

**Update, 9-27-12: Elimination of the last 3 days of early in-person voting in 2012 could affect about 97,000 voters statewide**

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An estimated 97,000 voters from all parties and in large and small counties across Ohio could be negatively affected by eliminating the 3-day pre-election early in-person (EIP) voting period (per HB224 and Sec. of State Directive 2012-26), an issue that is currently pending appeal in the Federal courts. This updated estimate of 97,000 now includes data from more large and small counties (Table 1) than the previous estimates of about 93,000 voters, and now allows comparison of small and large county data. Since this new more accurate statewide estimate is in the same range as the previous ones, it does not substantially change the impact of eliminating these 3 days. However, the report adds information about the relative use of EIP voting in large and small counties, which may run counter to expectation.

In the 13 “large” counties (defined as those with over 100,000 total votes cast in 2008), a projected 55,429 in-person votes were cast in the last 3 days before election day (Table 2), or 18.3% of all EIP votes cast. In the 75 smaller counties, the projected number of EIP votes in the first 3 days was 41,284, or 20.1% of all votes cast. The combined projection (55,429 + 41,284=96,713) updates earlier projections of 93,000 votes, based on a smaller sample of counties.

**Conclusions:**

- 1. The total number of in-person early voters in 2008 was about 509,000.**
- 2. EIP voting was the same percentage (8.8%) of all votes cast in large and small counties.**
- 3. About 97,000 of all EIP votes were cast in the last 3 days before election day.**
- 4. The number of votes cast in these last 3 days was about the same percentage of EIP votes in large and small counties, but the absolute number of EIP votes cast in these days was larger in the larger counties.**

Comment: The present results indicate that **if the last 3 days of EIP voting were eliminated, about 97,000 voters would lose a preferred voting period in 2012** (They would have to vote earlier in person, by mail or at the polls on election day). Job- or child-care related time conflicts may have led many to vote in the last 3 days rather than on election day, especially if they distrusted the mails or the out-of-sight beaucroatic process of vote-by-mail. Indeed, in several large counties, voters chose to vote in-person even though they had been sent vote-by-mail applications. Also, in the 5 large counties analyzed, a majority or disproportionate number of these early in-person voters were African-American\*\* and in Cuyahoga County, at least, also of lower income than the electorate at large\*\*\*.

\*\*see Table 1 in “Does Ohio have “fair” and sensible rules for early in-person (EIP) voting?” Robbins, N. Available at [www.nova-ohio.org](http://www.nova-ohio.org) under New Research Reports

\*\*\* “Do White, African American, and Hispanic/Latino Early In-Person Voters Differ from Election Day and Vote-by-Mail Voters in Income?” Salling, M. & Robbins, N. 2012. Available soon at [www.nova-ohio.org](http://www.nova-ohio.org) under New Research Reports

**Table 1. In-Person Absentee (early) voting in the 2008 General Election: Data derived from phone calls to and e-mails from Boards of Elections; total votes cast are taken from the Secretary of State website**

Counties with less than 100,000 total votes each				Counties with more than 100,000 total votes			
County	Total votes cast	# of in-person absentee votes	in-person absentee votes as % total vote	County	Total votes cast	# of in-person absentee votes	in-person absentee votes as % total vote
CLERMONT	96,388	6,593	7	CUYAHOGA	672,750	54,325	8
DELAWARE	93,055	6,497	7	FRANKLIN	564,971	53,447	9
GREENE	84,255	8,913	11	HAMILTON	429,267	27,007	6
FAIRFIELD	72,665	4,246	6	SUMMIT	280,841	38,516	14
RICHLAND	61,816	10,009	16	MONTGOMERY	280,746	28,000	10
COLUMBIANA	49,265	1,897	4	LUCAS	221,905	24,557	11
SANDUSKY	31,001	2,631	8	STARK	189,796	8,807	5
ASHLAND	25,470	2,373	9	BUTLER	175,132	15,037	9
UNION	25,227	1,016	4	LORAIN	148,218	?#	?
CRAWFORD	21,448	1849	9	MAHONING	128,914	10,000	8
BROWN	20,476	1,532	7	LAKE	122,793	10,194	8
HIGHLAND	19,495	2,994	15	TRUMBULL	108,441	11,061	10
DEFIANCE	19,232	4,712	25	WARREN	106,951	?#	?
PUTNAM	18,959	1,346	7				
WILLIAMS	18,554	1,386	7				
COSHOCTON	17,193	1,086	6				
JACKSON	14,505	933	6				
HARDIN	13,318	1,438	11				
HOCKING	13,229	1,259	10				
PAULDING	9,908	1,014	10				
<b>Totals of available data</b>	725,459	63,724			3,175,556 <sup>^</sup>	280,951 <sup>^</sup>	
<b>Projection to all counties of this size range</b>	2,343,052	<b>205,813<sup>a</sup></b>			3,430,725	<b>303,527<sup>b</sup></b>	
<b>Average %</b>			<b>8.8</b>				<b>8.8<sup>^</sup></b>

<sup>^</sup>Based on data from all large counties except Lorain and Warren

a. Total votes cast in the 75 “smaller counties” were 2,343,052. Therefore, projected in-person votes from this sample of 20 counties which cast total votes of 725,459 was:  $63,724 \times 2,343,052 / 725,459 = 205,813$

b. Corrected for missing data in Lorain and Warren counties, as follows:  $280,951 \times (\text{Total votes cast in the 13 counties}) / (\text{Total votes cast in the 13 counties minus votes cast in Lorain and Warren counties})$

**Table 2. Votes cast in-person in the last 3 days before election day in 2008, and projection to the entire state**

<b>Counties with less than 100,000 votes cast</b>	<b>Total Votes cast in 2008</b>	<b>Votes cast in last 3 days</b>	<b>Counties with over 100,000 votes cast</b>	<b>Total Votes cast in 2008</b>	<b>Votes cast in last 3 days</b>
CLERMONT	96,388	1,370	CUYAHOGA	672,750	10,938
DELAWARE	93,055	1,286	FRANKLIN	564,971	9,194
GREENE	84,255	1,167	HAMILTON	429,267	3,081
FAIRFIELD	72,665	1,131	SUMMIT	280,841	7,373
RICHLAND	61,816	3001	MONTGOMERY	280,746	7,926
COLUMBIANA	49,265	319	LUCAS	221,905	4,638
ASHLAND	25,470	366	STARK	189,796	1,100
CRAWFORD	21448	344	BUTLER	175,132	469
BROWN	20,476	564	MAHONING	128,914	3,807
HIGHLAND	19,495	449	LAKE	122,793	1,166
DEFIANCE	19,232	442	TRUMBULL	108,441	1,932
PUTNAM	18,959	252	WARREN	106,951	1,410
WILLIAMS	18,554	290	LORAIN	148,218	?
COSHOCTON	17,193	100			53,034
JACKSON	14,505	216			
HARDIN	13,318	320			
HOCKING	13,229	0			
<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>659,323</b>	<b>11,617</b>		<b>3,282,507<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>53,034<sup>^</sup></b>
<b>Projected votes for all counties with less than 100,000 total votes</b>		<b>41,284*</b>	<b>Projected votes for all counties with over 100,000 total votes</b>		<b>55,429<sup>^</sup></b>
<b>3 day projected votes as % all EIP votes cast</b>		<b>20.1%</b>			<b>18.3%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Subtotals not including Lorain. Projection of 55,429 to include missing data from Lorain county, was obtained from  $53,034 \times (3,430,725)/(3,282,507)$

Source: Total votes cast from Secretary of State website. Votes cast in last 3 days obtained from county Boards of Election by telephone interviews and email exchanges.

\*Projected votes” for the 3 days in smaller counties was obtained by multiplying the 11,617 votes in the sample counties by the ratio, (total votes cast in all smaller counties)/(659,323), =41,284.