

EARLY VOTING SURVEY RESPONDENTS DATA

252 responses - representing 71.7% of MA Cities & Towns

- 52% - small communities (up to 10,000 registered voters)
- 35% - medium sized (10,001 – 25,000 registered voters)
- 13% - large communities (over 25,000 registered voters)

70% found EV to be successful

76% found no increase in voter turnout due to EV

25.17% average turnout Early voters accounted for

50% reported significant to major impacts to operations – reducing other services to residents by more than 50%

TASK FORCE ADVISORY OBJECTIVES FOR CHANGES

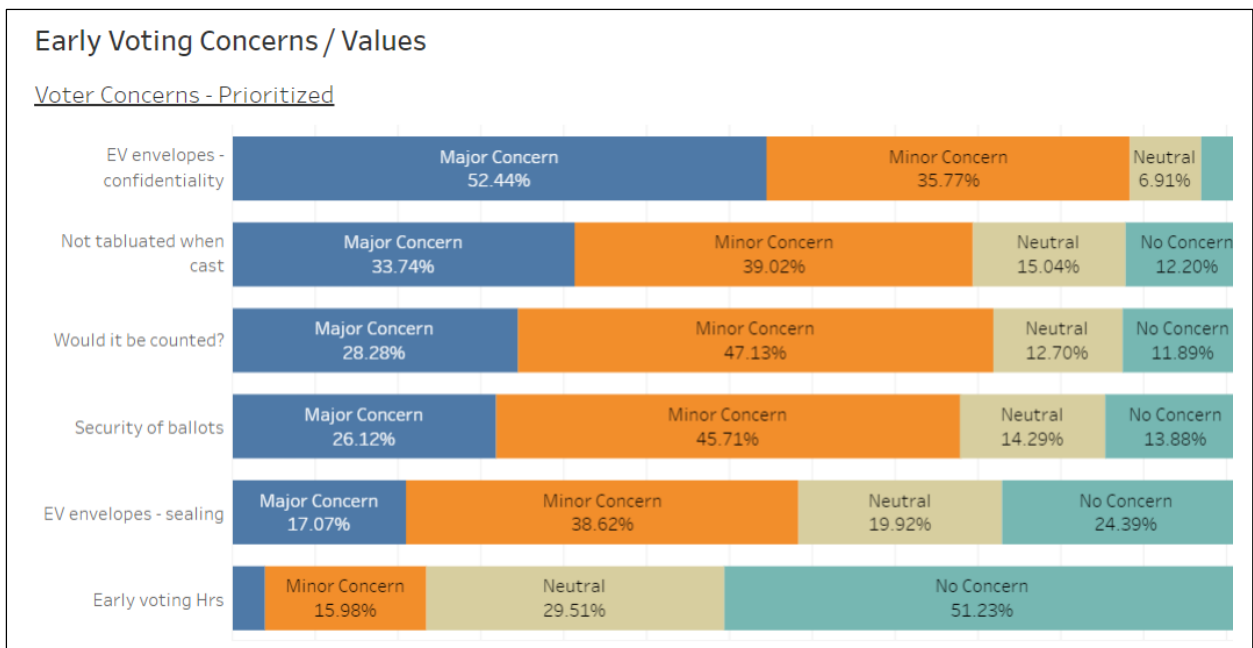
- **Elimination of EV by mail**

- Less than 1% of voters utilized EV by mail
- 96.81% clerks said it did not play an important role
- 82.93 % clerks supported elimination of EV by mail
- 57.2% clerks expressed concerns about confusion of voters requesting EV & AV ballots
- 52.89% clerks expressed concerns about early voting by mail in general
- 24.30% clerks said EV by mail reduced ease of ability to maintain ballot checks & balances
- 41.83% clerks said EV by mail added confusion/issues with record keeping for election Office

- **Removal of envelopes & ability to deposit ballots (without tabulation results) prior to election day**

Looking solely at concerns of voters:

- 52.44% -major concerns about **confidentiality** with EV envelopes (35.77% - minor concern) (88%)
- 72.75% voters had concerns with **ballots not being fed directly into tabulator system** at the EV site
 - 28.28% major / 47.13% minor concern – **will it be counted?** (75%)
 - 26.12% major / 45.71% minor concern – **security of ballots** in the envelopes (72%)
 - 17.07% major / 38.62% minor concern – **how to seal the envelopes** (56%)



Other EV issues that could be reduced with the elimination of envelopes based on Clerks Concerns:

- 44.03% major concern with processing of EV ballots
- 31.54% Clerks listed the #1 thing they would change to have the biggest impact of EV improvements as the ability to deposit the ballot into tabulator at time EV ballot cast
- 39.18% major / 33.06% minor concern – Reconciliation of Daily Cast Ballots (72%)
- 49.6% Clerks recommended more time is needed to process daily EV work in its current state – which would greatly be reduced with elimination of envelopes
- 71.54% believe the election integrity can be maintained with ballots directly inserted into tabulation
- 32.52% clerks reported issues with folded ballots causing frequent issues with tabulators

• **Costs** – Additional work will be done using the Auditors Survey and determinations for this objective

- 54.96 % clerks listed Costs as a major concern
- Operational Costs ranged from \$1,190 (1-5K) to \$6,811 (25-50K) with \$49,146 (over 50K)
- 60.57% said Poll Books would dramatically reduce EV issues
- 51.72% said they wouldn't be able to use poll books due to issues with funding

Overtime required by Clerks (no compensation) for reconciliation during EV:

- 20.88% - 11-20 hours overtime
- 12.05% - 21-30 hours overtime
- 15.26% - 31-40 hours overtime

Overtime required by Staff in Clerks Office (overtime paid) for reconciliation during EV:

- 12.85% - 1-10 hours overtime
- 12.85% - 11-20 hours overtime
- 10.04% - 31-40 hours overtime

Auditors Report categorizes other staff hired as an unfunded mandate but not for the Clerk or Office Staff

• **Time Frame for EV period & hours**

- Highest Turn out periods for EV was last days of EV (38.40%) and Saturday hours (24%)
- 50% reported significant to major impacts to operations for other services to residents by more than 50%
- The following were ranked by most important to least important for what Voters Valued most of EV
 - Convenience
 - Ability to Vote Early
 - Flexibility
 - Ease of voting (location – not needing to know precinct)
 - 11 day period

• **VRIS – updates to streamline process & ability to upload/download from Poll pads**

This Objective will focus on work between MTCA and Secretary's Elections Division

(Michelle and Danielle met on 6/7 and began to write the bullets that will go underneath this objective)

- 56.5% want Poll books to interface with VRIS
- 34.55% reported 26-50% of daily work was for Administration of EV in VRIS
- 25.2% reported 51-75% of daily work was for Administration of EV in VRIS