

# MILITARY HEROES INITIATIVE

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U.S. Election Assistance Commission

## State Accessibility Practices Survey Report



Operation BRAVO  
Foundation

Operation BRAVO Foundation  
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## Acknowledgement

The Military Heroes Initiative research team wants to express its sincere appreciation to the many state election officials who took time from their demanding schedules to prepare thoughtful responses to the state accessibility practices questionnaire. This is the first time this information has been collected and your participation was essential to making this effort a success. Thank you all for your contributions. We hope you will find the results useful in your ongoing efforts to improve voting accessibility for all voters.

## Executive Summary

The Military Heroes Initiative (MHI) is a research project with the objective of identifying potential ways to improve the accessibility of the voting process for military service members who have sustained disabling injuries in the Global War on Terrorism. The MHI target population consists of retired service members with a disability evaluation rating of 30% or greater. In particular, this research focuses on the subset of this population whose disabilities interfere with the independent performance of the tasks associated with voting.

A previous report documented baseline research on the election administration practices associated with accessible voting and the voting assistance services available to the study population. One of the research activities was a review of state election websites to get a sense of the national picture on accommodations available for voters with disabilities. This analysis revealed that the amount and level of detail presented about voting accessibility varies widely. We decided to conduct a nationwide survey to obtain a more complete view of the current state of practice. This report presents the results of that survey.

The questionnaire was sent to the state election offices of the 55 states and territories. Forty-seven jurisdictions responded. While this is a significant response rate, the following caveat should be borne in mind when reading this report. The information reported typically relates only to statewide practices established by state law and election administration policies, as noted by several respondents. Therefore these responses do not necessarily provide a complete picture of all the disabled voter services that may be provided at the local level where the day-to-day work of election administration is carried out.

In every state, local election officials have considerable autonomy in determining how best to carry out their duties, given the culture and demographics of their communities and available resources. As the parties who directly serve the electorate, local election officials have always been a driving force for innovation in election practices. With potentially hundreds of local jurisdictions within their purview, state election offices are not always aware of developments at the local level. For example, when responding to questions about voting assistance in group living facilities, the state respondents often noted that this is an area determined by local election office initiatives.

As is often the case with election administration, uniformity of practice is found when there is a federal mandate. Consequently, every respondent reported that all polling places are fully accessible or that ADA-compliant alternatives are provided, such as curbside voting. Similarly, every jurisdiction except Guam and Puerto Rico reported that every polling place is equipped with at least one accessible voting device.

Uniformity of practice also arises from practical necessity. For example, every state that responded except for Puerto Rico permits disabled voters to have personal assistance in completing and submitting voter registration applications. Typically the person assisting must also sign the form or other documentation must be submitted to indicate the voter's desire to have this assistance. All states also allow personal assistance with marking and returning absentee ballots and with voting in a polling place. Typically there are restrictions on who may provide voting assistance in order to minimize the potential for the assistant to exert undue influence on the voter's choices. The development of assistive technology tools is progressing and gradually enabling more disabled voters to vote privately and independently. But universal accessibility for the many types and degrees of disabling conditions is a long way off. In the meantime, the provision of personal assistance enables many to vote who otherwise could not.

As stated above, the target population for this research effort is retired military service members with a disability evaluation rating of 30% or greater resulting from injuries sustained in the Global War on Terrorism. This classification is associated with eligibility for special programs and services within the Department of Defense while these personnel are on active duty. But it loses much of its significance when they return to civilian life. Several survey respondents emphasized that the same accessibility accommodations are provided to all voters with disabilities, regardless of how they came to be disabled.

Similarly, several states commented that their special projects or best practices were implemented either for UOCAVA voters or for disabled civilian voters in general, with no special emphasis on the study target population. Only Indiana reported a best practice specifically for this population. Their state office participates in Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure that injured service personnel preparing to transition from military service to civilian life have current information about voting. A few respondents indicated that the state office has worked directly with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, but most noted that this was an activity that normally would be initiated at the local level. Consequently voting assistance may be provided more extensively to VA facilities than is reflected in these results.

States reported a variety of best practices and special projects for military voters and for disabled civilian voters. Indiana and California reported notable examples of best practices and North Dakota has a special project for military voters. Indiana's work with Warrior Transition Units directly serves the target population of this study. The state office participates in Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure that injured service members preparing to transition from military service to civilian life have current information about voting.

The Military and Overseas Voter Information webpage on the California Secretary of State's website provides an Internet portal to all 58 counties. At least 19 counties post their sample ballots online. These can be downloaded and used as special absentee

ballots. These capabilities are available for use by all military voters. North Dakota is implementing a state of the art online ballot delivery and marking system for military voters. Voters will also be able to return their voted ballots electronically if they wish to do so.

Many states employ a variety of best practices for disabled civilian voters. Nearly all of the respondents (41) provide their voter registration forms online. Nine states allow these applications to be submitted electronically (i.e., online, by fax or email). Thirty-nine states provide their ballot request form online and fifteen also allow these forms to be submitted electronically. Eight states provide the capability for voters to download blank ballots.

Thirty states provide some form of supervised voting for voters who are hospitalized or residing in group living facilities such as nursing homes. Five counties in Oregon recently conducted a pilot project using iPads and portable printers to provide supervised voting in nursing homes, community centers and other locations.

A number of states noted their special training programs for poll workers as well as for disabled voters. Arizona brings in guest speakers with disabilities for their poll worker certification program. Madera County CA has graphics and text instructions for how to use their accessible voting device on their website. Santa Cruz County CA has an online guide for voters with special needs and a video for poll workers on how to set up an accessible polling place. They also post ballots online in a format that can be read by applications such as Jaws. The Idahovotes accessibility webpage provides both graphic and audio information on accessible voting options and ballot marking instructions. It includes videos of the Secretary of State demonstrating a ballot marking device, a demonstration of how to use an audio ballot, and disabled voters encouraging others to vote. The North Carolina Secretary of State's website has photos of every voting location to show handicapped voters the best way to access a facility. South Carolina provides an online video for voters with disabilities and online training videos for poll managers on serving voters with disabilities. The State of Washington worked with members of the disability community to develop a website for voters with disabilities.

Several states reported working with their state Office of Protection and Advocacy and other advocacy groups for outreach and training. In Connecticut this office provides videos of the accessibility devices available in polling places and conducts sensitivity training classes for poll workers. Maine works with advocacy groups to demonstrate their accessible voting system to voters and to provide information about the voting and registration process. In Wyoming, the Protection and Advocacy organization provides hands on training to the disabled community with actual voting equipment. Missouri has a unique outreach program to inform disabled voters. The Secretary of State's office works with the Department of Revenue to identify persons who have applied for a handicapped license. They send a mailer to this list outlining all the options for a handicapped person to register and vote.

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## **1 Methodology**

In a previous task, the research team reviewed each state's election website and analyzed the content pertaining to accessible voting. The purpose of this analysis was to get a national picture of the accommodations available for voters with disabilities. Due to the considerable variation in the scope and level of detail provided, the research team concluded this analysis did not provide a realistic description of accessibility practices. Consequently, the team decided to survey the states on this topic. The results of the website analysis were used to develop the survey questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix A.

We sent the questionnaire by email to the state HAVA point of contact identified in an Election Assistance Commission (EAC) list. If these individuals were not able to respond, they were asked to pass the request along to the appropriate party. The survey was emailed to the 55 states and territories on August 23 and 24, 2011, along with a brief cover letter describing the research project and the objective of the survey. A reminder email was sent two weeks later to the states who had not responded. A round of phone calls was made two weeks after that to each of the 19 recipients who had not yet returned the questionnaire. The response period closed in early October. Forty seven jurisdictions responded. Eighteen respondents were contacted during the analysis process to obtain additional information or clarification of their responses.

The survey questions were grouped under the following topics:

- Voter Information
- Voter Registration
- Polling Place Voting
- Absentee Voting

Absentee voting was further subdivided into these subtopics:

- Requesting an absentee ballot
- Obtaining, marking, returning an absentee ballot
- Absentee voting in group living facilities

The survey concluded with four additional questions inquiring about special projects or best practices for disabled military voters and for disabled civilian voters, statutory requirements for disabled civilians, and work with VA facilities.

## **2 Discussion of Responses**

The discussion below is organized by questionnaire topic. Each question is stated along with the number and percentage of responses by category (i.e., yes, no, no response, not applicable, other). Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Brief

commentary is included where appropriate to explain the significance of the results or provide examples.

Appendix B contains a tabulation of the responses. Appendix C lists the states who returned the questionnaire and Appendix D lists the states who did not respond. Appendix E provides instructions for requesting the raw survey data.

## 2.1 Voter Information

Q1. *Does your state provide a TTY line:*

Yes 34 (62%)

No 12 (22%)

No response 9 (16%)

While most states provide a TTY line, about 22% do not. In some instances this line is provided by an agency other than the state election office, such as an Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator or a Protection and Advocacy office. Several states plan to provide this capability in the future. Nevada does not provide a TTY line, but noted that the Secretary of State's office interacts directly with national phone carriers to assist voters with hearing disabilities.

Q2. *Does your state have a webpage specifically for voters with disabilities:*

Yes 24 (44%)

No 23 (42%)

No response 8 (15%)

The jurisdictions divided pretty evenly on this question. Two states specifically mentioned plans to improve their webpages.

Q3. *Does your state have a pamphlet/brochure with information for disabled voters:*

Yes 30 (55%)

No 15 (27%)

No response 10 (18%)

More than half of the states provide a specific brochure or specific pages in another publication such as a Voter's Guide. In some instances these materials are created by other state government offices with responsibility for disabled citizens or by advocacy groups who work with the disability community.



## 2.2 Voter Registration

Q1. *Does your state require registration:*

- Yes 46 (84%)
- No 1 (2%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Only one state, North Dakota, reported that it does not require voter registration. Pennsylvania waives registration for active duty military service members, but they must submit a Pennsylvania absentee ballot request form if they wish to vote absentee.

Q2. *Does your state provide the registration form online:*

- Yes 41 (75%)
- No 5 (9%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

Nearly all of the states responding post their registration forms online. Several provide automated assistance when completing the form online.

Q3. *Does your state allow the registration application to be submitted online:*

- Yes 9 (16%)
- No 37 (67%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

In one of the nine states which allow online submission, it is currently provided in only one county. Several states commented that they will provide this capability in the near future.

Q4. *Does your state allow another person to assist with completing the form:*

- Yes 45 (82%)
- No 1 (2%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

All of the states responding except Puerto Rico allow personal assistance with the form.

Q5. *Does your state have a check box on form to indicate assistance required for voting:*

- Yes 12 (22%)
- No 34 (62%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

States indicate this information is used to initiate different actions. In New Jersey the checkbox allows the voter to receive more information. Utah notes that the checkbox allows the clerk to reach out to the voter, but nothing is statutorily required.

### 2.3 Polling Place Voting

Q1. *Does your state have an option to vote in another polling place if assigned location not accessible:*

- Yes 23 (42%)
- No 24 (44%)
- No response 8 (15%)

The responses are pretty evenly divided on this question. Eight states that answered “No” noted the reason that all polling places are required to be accessible. Four of the states that answered “Yes” noted that voting in the clerk’s office is available. Most respondents did not comment on their answers.

Q2. *Does your state have an accessible voting machine in every polling place:*

- Yes 45 (82%)
- No 2 (4%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Only Guam and Puerto Rico reported not having an accessible voting machine in every polling place.

Q3. *Does your state allow voting by phone:*

- Yes 4 (7%)
- No 43 (78%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Puerto Rico use voting by phone systems in the polling place. Puerto Rico notes it is also used in schools (voting college). Oklahoma used polling place phone voting starting in 2006, but replaced it with a new voting system in 2010.

Q4. *Does your state allow a poll worker to assist:*

- Yes 47 (85%)
- No 0 (0%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Q5. *Does your state allow another person of voter’s choosing to assist:*

- Yes 47 (85%)
- No 0 (0%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Unanimous responses to questions 4 and 5 indicate that disabled voters who are able to get to a polling place can receive assistance in casting their ballots. There are usually restrictions placed on employers or union representatives from providing assistance to avoid the potential for voter intimidation.

Q6. *Does your state permit curbside voting:*

- Yes 24 (44%)
- No 23 (42%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Several states noted that this practice is an alternative accommodation when polling places are not fully accessible.

Q7. *Does your state have early voting:*

- Yes 31 (56%)
- No 15 (27%)
- No response 9 (16%)

About one third of the states responding do not provide early voting.

## **2.4 Absentee Voting**

Q1. *Does your state allow no fault absentee voting:*

- Yes 30 (55%)
- No 16 (29%)
- No response 9 (16%)

Q2. *Does your state designate disability as a reason for absentee voting:*

- Yes 26 (47%)
- No 8 (15%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 13 (24%)

Absentee voting is an option for disabled voters in all 47 states who responded to the survey – either through no fault absentee voting provisions or through the designation of disability as an accepted reason to vote absentee. The 16 states which do not offer no fault absentee voting designate disability as a reason for absentee voting.

Q3. *Does your state have a permanent absentee status:*

- Yes 19 (35%)
- No 25 (45%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)
- Other 2 (4%)

Fourteen of the 26 states designating disability as an absentee voting reason have a permanent absentee status. The significance of this provision is that it reduces the frequency with which the voter has to make an absentee ballot request. Once a voter has been approved for permanent absentee status, the ballot is automatically sent to him without requiring further action on the voter's part. Several states noted that even a "permanent" absentee status must be updated periodically to reaffirm that the disability condition still persists. The question is not applicable to Oregon where everyone votes by mail. The responses from Guam and Utah were ambiguous, so they were recorded as "Other."

Q3a. *If no permanent absentee status, does your state require an absentee ballot request to be submitted every year or every election:*

- Every year 11 (20%)
- Every election 11 (20%)
- No response 12 (22%)
- Not applicable 20 (36%)
- Other 1 (2%)

Eleven states reported that they allow a single ballot request for all elections held in a given year. Eleven require a separate ballot request for each election. This means a voter would have to submit separate requests to be able to vote in both the primary and general elections, for example. The Florida response was recorded as "Other". Their provision is that an absentee ballot request is good for all elections from the date of the request through the end of the calendar year for the second ensuing general election unless the request asks for a ballot only for a specific election.

#### **2.4.1 Requesting an Absentee Ballot**

Q1. *Does your state provide absentee ballot request form online:*

- Yes 39 (71%)
- No 7 (13%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

Seven states reported that they do not provide ballot request forms online. Oregon noted that all questions pertaining to absentee ballot requests are not applicable because, as a vote-by-mail state, all ballots are mailed.

*Q2. Does your state allow ballot requests to be submitted online:*

- Yes 15 (27%)
- No 31 (56%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

Most states require absentee ballot requests to be submitted by mail or in person. Several states indicated that they are developing the capability to accept online submission. The term “online” was interpreted broadly by some respondents to include submission by any electronic means, including fax and email as well as website applications. Since there was variation in interpretation, all electronic submission answers were counted as online submissions.

*Q3. Does your state include checkbox on form to indicate assistance required in voting:*

- Yes 9 (16%)
- No 37 (67%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

Five of the nine states that responded “Yes” to this question also have a checkbox on their voter registration form. (See Q4. under Voter Registration.) These states are Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. Seven states have the box only on the voter registration form, and another four have the box only on the ballot request form. Altogether, a total of 16 states have a checkbox on one form or the other.

*Q4. Does your state allow another person to request ballot on voter’s behalf:*

- Yes 27 (49%)
- No 18 (33%)
- No response 9 (16%)
- Not applicable 1 (2%)

Several states indicated they do not allow this as a general rule, but may allow an exception in emergency situations, such as when a voter is hospitalized a few days before an election. Most states have restrictions on who may be permitted to do this, typically limited to close family members.

## 2.4.2 Obtaining, Marking, Returning Absentee Ballot

Q1. *Does your state provide blank ballots by mail:*

- Yes 47 (85%)
- No 0 (0%)
- No response 8 (15%)

All states deliver absentee ballots to disabled voters by mail.

Q2. *Does your state allow blank ballots to be downloaded from a website:*

- Yes 8 (15%)
- No 38 (69%)
- No response 8 (15%)
- Other 1 (2%)

Eight states allow blank ballots to be downloaded from a website by civilian voters. Florida's response was classified as "Other" due to their comment that the state office did not know if any counties allow this.

Q3. *Does your state allow third party to pick up blank ballot on behalf of voter:*

- Yes 26 (47%)
- No 20 (36%)
- No response 9 (16%)

More than half of the states responding allow this as a standard practice, although many restrict the permitted agents to close family members. Written authorization by the voter is also required. Pennsylvania and Utah answered "No" but noted this might be done as an exception in an emergency situation. South Carolina also answered "No", but cited the exception of a voter being hospitalized within 4 days of an election. Wisconsin answered "No" with the exceptions of hospitalized voters or sequestered jurors.

Q4. *Does your state provide Braille/tactile or other special ballot format:*

- Yes 17 (31%)
- No 30 (55%)
- No response 8 (15%)

The majority of the states do not offer special ballot formats. Among the 17 jurisdictions which do, there are requirements for prior notice or special request by the voter.

Q5. *Does your state allow voter to receive assistance completing ballot:*

- Yes 47 (85%)
- No 0 (0%)
- No response 8 (15%)

All states permit voters to receive assistance in completing the ballot.

Q6. *Does your state accept voted ballot return by mail:*

- Yes 47 (85%)
- No 0 (0%)
- No response 8 (15%)

Q7. *Does your state accept voted ballot return by third party on behalf of voter:*

- Yes 39 (70%)
- No 8 (15%)
- No response 8 (15%)

All states allow absentee ballots to be returned by mail. For some states, this is the only accepted return method. The 70% that allow a third party to return the ballot usually impose restrictions on who is permitted to do this. Close family members are the most frequently mentioned. Employers and union officials are often cited as not permitted, to avoid situations of possible voter intimidation.

### **2.4.3 Absentee Voting In Group Living Facilities**

Q1. *Does your state provide supervised voting:*

- Yes 30 (55%)
- No 15 (27%)
- No response 10 (18%)

Q2. *Does your state have provisions for particular types of facilities:*

Hospitals:

- Yes 27 (49%)
- No 17 (31%)
- No response 11 (20%)

Assisted Living Centers:

- Yes 28 (51%)
- No 16 (29%)
- No response 11 (20%)

Nursing Homes:

- Yes 31 (56%)
- No 13 (24%)
- No response 11 (20%)

Veterans Affairs facilities:

Yes 23 (42%)

No 21 (38%)

No response 11 (20%)

A majority of states permit supervised voting in group living facilities, but there may be limitations on the types of facilities that may be served. Several responses noted that this service may be provided only in state-licensed institutions. The size of the facility was another qualifying factor mentioned by several states. Overall, the responses indicated that, as a general rule, state laws and policies give local election officials considerable autonomy on this matter.

## 2.5 Additional Questions

*Q1. Does your state have any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by military personnel severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan?*

Yes 10 (18%)

No 36 (65%)

No response 9 (16%)

The terms “special projects” and “best practices” were not defined in the questionnaire, so this question required some interpretation on the part of the respondents. Several states reported capabilities implemented for MOVE Act compliance, which are available to all UOCAVA voters, not just wounded military personnel. Indiana was the only state that reported a special project for the study target population. Their state office participates in Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure that injured service personnel preparing to transition from military service to civilian life have current information about voting. All responses to this question are reported in Section 3.1.

*Q2. Does your state have any statutory requirement to facilitate registration and voting by disabled citizens?*

Yes 28 (51%)

No 16 (29%)

No response 9 (16%)

Other 2 (4%)

Most states have statutory protection for the voting rights of disabled citizens. New Hampshire noted that its constitution guarantees voting rights for disabled citizens. The responses from Connecticut and West Virginia were recorded as “Other” because they were ambiguous.



Q3. *Does your state have any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians?*

Yes 30 (55%)

No 14 (25%)

No response 10 (18%)

Other 1 (2%)

The terms “special projects” and “best practices” were not defined in the questionnaire, so this question required some interpretation on the part of the respondents. Only 30 states checked “yes” in response to this question. However, analysis of responses to other survey questions indicated that every state has at least one best practice, such as posting the voter registration application online. All responses to this question are reported in Section 3.2.

Q4. *Does your state work with Veterans Affairs hospitals, clinics or residential facilities?*

Yes 27 (49%)

No 19 (35%)

No response 9 (16%)

Several respondents provided examples of the state office working directly with VA facilities. Nevada has demonstrated voting machines and delivered voter registration forms to the VA hospital in Reno, upon invitation. North Dakota noted that they work through agencies such as Protection and Advocacy and the Interagency Program on Assistive Technology as well as at the local election official level. South Carolina provides guidelines for absentee voting in residential facilities that would also apply to VA facilities and clinics. The California Secretary of State has worked directly with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to implement programs to encourage voter registration and improve outreach to veterans and their families. Many states indicated that working with VA facilities is a local election official option and is not directed by the state office.

Q5. *Please provide any additional comments about your state’s accessible voting practices:*

Some of the additional comments pertained to special projects or best practices and are reported in Section 3. Other comments that pertained to other topics are included in the discussion under the appropriate questions above.

### **3 Best Practices and Special Projects**

Indiana and California reported notable examples of best practices and North Dakota has a special project for military voters. Indiana’s work with Warrior Transition Units directly serves the target population of this study. The state office participates in

Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure that injured service members preparing to transition from military service to civilian life have current information about voting.

The Military and Overseas Voter Information webpage on the California Secretary of State's website provides an Internet portal to all 58 counties. At least 19 counties post their sample ballots online. These can be downloaded and used as special absentee ballots. These capabilities are available for use by all military voters.

North Dakota is implementing a state of the art online ballot delivery and marking system. Voters will also be able to return their voted ballots electronically if they wish to do so.

Many states employ a variety of best practices for disabled civilian voters. Nearly all of the respondents (41) provide their voter registration forms online. Nine states allow these applications to be submitted electronically (i.e., online, by fax or email). Thirty-nine states provide their ballot request form online and fifteen also allow these forms to be submitted electronically. Eight states provide the capability for voters to download blank ballots.

Thirty states provide some form of supervised voting for voters who are hospitalized or residing in group living facilities such as nursing homes. Five counties in Oregon recently conducted a pilot project using iPads and portable printers to provide supervised voting in nursing homes, community centers and other locations.

A number of states noted their special training programs for poll workers as well as for disabled voters. Arizona brings in guest speakers with disabilities for their poll worker certification program. Madera County CA has graphics and text instructions for how to use their accessible voting device on their website. Santa Cruz County CA has an online guide for voters with special needs and a video for poll workers on how to set up an accessible polling place. They also post ballots online in a format that can be read by applications such as Jaws. The Idahovotes accessibility webpage provides both graphic and audio information on accessible voting options and ballot marking instructions. It includes videos of the Secretary of State demonstrating a ballot marking device, a demonstration of how to use an audio ballot, and disabled voters encouraging others to vote. The North Carolina Secretary of State's website has photos of every voting location to show handicapped voters the best way to access a facility. South Carolina provides an online video for voters with disabilities and online training videos for poll managers on serving voters with disabilities. The State of Washington worked with members of the disability community to develop a website for voters with disabilities.

Several states reported working with their state Office of Protection and Advocacy and other advocacy groups for voter outreach and training. In Connecticut this office provides videos of the accessibility devices available in polling places and conducts sensitivity training classes for poll workers. Maine works with advocacy groups to

demonstrate their accessible voting system to voters and to provide information about the voting and registration process. In Wyoming, the Protection and Advocacy organization provides hands on training to the disabled community with actual voting equipment.

Missouri has a unique outreach program to inform disabled voters. The Secretary of State's office works with the Department of Revenue to identify persons who have applied for a handicapped license. They send a mailer to this list outlining all the options for a handicapped person to register and vote.

The following subsections present each state's responses to the two questions about best practices and special projects for injured military personnel and for disabled civilians. We have also included comments made in other sections of the questionnaire that can be considered best practices. These include instances where online processes are provided to enable voters to accomplish actions electronically, without having to manually mark and manipulate paper or to appear in person at some particular location, such as the clerk's office. Examples are procedures and systems that enable the electronic submission of voter registration applications and absentee ballot requests.

Since these responses were made in free-form text format, we have quoted each as written rather than attempting to paraphrase the comments. In several instances where a "yes" response was given, there was no description of the project or best practice. We made a follow-up contact with each of these states to request further information and have indicated below when additional information was supplied.

### **3.1 Military Voters**

The question asked about the existence of any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by military personnel severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Eleven states responded affirmatively. However, with the exception of Indiana's work with Warrior Transition Units, the activities reported are not limited to injured military service members from any particular conflict but are intended to aid UOCAVA voters as a class. Injured service members will, of course, benefit from these practices since they are eligible to utilize UOCAVA voting provisions while they remain on active duty.

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009 requires each state to provide at least one electronic means by which UOCAVA voters can obtain voter registration and absentee ballot request forms and have their absentee ballots delivered. In 2011 the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) established a grants program to assist states in meeting the MOVE Act requirements. In previous years, FVAP sponsored several other technology initiatives involving electronic transmission of election-related materials. Montana and West Virginia refer to their participation in one

or more of these programs, such as the 2010 Ballot Marking Wizard, when describing their military voting projects.

Each state's responses are presented below verbatim. In several instances the description of the best practice or special project is very limited or not provided. Follow-up contacts did not generate any additional information, except for Indiana.

#### ARKANSAS

[State response] Yes, new project is being developed under the direction of Secretary Martin. [No further information provided.]

#### CALIFORNIA

[State response] Yes, we work closely with FVAP and a network of organizations (e.g., Stars and Stripes, Army Times, Military Voter Protection Project) to publicize special elections, to highlight deadline dates for registering, requesting/returning ballots, and to provide notice of updates to our website. California military and overseas voters can download a copy of the Federal Post Card Application and access a wide variety of information and resources on our Military and Overseas Voter Information webpage at: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections\\_mov.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections_mov.htm). The webpage provides an Internet portal to the 58 counties options. At least 19 California counties post their sample ballots online, which can be downloaded and used as special absentee ballots. Most counties email blank ballots to military voters upon request. The Secretary of State's office offers election news and election night updates to anyone who signs up to follow @CASOSvote on the micro-blogging website Twitter.com. Californians can receive Secretary of State updates via email, RSS fee or Facebook. For more information on multi-media options, go to [www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia](http://www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia). The Secretary of State also offers a toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) that voters can call to ask election-related questions.

#### COLORADO

[State response] Yes [No further information provided.]

#### GUAM

[State response] Yes [No further information provided.]

#### INDIANA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] The state office participates in Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure they have current information on voting.

#### LOUISIANA

[State response] Yes [No further information provided.]

#### MONTANA

[State response] Yes - participated in the 2010 FVAP Ballot Marking Wizard project.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

[State response] Yes, we are building a state of the art online application, ballot delivery and marking system. The voter will also be given the opportunity to return their ballot electronically if they so desire.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

[State response] Yes [No further information provided.]

#### TEXAS

[State response] Yes, for a recent disability. [No further information provided.]

#### WEST VIRGINIA

[State response] No, not specifically to those wars. We have conducted online and online ballot delivery voting projects to explore the feasibility of such options. We are currently working with FVAP to come up with solutions to the barriers that Military Voters face.

### **3.2 Disabled Civilian Voters**

This question asked about the existence of any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians. The definition of the term “best practices” was intentionally left open for the respondents to interpret. There was insufficient data to define criteria to distinguish best practices from standard practices because this was the first time data on state accessibility practices has been collected. The states reported a wide variety of activities. In several instances activities noted as best practices by some states were reported in response to other survey questions by other states. The research team decided to include all of this information in this section to give a more complete picture of the range of practices in use that assist disabled voters.

While fourteen states answered “No” to this question, the analysis indicates that every state that returned the questionnaire has at least one best practice that assists disabled voters. For example, 41 of the responding states provide voter registration forms online for the convenience of all voters. While not specifically intended for disabled voters, this practice is nevertheless especially helpful for voters who have difficulty with paper forms or who may have limited mobility.

As a result of this approach, the information presented below comes from four sources:

1. The state responses given to the specific question about special projects or best practices for disabled civilian voters. Thirty states responded “Yes” to this

- question. In several instances no description of the project or best practice was provided, which is noted. Each state's response is reported verbatim.
2. Additional information provided in response to research team follow-up. This information comes from emails or telephone conversations with members of the research team.
  3. Information retrieved from state websites. Several states referenced their websites as further sources of information on best practices. The research team reviewed these sites and extracted the best practice information reported there.
  4. Responses to other survey questions indicating a best practice. This brings some consistency to the reporting of activities that could be considered best practices.

One additional source was used for Oregon. While the survey analysis was being conducted, press reports came out about an Oregon project using iPads to aid disabled voters. While Oregon did not describe this project in their questionnaire responses, we felt this notable development needed to be recognized.

#### ALASKA

[State response] Yes, accessible versions of voter registration and absentee ballot application for all voters.

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms provided online. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

#### ALABAMA

Did not return questionnaire.

#### AMERICAN SAMOA

Did not return questionnaire.

#### ARIZONA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] Arizona election officials are required by law to train all poll workers every two years. This training includes a four day certification class with guest speakers who have disabilities. These speakers discuss the voting difficulties experienced by disabled persons. In addition, large print ballots are available and ballot measures can be heard on audio devices.

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration form is available online and can be submitted online. Some counties currently provide the absentee ballot request form online and allow it to be submitted online. This capability is expanding to additional counties.

## ARKANSAS

[State response] Yes, new project that is being developed under the direction of Secretary Martin. [No further information provided.] The Office of Arkansas Secretary of State maintains a strong working relationship with the Disability Rights Center to improve voter accessibility for all voters in Arkansas.

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are provided online. Both may be returned as email attachments with a signature. State law allows download of absentee ballot from website, but no funding available yet.

## CALIFORNIA

[State response] Yes, please visit our “Best Practices” web pages at: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/best-practices.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/best-practices.htm) for more information.

[Information from webpage] Los Angeles County has an online election guide for voters with special needs. Madera County has online graphics and text instructions for using their accessible voting device. Santa Cruz County has an online guide for voters with special needs and a video on accessible polling place setup. They also provide ballots online that can be read using “Jaws” or other online access programs.

[Responses to other survey questions] The California Secretary of State provides the official Voter Information Guide in large print and audiocassette formats (as well as downloadable audio) in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Japanese and Korean. An American Sign Language video (“A Guide to Voting in California”) is provided in English and Spanish.

California law enables voters with disabilities who are unable to write their names with the option of using a signature stamp to affix their signatures to elections related documents, such as voter registration cards and vote-by-mail ballot envelopes.

We anticipate having it (online registration application) available by January 1, 2012. Some counties allow (absentee ballot requests to be submitted online). Some, but not all, California counties provide this option (allow blank ballot to be downloaded from a website). Individual counties offer a wide range of voting services, from magnifying glasses and pen grips at polling places to local voting accessibility advisory committees that coordinate the needs and resources unique to each county. For example, some county election offices have assigned “rovers” who pick up ballots from assisted living facilities and provide transportation upon request. Others provide audio CDs of the local ballot measures.

As part of the Secretary of State’s Top-To-Bottom Review of voting systems, participants with cognitive disabilities have been included in accessibility and usability testing sessions. Final reports resulting from this review can be found at:

[http://www.sos.co.gov/elections/votingsystems/ttbr/accessibility\\_review\\_report](http://www.sos.co.gov/elections/votingsystems/ttbr/accessibility_review_report). This testing protocol is now part of California's approval process for new voting systems.

#### COLORADO

[State response] Yes, Colorado's best practices with regards to registration and voting include all people with disabilities and are not confined to specific groups. Local election officials have the ability to appoint special election judges and staff members to provide assistance at facilities where more than seven mail-in ballots are to be sent to the same residential facility.

[Responses to other survey questions] HAVA grant funds are used in conjunction with an outreach effort by The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People to print and distribute voter information to people with disabilities. In the last year the Colorado Secretary of State has commissioned a usability/readability evaluation of our website and sent webmasters to updated web accessibility training.

The absentee ballot request form is available online and can be submitted online as well as the voter registration form. In the event a voter is unable to sign their name they can elect to have someone witness their mark. Additionally, a signature stamp is allowed without the need of a witness.

Special ballot formats are available at the voter's request as a reasonable accommodation.

#### CONNECTICUT

[State response] We have an Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. [No further information provided.]

[Follow-up information] The Office of Protection and Advocacy provides outreach videos of accessibility devices that are available for polling places. In addition, sensitivity training classes are given on how poll workers should deal with handicapped citizens.

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are provided online. Ballot request form can be submitted online. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### DELAWARE

Did not return questionnaire.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] The election office works with the Office of Disability Rights to help determine accessibility to voting locations. In addition, during an election cycle,



staff are sent to senior citizen facilities as well as homebound citizens to provide ballots and voting capability.

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are provided online. Absentee ballot request can be submitted online. Supervised voting is provided in assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### FLORIDA

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration form is available online. Some counties allow submission of voter registration application online, but it must be followed by a hard-copy signed original before the registration can be completed. Online absentee ballot request functionality has been in effect at the county level for all 67 counties since July 1, 2010. Florida law allows an absentee ballot to be requested by phone, mail, email, fax, online or in person.

Any forms required to be made available under the Florida Election Code, including absentee ballots, are to be made available in alternative format if requested.

Accessible voting systems in polling places must meet at least 12 major categories of accessibility standards. If a voter is in an assisted living or nursing home facility, the voter can receive an absentee ballot there, or can participate in supervised voting.

#### GEORGIA

[State response] See above responses

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are available online. The online voter registration form provides automated assistance for completion. Absentee ballots may be delivered to hospitalized voters by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk. Assistance is provided to VA facilities as requested.

#### GUAM

[State response] Same as above

[Responses to other survey questions] Absentee ballot request form is available online. Supervised voting is provided in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### HAWAII

Did not return questionnaire.

## IDAHO

[State response] Yes, please see Accessible Voting on [www.idahovotes.gov](http://www.idahovotes.gov). Please see “Project Vote” videos.

[Information from webpage] The idahovotes accessibility webpage provides graphic and audio (mp-3) information on accessible voting options and ballot marking instructions. Videos include the Secretary of State demonstrating the ballot marking device, an audio ballot demo, and disabled voters encouraging others to vote.

## ILLINOIS

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provides voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provides Braille/tactile or other special ballot format. Provides supervised voting in group living facilities including hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

## INDIANA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] The state office participates in Warrior Transition Unit meetings to ensure they have current information on voting. They also work with VA and send voting information to the VA hospitals. Indiana also has legislation that requires each county to have a “traveling board” whose responsibility is to travel to a site or an individual’s residence with ballots that can be cast. (This is done on a local election official basis.)

[Responses to other survey questions] Voter registration form is available online and application can be submitted online. Absentee ballot request forms are available online and can be submitted by email or fax. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

## IOWA

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provide an audio ballot. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, licensed assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

## KANSAS

[State response] Statutes allow them to receive assistance. [No further information provided]

[Responses to other survey questions] Has developed a voter registration process in cooperation with Department of Motor Vehicles that allows anyone with a driver's license to register to vote online. Absentee ballot request form provided online and can be returned by email and fax as well as by mail and in person. Counties have option to provide mobile polling at hospitals and nursing facilities, including VA facilities.

#### KENTUCKY

[State response] We work with protection and advocacy and state ADA coordinator on voting rights for all disabled citizens.

[Responses to other survey questions] Developing a webpage for voters with disabilities. Did work with Protection and Advocacy on a guide that they hand out and post on their website. Voter registration form provided online.

#### LOUISIANA

[State response] Yes, under the provisions of the State of Louisiana's Election Code, war veteran homes are classified as a nursing home. We have a nursing home program and a permanent absentee ballot by mail program that war veterans would be qualified to participate in for elections in Louisiana.

[Responses to other survey questions and from Voting Rights for Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities brochure returned with survey] Voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are provided online. Voter registration application can be submitted online. Absentee ballot request can be faxed to parish registrar. Voted absentee ballots can be faxed to parish registrar along with a secrecy waiver. Supervised voting is provided in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### MAINE

[State response] No response given

[Responses to other survey questions] Absentee ballot request forms are available online and can be submitted online or by phone. Required by law for the municipal clerk to conduct voting at least 1 time in the 30 days prior to the election for 3 types of facilities licensed by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services: nursing homes, residential care facilities with more than 6 beds, and assisted living facilities with more than 6 beds. This includes VA facilities if they are licensed.

Each general election year, we work with disability advocacy groups to demonstrate the accessible voting system and provide information to voters and advocates about the voting and registration process.

#### MARYLAND

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Allow blank ballot to be downloaded from website.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Applicants can request a voter registration form online. Provide absentee ballot request form online. Local election officials provide supervised voting in designated health care facilities.

#### MICHIGAN

[State response] Yes, with Federal HHS funds we run a polling place improvement grant program to improve the accessibility of polling places.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Absentee ballot request can be faxed or scanned and emailed to the local clerk after it is completed and signed.

#### MINNESOTA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] Has an extensive outreach program that during election years targets the disabled and veterans groups. This includes workshops for community and veterans groups. In addition, the state has a program "Vote in honor of a veteran," in which they provide buttons and post tributes on their website in honor of a veteran.

[Responses to other survey questions] The Office of the Secretary of State frequently conducts outreach and in general election years hosts a Disability Community Advisory Committee which advised the office on best practices for outreach, registration and education.

Minnesota has Election Day registration and allows staff of residential facilities to vouch for residents in their facilities in order that they might be able to provide proof of residence. Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Absentee ballot requests can be submitted as scanned email attachments. Voters unable to sign their name may utilize a signature stamp. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### MISSISSIPPI

Did not return questionnaire.

#### MISSOURI

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] The Missouri Secretary of State's office has a program for the handicapped that includes working with the Department of Revenue to determine who has applied for a handicapped license. The list is then sent a mailer outlining all the options that a handicapped individual has with respect to registration and voting in Missouri.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

#### MONTANA

[State response] Yes, mandate use of accessible voting equipment.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online.

#### NEBRASKA

Did not return questionnaire.

#### NEVADA

[State response] Yes, NRS 293.5237 (registration at home by field registrar), 293.3165 (absentee voting for disabled voters) and 293.2725 (eligibility to vote by mail) are both statutory requirements to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians, as well as best practices.

[Follow-up information] Has statutory requirements to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians. Their office has demonstrated voting machines and delivered voter registration forms to the VA hospital in Reno upon invitation.

[Responses to other survey questions] The State of Nevada allows registration forms to be submitted online in Clark County, and will soon be expanding this capability to other counties. Provide absentee ballot request form online and allow it to be submitted online. Information to request assistance required for voting is provided in sample ballots. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers and VA facilities.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

[State response] Yes [No further information provided]

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide absentee ballot request form online for state elections. Signed copy of form may be returned by email or fax. Supervisors of the checklist can go to group living facilities and register voters. Town and city clerks, or their designees, can go to group living facilities and receive requests for absentee ballots to be mailed, and they can deliver and receive marked absentee ballots on election day.

## NEW JERSEY

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online.

## NEW MEXICO

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Will be implementing a variety of activities for the 2012 election cycle to ensure the physical accessibility of polling places for a full range of disabilities, provide necessary accessories at each polling place to secure privacy and independence of all voters, develop training materials to promote access and participation by voters with a full range of disabilities, and develop a community outreach public information program on polling place accessibility.

## NEW YORK

[State response] Yes [No further information provided]

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provide supervised voting in nursing homes and VA facilities.

## NORTH CAROLINA

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] State has produced and uses a special video for serving disabled voters. The SOS website has photos of every voting location to show handicapped voters the best way to access a facility. These photos are kept current by the county election directors. In one of their counties (Guilford), the election director encourages his poll workers to vote the audio ballot so they know how to help a handicapped voter.

[Responses to other survey questions] A page on accessibility voting is included in each candidate voter guide the NC Board of Elections produces and mails to 4.1 million voter households. Provide voter registration form online.

## NORTH DAKOTA

[State response] Yes, the system described above (under military voting projects) that we are completing. (The referenced system is described as “a state of the art online application, ballot delivery, and marking system.”)

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide absentee ballot request form online. Election officials are allowed to deliver applications and ballots to hospitals, assisted living centers and VA facilities. They are required to do so accompanied by election

judges from each of the two major political parties in the state. These election officials supervise the voting process and both party representatives will assist a voter if so desired, but they are not required to assist everyone in the facility. They are there primarily to make sure each voter is allowed to vote in the manner of their own choosing.

#### OHIO

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Allow blank ballot to be downloaded from a website. Election officials can provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

#### OKLAHOMA

[State response] Yes, polling places are surveyed every two years for accessibility. Two-member bipartisan boards visit nursing homes and veterans centers to conduct voting. These boards provide assistance to voters as needed.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. There is a separate absentee ballot application form for voters with disabilities. Voters who use this application receive a ballot affidavit that requires two witnesses. Other absentee voters must have their ballot affidavit notarized.

#### OREGON

[State response] Yes, Oregon allows for the formation of Voter Assistance Teams and Facility Assistance Teams to assist voters with special needs of any kind to assist those voters with their standard mail-in ballots or to receive and use any of the alternate format ballots we offer.

[Responses to other survey questions] The Secretary of State's office provides grant funds to print easy to read voter pamphlet for voters with cognitive disabilities, and large print voter pamphlet for voters with low vision. MP3 files of the voter pamphlet are available on the Secretary of State's website. Provide voter registration form online and permit the form to be submitted online. Allow blank ballots to be downloaded from a website. Counties can provide large type, tactile, HTML or PDF format ballots.

[Associated Press news item, 11/7/2011: "Oregon looks to iPads to help disabled people vote"] Five counties tried out iPads and portable printers to provide supervised absentee voting for disabled voters in nursing homes, community centers and other locations. The voter could call up and mark their ballot, then print it to return by mail or in person. Font size and screen colors could be adjusted and the iPad could read the candidate names and the voter pamphlet, if desired. The iPad could be controlled by an attached "sip and puff" device for voters with limited mobility.

## PENNSYLVANIA

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] The Secretary of State's website provides a poll worker training video on how to assist voters with disabilities and ensure the accessibility of polling places. Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online.

## PUERTO RICO

[State response] Yes [No further information provided]

[Responses to other survey questions] Allows absentee ballot request to be submitted online. Provides Braille/tactile or other special ballot formats.

## RHODE ISLAND

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provide Braille/tactile or other special ballot formats for mail ballots. Provide supervised voting in hospitals, nursing homes and VA facilities.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

[State response] Yes, the SEC administers the HAVA VOTE grant program to improve access for voters with disabilities. We work with county election commission to identify improvements that can be made to polling places to improve accessibility. We also use grant funds to produce voter education and poll manager training materials for voters with disabilities.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide online video for voters with disabilities, online training videos for poll managers on serving voters with disabilities. Provide voter registration form online. Will have absentee ballot request form online with online submission available in the near future.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Allow blank ballot to be downloaded from a website. Election officials provide supervised voting in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers and VA facilities.

## TENNESSEE

[State response] No



[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration form online.

#### TEXAS

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online.

#### UTAH

[State response] We work with the Disability Law Center.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Allow voter registration application to be submitted online.

#### VERMONT

Did not return questionnaire.

#### VIRGINIA

[State response] Yes, Virginia provides detailed accessibility standards for polling places and has secured federal funding for accessibility improvements. The State Board of Elections administers programs to allocate funding for accessibility improvements statewide.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Signed ballot requests can be submitted by fax or scanned as an email attachment. The State Board of Elections has several large print forms and publications available on its website, including an interactive version of the Virginia Voter Registration Application, a large print listing of general registrar addresses, and large print Easy Voter Guides and Virginia Voter Rights and Responsibilities.

High school student page program provides general assistance such as pushing wheelchairs, navigating within buildings, opening doors and making voters with disabilities feel welcome.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS

Did not return questionnaire.

#### WASHINGTON

[State response] Yes

[Follow-up information] Collaborated with Disability Rights Washington and the local Protection and Advocacy Agency to ensure accessibility of voting centers. State office did a bulk purchase of various accessibility aids to provide to counties. With input from

stakeholders from the disability community, developed a website link entitled “Information for Voters with Disabilities” which includes a range of information such as how to request a reasonable accommodation, questions about mental competency and other resources for voters with disabilities.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Allow ballot requests to be submitted online. Allow blank ballot to be downloaded from a website. Provide large print ballots. County Election Departments provide supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes and VA facilities.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

[State response] We are exploring the online voter registration option. We do provide the accessible voting machines, allow for absentee voting, and continually work to have accessible polling locations.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Provide Braille/tactile or other special ballot formats with prior notice. Has an outreach division which interacts with VA facilities.

#### WISCONSIN

[State response] Election officials are required to complete a survey for each polling location regarding accessibility, if the polling location does not meet requirements of the survey, it cannot be used as a polling location. The accessibility survey was developed using federal and state requirements in conjunction with a community accessibility advisory team made up of members of accessibility groups in the community. There are grants available to local election officials to make accessibility improvements to a polling location. The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board then conducts On-site Accessibility Compliance Reviews every election for a select number of polling locations. The On-site Accessibility Compliance Reviews audit polling places’ compliance with accessibility requirements as well as raise awareness of the importance of voting accessibility among election officials.

[Responses to other survey questions] Provide voter registration and absentee ballot request forms online. Ballot request can be emailed to clerk. Provide Braille/ tactile or other special ballot format upon request. Provides supervised voting in hospitals, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

#### WYOMING

[State response] No

[Responses to other survey questions] Wyoming works closely with Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (P&A) so that they provide hands on training to the disabled community during the election year. P&A informs the disabled community through mailings,

attending conferences and community events, and has actual voting equipment to help voters practice.

Provide voter registration form online. Allow absentee ballot request to be submitted online. Allow voter to request absentee ballot by telephone, email or note (other than form).

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Questionnaire

#### STATE ACCESSIBILITY PRACTICES QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of your state:

Does your state do any of the following:

##### VOTER INFORMATION

Provide TTY line (Yes/No):

Have webpage specifically for voters with disabilities (Yes/No):

Have pamphlet/brochure with information for disabled voters (Yes/No):

Other (Describe):

##### VOTER REGISTRATION

Require registration (Yes/No):

Provide registration form online (Yes/No):

Allow registration application to be submitted online (Yes/No):

Allow another person to assist with completing form (Yes/No):

Have check box on form to indicate assistance required for voting (Yes/No):

Other (Describe):

##### POLLING PLACE VOTING

Have option to vote in another polling place if assigned location not accessible (Yes/No):

Have an accessible voting machine in every polling place (Yes/No):

Allow voting by phone (Yes/In Polling Place/From Home/No):

Allow poll worker to assist (Yes/No):

Allow another person of voter's choosing to assist (Yes/No):

Permit curbside voting (Yes/No):

Have early voting (Yes/No):

Other (Describe):

##### ABSENTEE VOTING

Allow no fault absentee voting (Yes/No):

Designate disability as a reason for voting absentee (Yes/No):

Have a permanent absentee status (Yes/No):

If No, (Require ballot request every year/Require ballot request every election):

Other (Describe):

##### Requesting an absentee ballot

Provide absentee ballot request form online (Yes/No):

Allow ballot request to be submitted online (Yes/No):

Includes checkbox on form to indicate assistance required for voting (Yes/No):

Allow another person to request ballot on voter's behalf (Yes/No):

Other (Describe):

##### Obtaining, marking, returning absentee ballot

Provide blank ballot by mail (Yes/No):

Allow blank ballot to be downloaded from a website (Yes/No):  
Allow third party to pick up blank ballot on behalf of voter (Yes/No):  
Provide Braille/ tactile or other special ballot format (Yes/No):  
Allow voter to receive assistance completing ballot (Yes/No):  
Accept voted ballot return by mail (Yes/No):  
Accept voted ballot return by third party on behalf of voter (Yes/No):  
Other (Describe):

Absentee voting in group living facilities

Provide supervised voting (Yes/No):  
Have provisions for particular types of facilities:  
    Hospitals (Yes/No):  
    Assisted living centers (Yes/No):  
    Nursing homes (Yes/No):  
    Veterans Affairs facilities (Yes/No):

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Does your state have any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by military personnel severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan? (Yes/No):  
Does your state have any statutory requirement to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians? (Yes/No):  
Does your state have any special projects or best practices to facilitate registration and voting by disabled civilians? (Yes/No):  
Does your state work with Veterans Affairs hospitals, clinics or residential facilities? (Yes/No):  
Please provide any additional comments about your state's accessible voting practices (Describe):

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Please provide the contact information for the person completing this questionnaire.  
Contact will be made only if clarification or follow up is needed regarding the responses.  
NAME:  
EMAIL:  
TELEPHONE:

Please send the completed questionnaire to: [chip.levengood@operationbravo.org](mailto:chip.levengood@operationbravo.org)  
THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE MILITARY HEROES INITIATIVE!

## Appendix B: Tabulation of Survey Results

	Yes (%)	No (%)	NR (%)	N/A (%)	Other (%)
<b>VOTER INFORMATION</b>					
1. Provide TTY line	34 (62%)	12 (22%)	9 (16%)		
2. Have webpage for voters with disabilities	24 (44%)	23 (42%)	8 (15%)		
3. Have pamphlet/brochure for disabled voters	30 (55%)	15 (27%)	10 (18%)		
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>					
1. Require registration	46 (84%)	1 (2%)	8 (15%)		
2. Provide registration form online	41 (75%)	5 (9%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
3. Allow registration application to be submitted online	9 (16%)	37 (67%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
4. Allow another person to assist	45 (82%)	1 (2%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
5. Have check box on form	12 (22%)	34 (62%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
<b>POLLING PLACE VOTING</b>					
1. Have option to vote in another polling place	23 (42%)	24 (44%)	8 (15%)		
2. Have an accessible voting machine	45 (82%)	2 (4%)	8 (15%)		
3. Allow voting by phone	4 (7%)	43 (78%)	8 (15%)		
4. Allow poll worker to assist	47 (85%)	0 (0%)	8 (15%)		
5. Allow another person to assist	47 (85%)	0 (0%)	8 (15%)		
6. Permit curbside voting	24 (44%)	23 (42%)	8 (15%)		
7. Have early voting	31 (56%)	15 (27%)	9 (16%)		
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>					
1. Allow no fault absentee voting	30 (55%)	16 (29%)	9 (16%)		

2. Designate disability as a reason for voting absentee	26 (47%)	8 (15%)	8 (15%)	13 (24%)	
3. Have a permanent absentee status	19 (35%)	25 (45%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)
3a. If No, ballot request every year ('yes' column) or every election ('no' column)	11 (20%)	11 (20%)	12 (22%)	20 (36%)	1 (2%)
REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT					
1. Provide absentee ballot request form online	39 (71%)	7 (13%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
2. Allow ballot request to be submitted online	15 (27%)	31 (56%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
3. Include checkbox on form	9 (16%)	37 (67%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	
4. Allow another person to request ballot	27 (49%)	18 (33%)	9 (16%)	1 (2%)	
OBTAINING, MARKING, RETURNING ABSENTEE BALLOT					
1. Provide blank ballot by mail	47 (85%)	0 (0%)	8 (15%)		
2. Allow blank ballot to be downloaded	8 (15%)	38 (69%)	8 (15%)		1 (2%)
3. Allow third party to pick up blank ballot	26 (47%)	20 (36%)	9 (16%)		
4. Provide special ballot format	17 (31%)	30 (55%)	8 (15%)		
5. Allow voter to receive assistance	47 (85%)	0 (0%)	8 (15%)		
6. Accept voted ballot return by mail	47 (85%)	0 (0%)	8 (15%)		
7. Accept voted ballot return by third party	39 (71%)	8 (15%)	8 (15%)		

ABSENTEE VOTING IN GROUP LIVING FACILITIES					
1. Provide supervised voting	30 (55%)	15 (27%)	10 (18%)		
2. Have provisions for hospitals	27 (49%)	17 (31%)	11 (20%)		
3. Have provisions for assisted living centers	28 (51%)	16 (29%)	11 (20%)		
4. Have provisions for nursing homes	31 (56%)	13 (24%)	11 (20%)		
5. Have provisions for Veterans Affairs facilities	23 (42%)	21 (38%)	11 (20%)		
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS					
1. Special projects/best practices for military voters	10 (18%)	36 (65%)	9 (16%)		
2. Statutory requirements for disabled civilians	28 (51%)	16 (29%)	9 (16%)		2 (4%)
3. Special projects/best practices for disabled civilians	30 (55%)	14 (25%)	10 (18%)		1 (2%)
4. Work with VA facilities	27 (49%)	19 (35%)	9 (16%)		
Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.					



## Appendix C: States Responding

Alaska	New Hampshire
Arizona	New Jersey
Arkansas	New Mexico
California	New York
Colorado	North Carolina
Connecticut	North Dakota
Florida	Ohio
Georgia	Oklahoma
Guam	Oregon
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Puerto Rico
Indiana	Rhode Island
Iowa	South Carolina
Kansas	South Dakota
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maine	Utah
Maryland	Virginia
Massachusetts	Washington
Michigan	Washington, DC
Minnesota	West Virginia
Missouri	Wisconsin
Montana	Wyoming
Nevada	

## **Appendix D: States Not Responding**

Alabama  
American Samoa  
Delaware  
Hawaii

Mississippi  
Nebraska  
Vermont  
Virgin Islands

## **Appendix E: Survey Data**

The full survey data set conducted by the Operation BRAVO Foundation can be downloaded at <http://elections.itif.org/reports/2012-state-survey-data.zip>