



PROPORTIONS OF NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTERS IN GENERAL ELECTIONS 2006-2012

By: Mary Fitzpatrick, Legislative Analyst I

JURISDICTIONS PERMITTING NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

Alaska
Arizona
California
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Iowa
Kansas
Maine
Maryland
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wisconsin
Wyoming

ISSUE

In states that permit no-excuse absentee voting, what percentage of electors voted by absentee ballot in statewide general elections from 2006 to 2012?

SUMMARY

According to [the National Conference of State Legislatures](#), 27 states and the District of Columbia offer no-excuse absentee voting (i.e., they permit any qualified voter to vote absentee without offering an excuse). Every two years, the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC) administers [the Election Administration and Voting Survey](#), collecting and publishing data on how voters cast their ballots. Though all states participate in the survey, the completeness of responses varies.

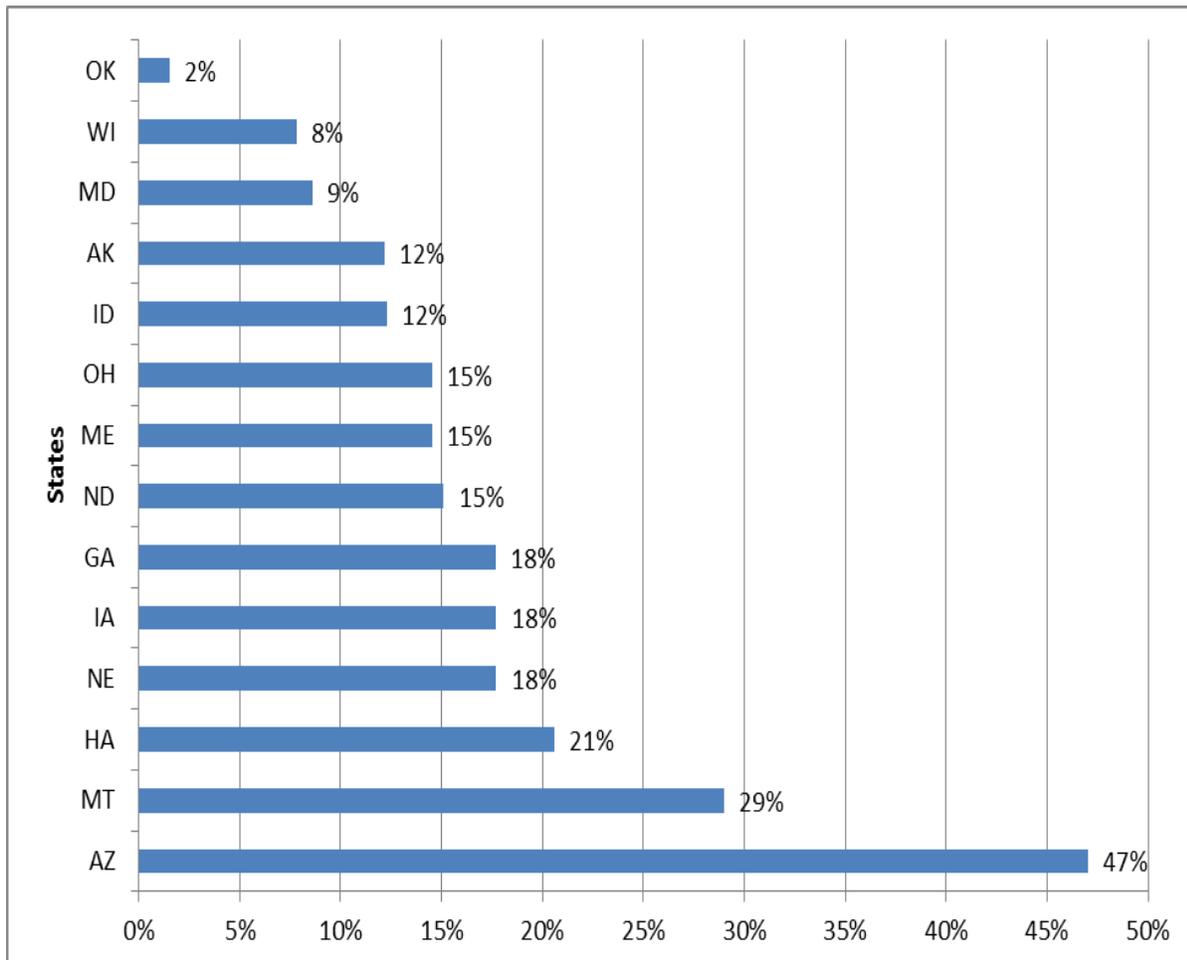
For each statewide general election between 2006 and 2012, Figures 1 through 4 show votes cast by absentee ballot as a percentage of all votes cast. Figures 1 through 4 include states that (1) permit no-excuse absentee voting and (2) responded completely to the relevant portion of the survey in that year. The figures show percentages of domestic absentee ballots, which EAC defines as "ballot[s] submitted, often by mail, in advance of an election, often by a voter who is unable to be present to the polls on Election Day." This excludes ballots to overseas voters, covered by

the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986. The proportions vary by state during this period, from a low of 2% of all ballots cast to a high of 66%.

2006 GENERAL ELECTION

In 2006, among the 14 states with complete data, Arizona had the highest proportion of people voting absentee (47%) and Oklahoma had the lowest (2%).

Figure 1: Absentee Voters as a Percentage of All Ballots Cast (2006)

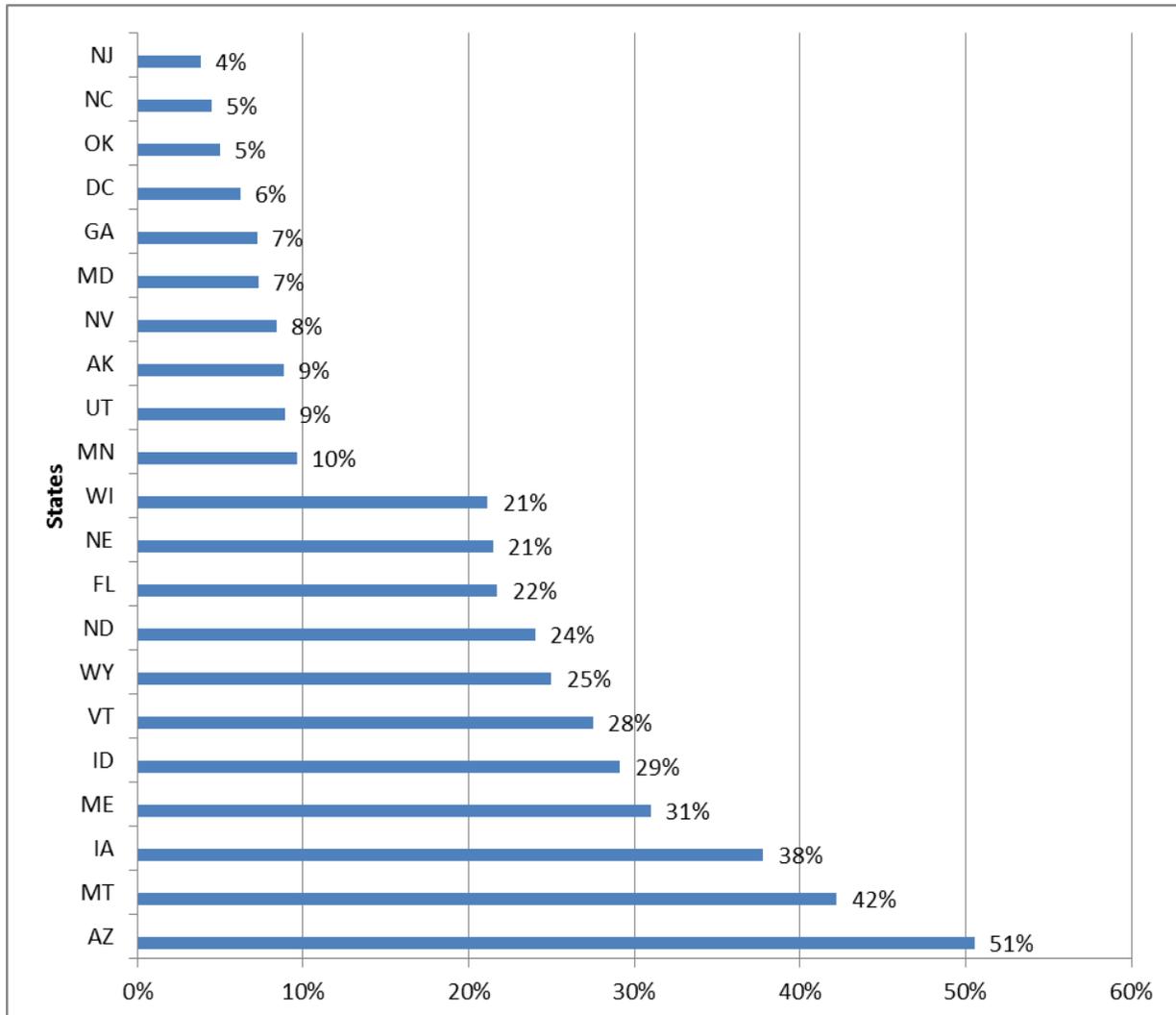


Source: [U.S. EAC 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey](#)

2008 GENERAL ELECTION

In 2008, which included a presidential election, among the 21 jurisdictions with complete data, Arizona had the highest proportion of people voting absentee (51%) and New Jersey had the lowest (4%).

Figure 2: Absentee Voters as a Percentage of All Ballots Cast (2008)

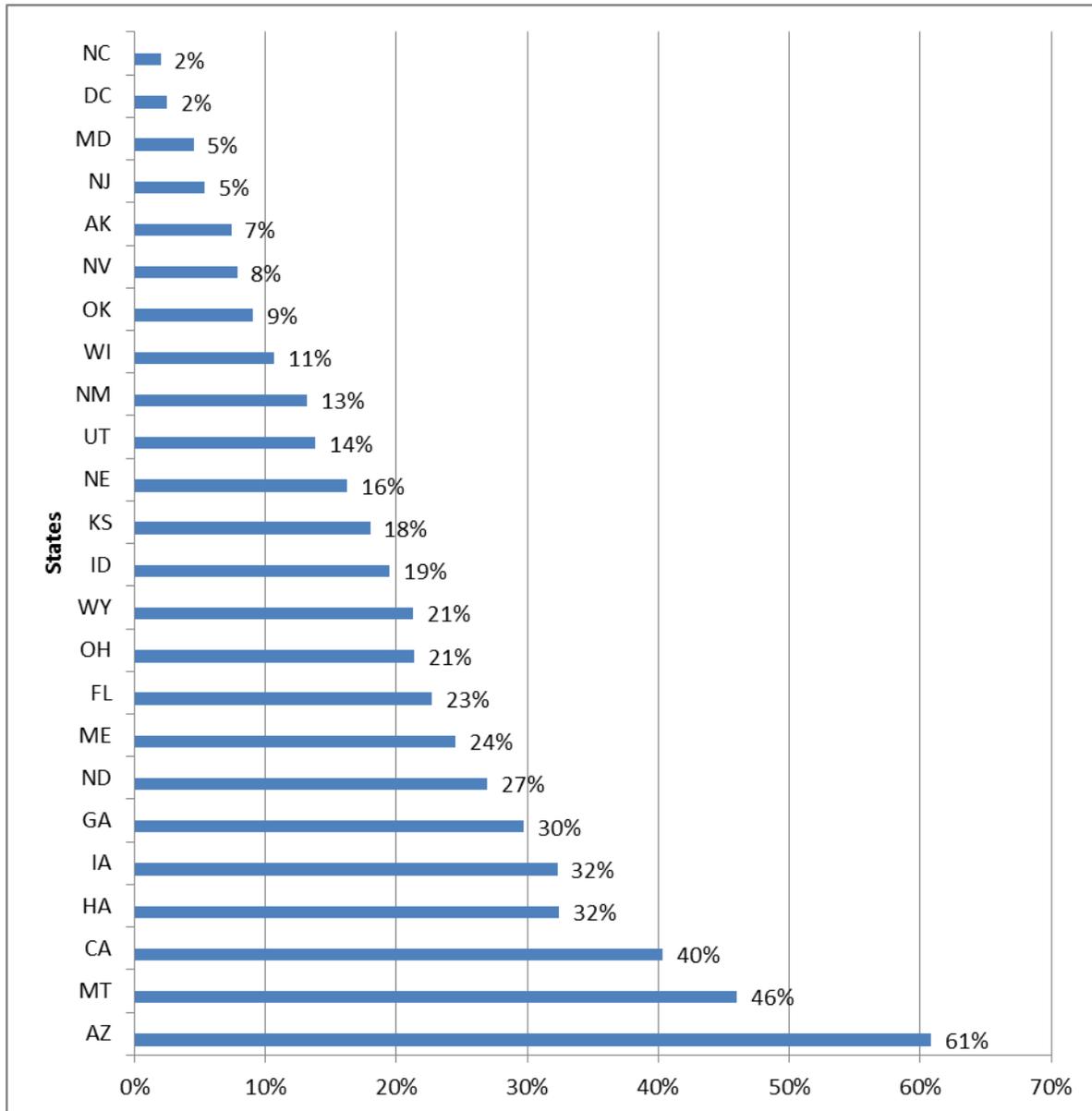


Source: [U.S. EAC 2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey](#)

2010 GENERAL ELECTION

In 2010, among the 24 jurisdictions with complete data, Arizona had the highest proportion of people voting absentee (61%) and North Carolina had the lowest (2%).

Figure 3: Absentee Voters as a Percentage of All Ballots Cast (2010)

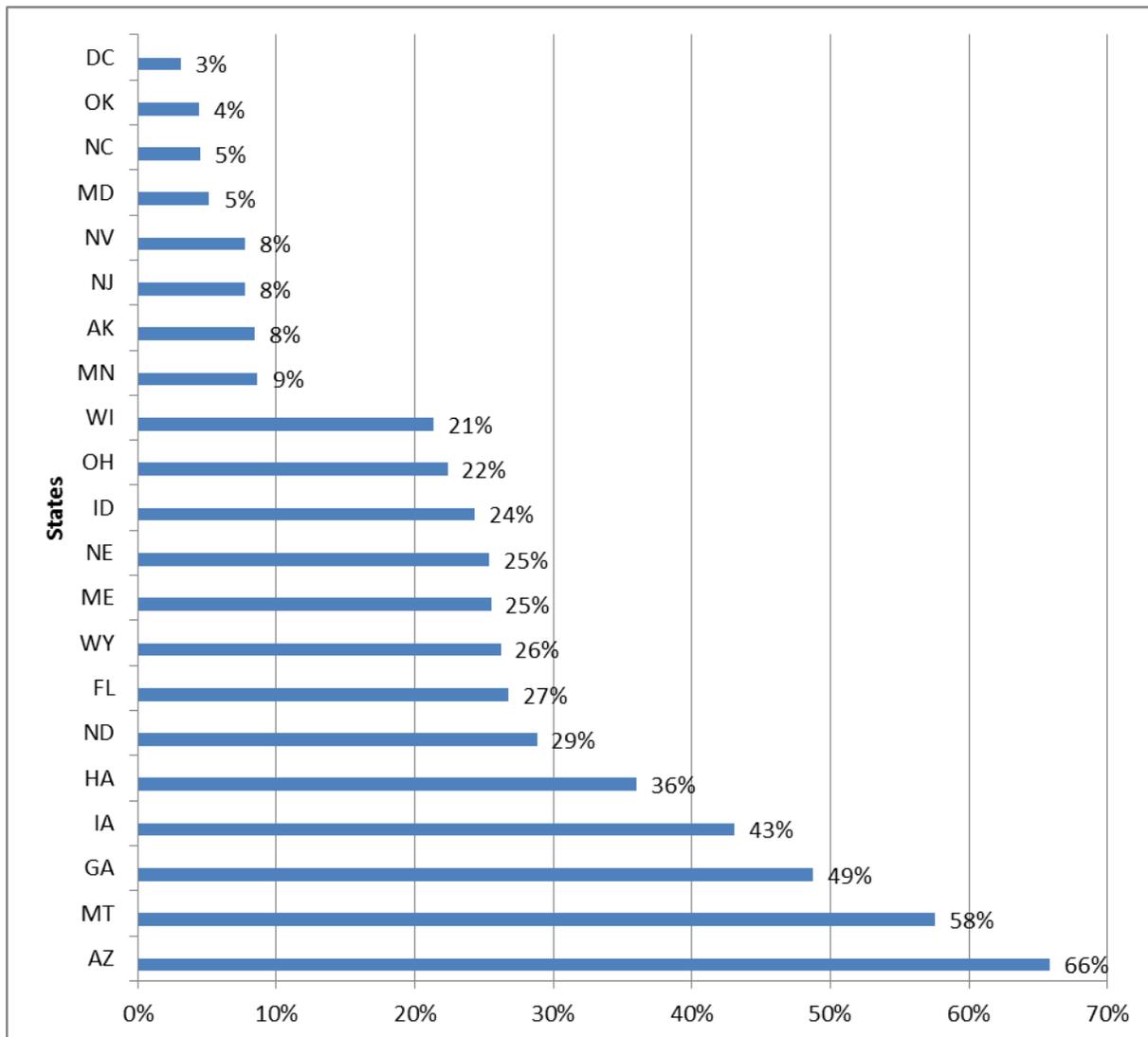


Source: [U.S. EAC 2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey](#)

2012 GENERAL ELECTION

In 2012, which included a presidential election, among the 21 jurisdictions with complete data, Arizona had the highest proportion of people voting absentee (66%) and the District of Columbia had the lowest (3%).

Figure 4: Absentee Voters as a Percentage of All Ballots Cast (2012)



Source: [U.S. EAC 2012 Election Administration and Voting Survey](#)

HYPERLINKS

The National Conference of State Legislatures, *Absentee and Early Voting*
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx>, last visited October 23, 2014.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, *Election Administration and Voting Survey*,
http://www.eac.gov/research/election_administration_and_voting_survey.aspx,
last visited October 23, 2014.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey*,
[http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/2006%20EAVS%20Report%20\(All%20Chapters\).pdf](http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/2006%20EAVS%20Report%20(All%20Chapters).pdf), last accessed October 27, 2014.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, *2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey*,
<http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/2008%20Election%20Administration%20and%20Voting%20Survey%20EAVS%20Report.pdf>, last accessed October 27, 2014.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, *2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey*, http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/990-281_EAC_EAVS_508_revised.pdf, last accessed October 27, 2014.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, *2012 Election Administration and Voting Survey*, http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Page/990-050%20EAC%20VoterSurvey_508Compliant.pdf, last accessed October 27, 2014.

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