

Emergency Plan Development

Plan Development Options:

1. **Recommendation Only:** Taskforce recommendation, but no mandate, that OSS and local jurisdictions create an emergency plan.
2. **Legislation with No Specific Requirements:** Legislation requiring the OSS and local officials to create an emergency plan, without any specific requirements for the plans.
3. **Legislation with Specific Plan Requirements:** Legislation requiring that the OSS create a state emergency plan and local officials to create local emergency plans, including specific requirements for what must be addressed in the plans.
4. **Legislation, Specific Requirements, and Presumptive Default Plan:** Legislation requiring that the OSS and local officials to create an emergency plan with specific requirements, but also require the OSS to create a model default plan if a local jurisdiction did not create a plan.

Other Questions:

1. Should the plans be required to be filed with the OSS?
2. Should every local jurisdiction be included, or only the counties? Should the requirements for towns/cities/schools be different?
3. Should the OSS plan be part of an official rulemaking process?
4. What is a reasonable timeline for developing a plan with respect to the 2016 election?

Emergency Election Procedures

Possible Approaches:

1. **No changes to state law.** This would require the state to operate under current election procedures regardless of the emergency.
2. **Taskforce Recommends Specific Legislative Reforms to Be Used Only in Emergency Situations.** Possible options include:
 - a. Postponement of Election Day.
 - b. Extension of absentee ballot acceptance deadlines.
 - c. Allow alternative methods for absentee ballot acceptance (e.g., via fax/email).
 - d. Allow out-of-jurisdiction voting (e.g., state write-in-ballot).
 - e. Allow consolidation of polling locations.
 - f. Allow expansion of voters eligible for UOCAVA voting procedures.
 - g. Allow for the increase in polling place hours.
3. **Taskforce Recommends the Legislature Give the OSS Rulemaking Authority to Create Special Emergency Procedures.** This would allow the OSS to use the rulemaking process to create special emergency-only procedures for voting and election administration.

Other Questions:

1. Who decides when an emergency occurs that triggers use of the special emergency election procedures?
 - a. Governor
 - b. Secretary of State
 - c. Counties
 - d. Municipalities
2. Once an emergency is declared, who decides what emergency procedures are appropriate for the situation? (i.e., does someone decide what procedures can be used)
 - a. Governor
 - b. Secretary of State
 - c. Secretary of State with mandatory consultation with Counties
 - d. Counties
 - e. Municipalities
3. How do we ensure that voters across the state are being treated equally?