

State Policies & Procedures: Voting for Emergency Responders

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National Association
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State Policies

- **11** states have passed legislation outlining alternative voting procedures for emergency responders who are called to work.

State	Date of Provision Adoption
Wyoming	1998
New Hampshire	2006
California	2009
Alabama, California, Louisiana, Maine and Oklahoma	2013
Mississippi	2014
New Mexico	2015
New York	2016
Virginia	2020

“In situations like last summer’s (2008) wildfires, firefighters, medics and other responders are sent out with little notice.

AB 1440 ensures these men and women have the same opportunity to participate in their democracy when they drop everything to protect us.”

- Former California Secretary of State Debra Bowen

State Procedures

UOCAVA Procedures

- **Four** states – Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Virginia – extend uniformed and overseas citizen (UOCAVA) voting procedures to emergency responders.

Extended Period for Ballot Request

- **Two** states - New York and Oklahoma - afford the use of different ballots but allow for an extended by mail ballot request period for emergency responders.
- **California** affords different procedures to emergency responders depending on whether they remain in state vs. out of state.

General Authority Given to Secretary of State

- **Alabama** gives the Secretary of State authority to adopt an emergency rule to allow emergency responders to vote by absentee ballot.
- **Three** states - Louisiana, Wyoming, and New Hampshire - give the Secretary of State authority to take actions necessary to enable voting by emergency responders.

Defining Qualifying Voters

- Terminology referring to the covered class of voters varies slightly by state – examples include:
 - emergency services worker (NH)
 - trained or certified emergency response provider (MS)
 - emergency responder (NY)
- **Four** states - California, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and New York – provide explicit definitions of those statutorily covered as emergency responders.

Defining Emergency

	Declared by State's Governor	Declared by Any Other State's Governor	Declared by the President	Unspecified	Other
Alabama	X	X	X		
California	X	X			
Louisiana				X	
Maine	X	X	X		
Mississippi	X	X	X		
New Hampshire	X		X		
New Mexico	X	X	X		
New York	X	X			X
Oklahoma				X	
Virginia					X
Wyoming				X	

Questions?

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