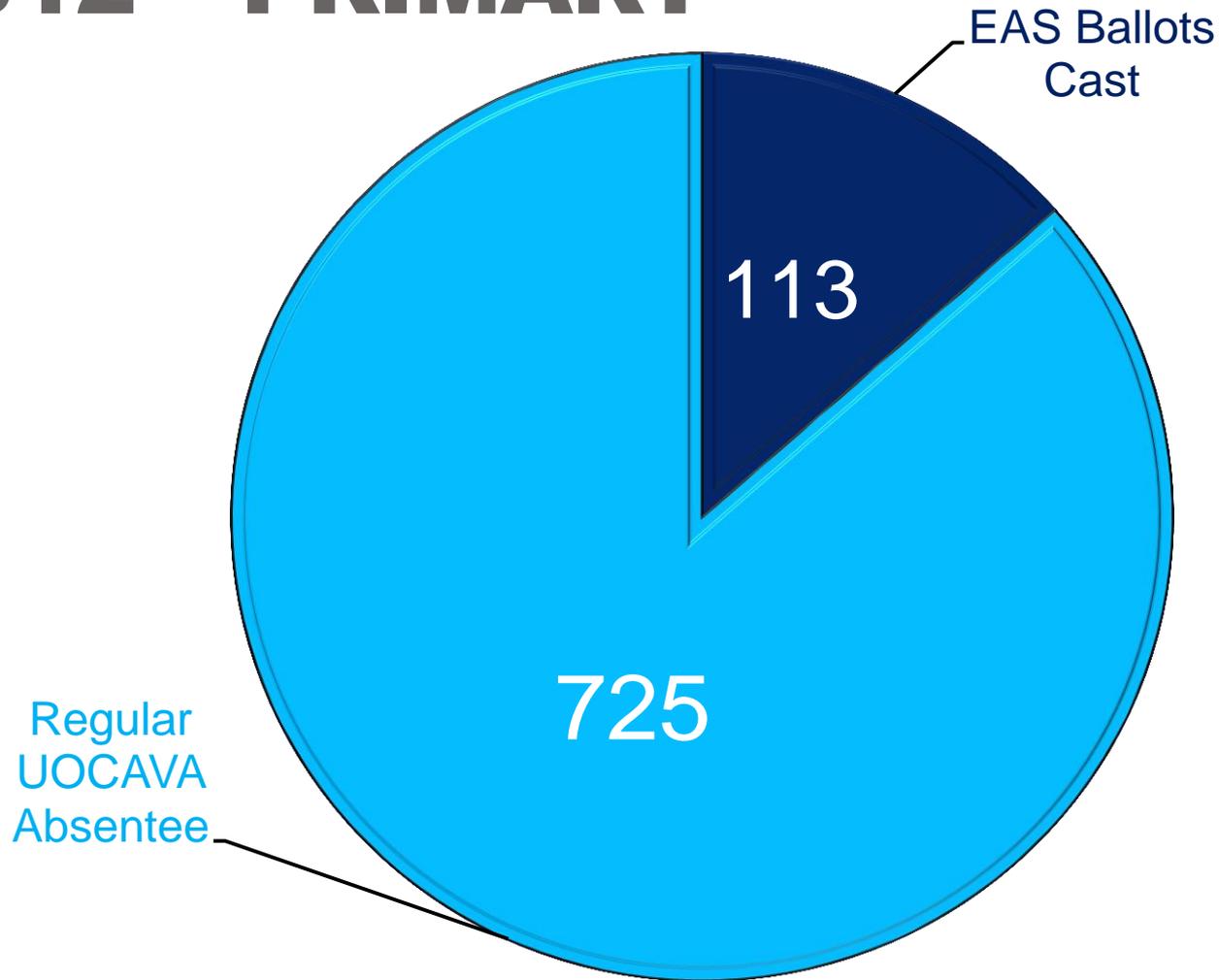
- **2010 General Election**
 - 152 ballots were generated.
 - 142 ballots were returned.
 - 1456 Total UOCAVA ballots returned.
 - 9.75% of all UOCAVA ballots were BMW.



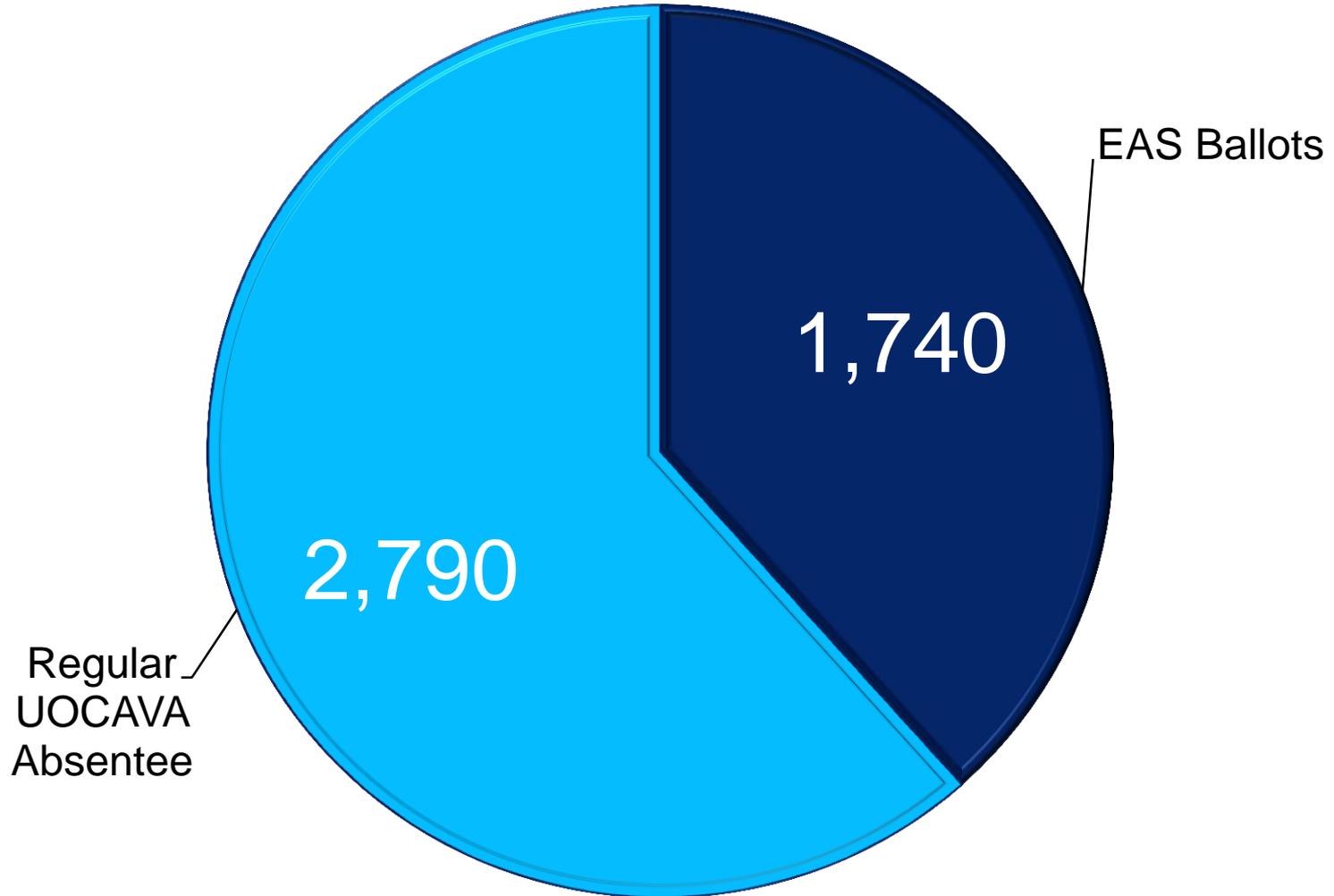
EAS DATA

- **2012 Primary**
 - 160 Unique individuals accessed the EAS system.
 - 113 EAS ballots were returned to the counties.
 - 838 total UOCAVA ballots were cast.
 - 13.5% of all UOCAVA ballots were EAS.
- **2012 General Election**
 - 2005 Unique individuals accessed the EAS system.
 - 1740 EAS ballots were returned to the counties.
 - 4,530 Total UOCAVA ballots were cast.
 - 38.5% of all UOCAVA ballots were EAS

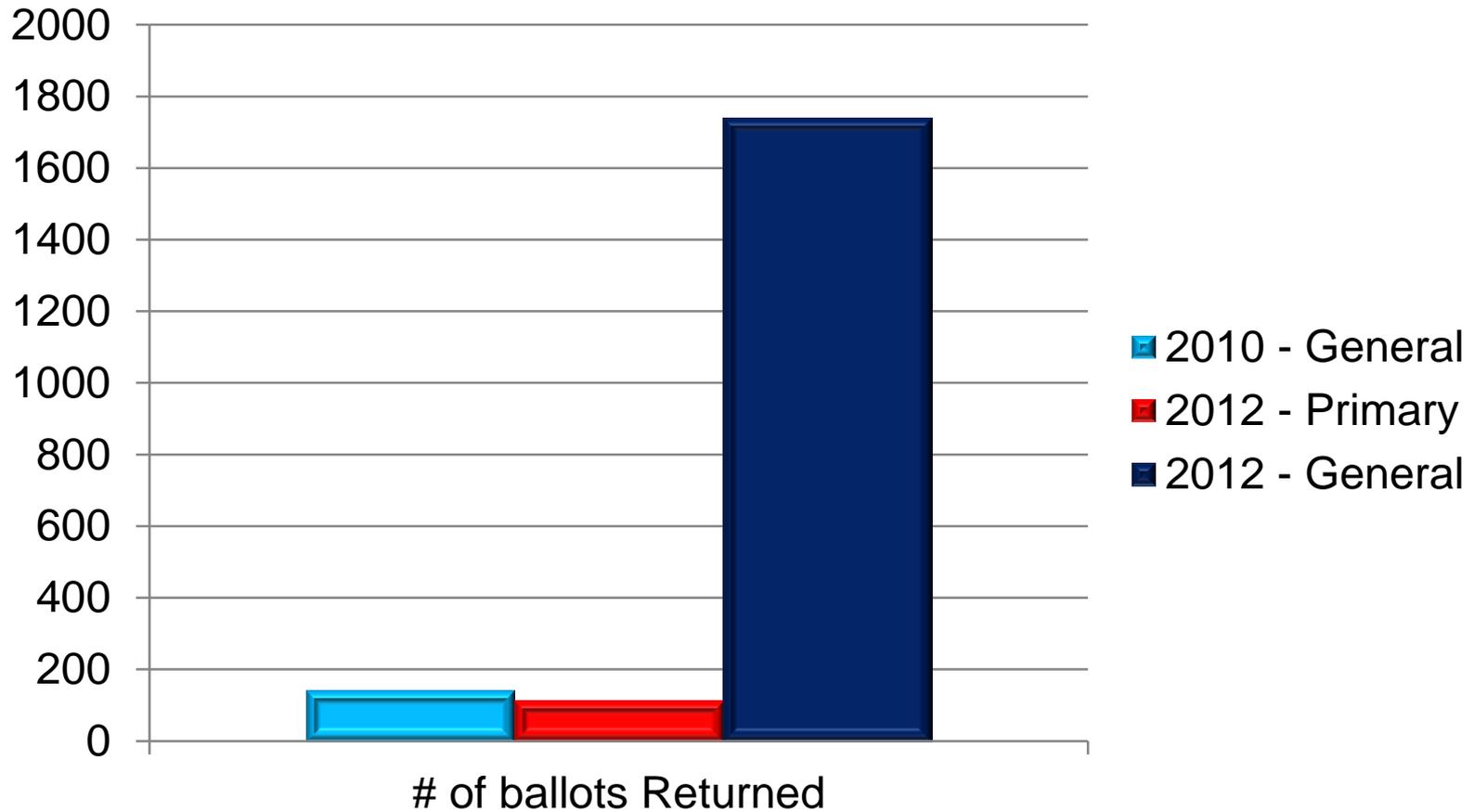
2012 – PRIMARY



2012 - GENERAL



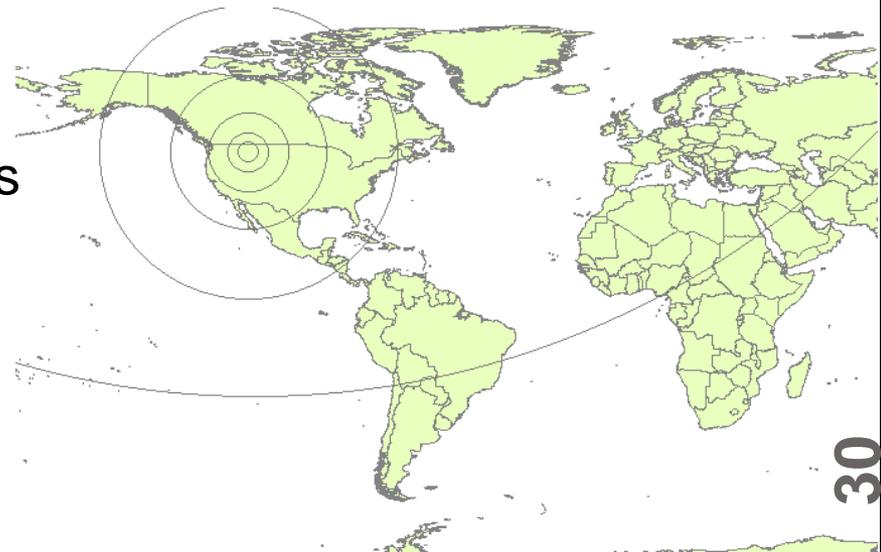
EAS BALLOTS RETURNED



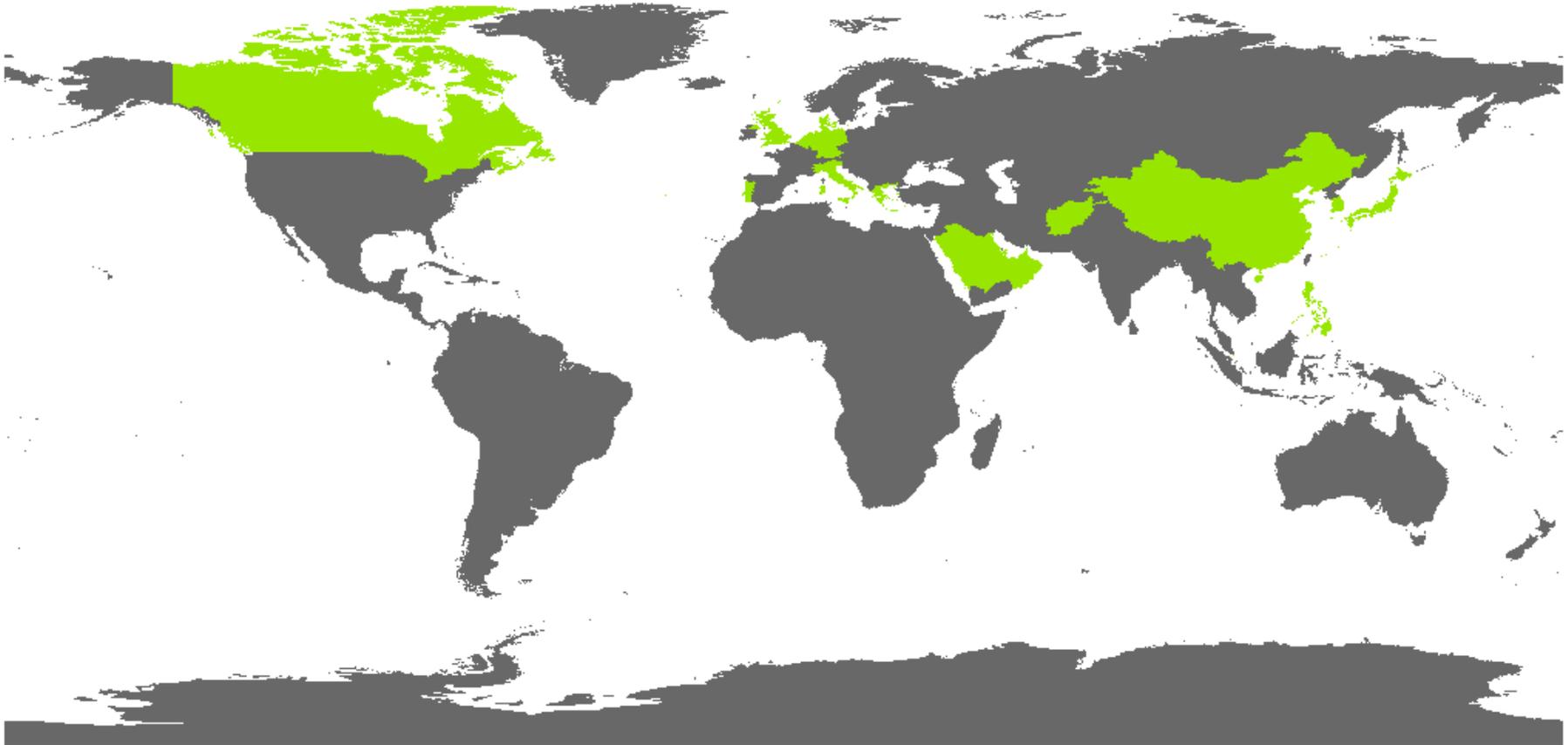
BALLOT TRANSIT TIMES

The Average transit time of UOCAVA ballots compared to EAS.

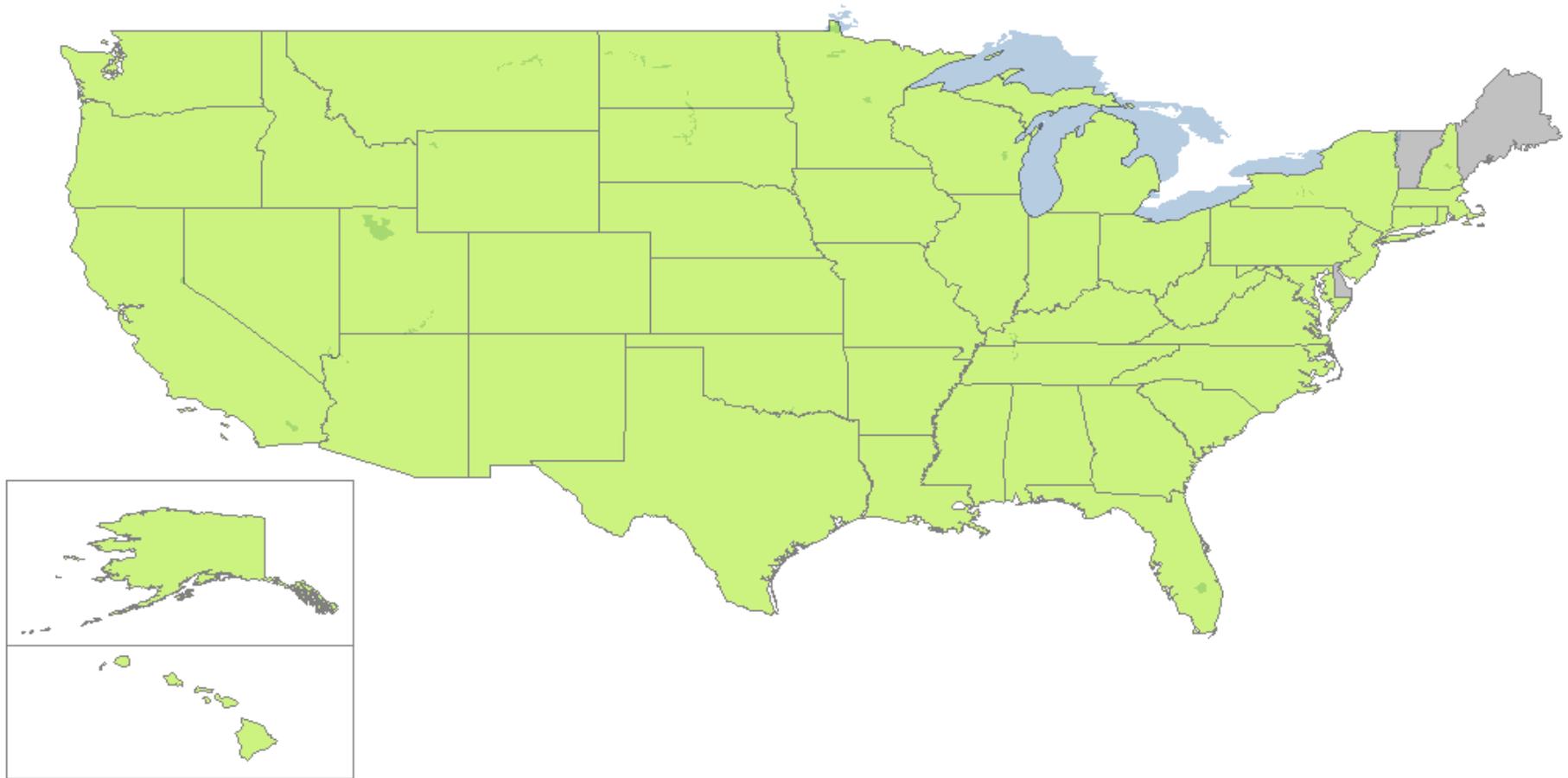
- **2012 Primary**
 - Military – 25.58 days
 - Overseas Citizens – 27.44 days
 - EAS – 7.89 days
- **2012 General**
 - Military – 18.36 days
 - Overseas Citizens – 16.52 days
 - EAS – 5.17 days



Afghanistan, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Guam, Honk Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom



2012 General Election - EAS Uniformed Voters



2012 - General - EAS Military Voters

All 50 states, except: Delaware, Maine and Vermont

REPORTING



- **The SOS attempts to get as much information as possible out of Montana Votes or the EAS itself.**
- **Unfortunately not everything that is required for the federal reporting is available in the systems.**
- **We will be shipping out the reporting surveys close to the 45 day deadline.**
- **The data required by the Feds has changed slightly, so the log will look a little different from 2012.**
- **We know that the reporting aspect of the EAS can be taxing and we appreciate all the work on your end to make it happen.**

QUICK QUESTIONS

Q: A UOCAVA voter submits an unsigned FPCA through email or fax, during the 45 days the EAS is active, can you accept it as a valid ballot request?

A: Yes. Montana law states that “if required identification is included, materials submitted through the electronic transmission system are not required to be signed.”

Q: Can a qualified individual who is not a registered voter use the EAS?

A: Yes as long as the person affirms their qualifications and eligibility under UOCAVA.



BEST PRACTICES

- **Assign a UOCAVA Specialist in your office.**
 - Potential job duties might include:
 - Receipt in ballots.
 - Remember: UOCAVA Voters must be able to track ballot status on My Voter page.
 - Regularly log into the EAS and fix any issues that might come up for your county.
 - Report tracking.
 - Reach out to UOCAVA voters through email.
- **Update UOCAVA information as it comes in.**
 - Receipt in ballots
 - Log Tracking

BEST PRACTICES

- **Before rejecting an EAS ballot, make sure that the ballot is rejectable.**
- **Reject the ballot if:**
 - You are unable to verify the SSN/DLN and the issue is not resolved.
 - Mailed Ballot already received.
 - Ballot is received late.
- **Do NOT reject if:**
 - Voter is not registered with UOCAVA status.
 - No signature on emailed ballot (mailed ballots need to be signed)

QUESTIONS?

