What Legislators Need to Know About Pre-Election Day Voting

- 36 states and the District of Columbia have some form of pre-Election Day voting: early in-person voting, no-excuse absentee voting or all-mail voting.
- Early voting may begin 3 to 45 days before an election. The average starting time for early voting is 22 days before the election and the average duration of early voting is 19 days.
- Studies show that providing pre-Election Day opportunities does not necessarily increase turnout, but does make voting more convenient for voters and sometimes for election administrators too.

Resources for Pre-Election Day Voting

- NCSL’s webpage on Absentee and Early Voting http://goo.gl/XfWFUF
- NCSL’s webpage on All-Mail Elections http://goo.gl/zcnphp
- NCSL’s article in its elections newsletter, The Canvass, “Pre-Election Day Voting: Just the FAQs, Ma’am” http://goo.gl/hfuENh
- The Early Voting Information Center (EVIC) based at Reed College http://earlyvoting.net/

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