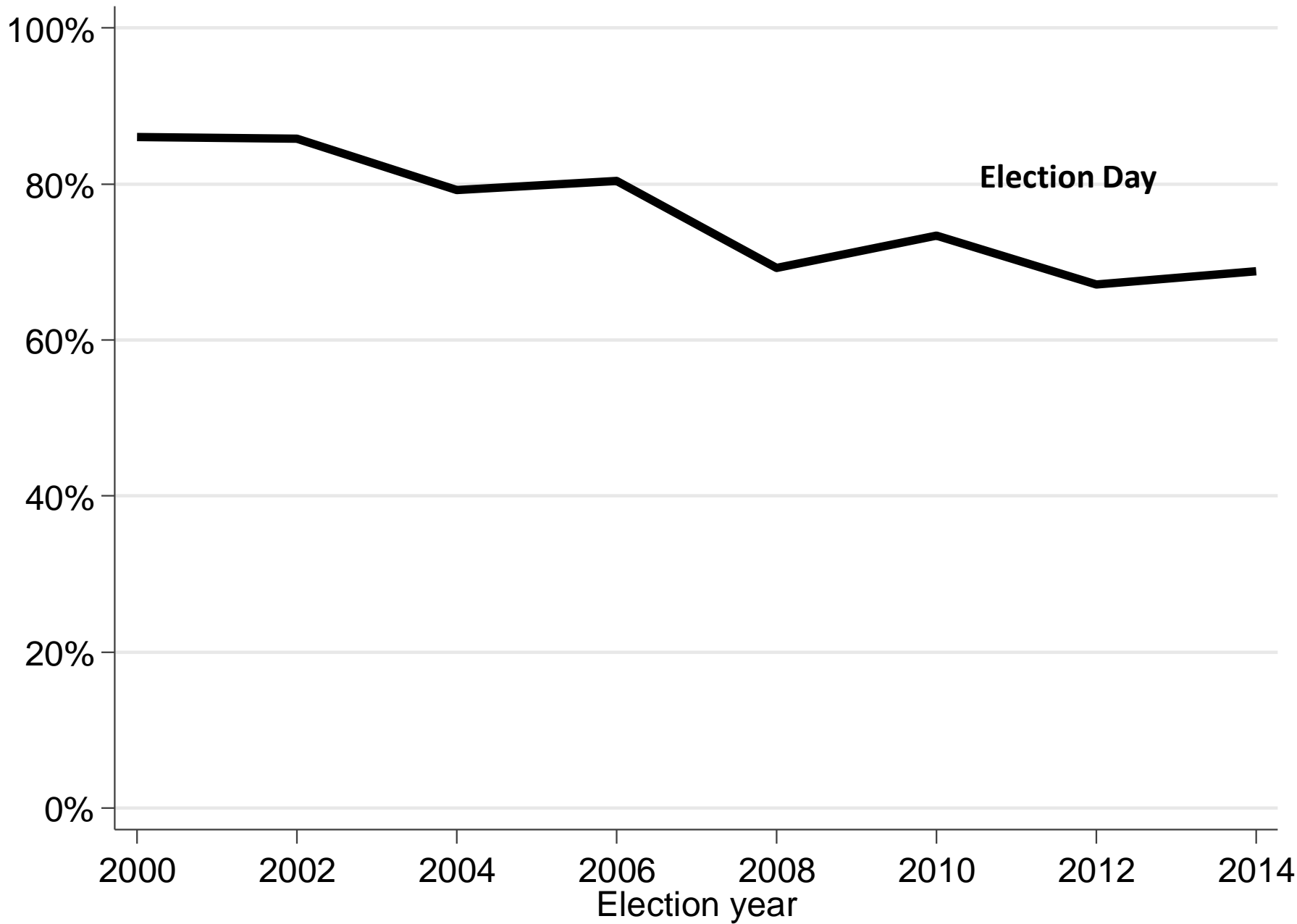


# Early Voting, Absentee Voting, and Voting by Mail

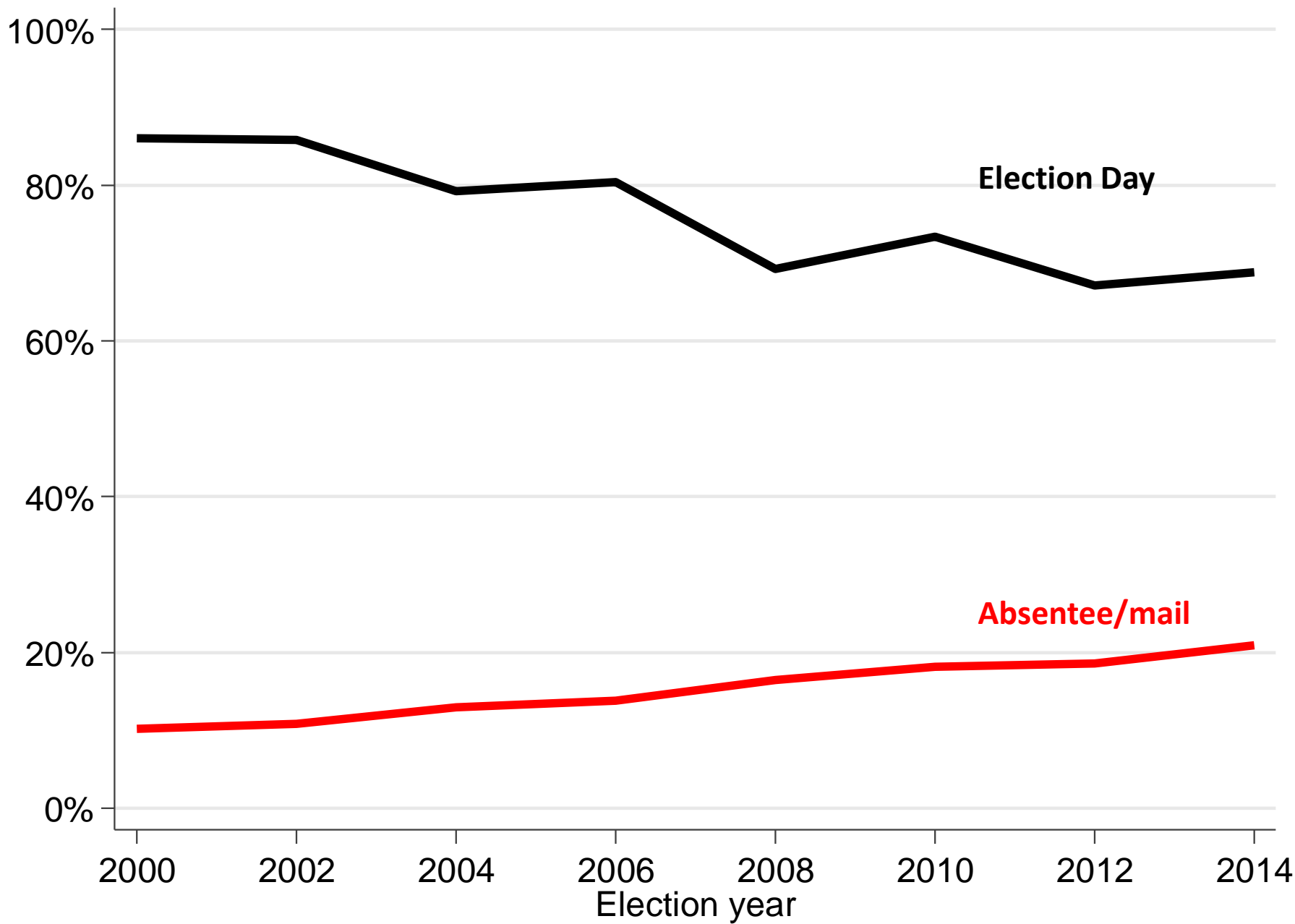
Is Giving Voters More Options a Good Idea?

Charles Stewart III

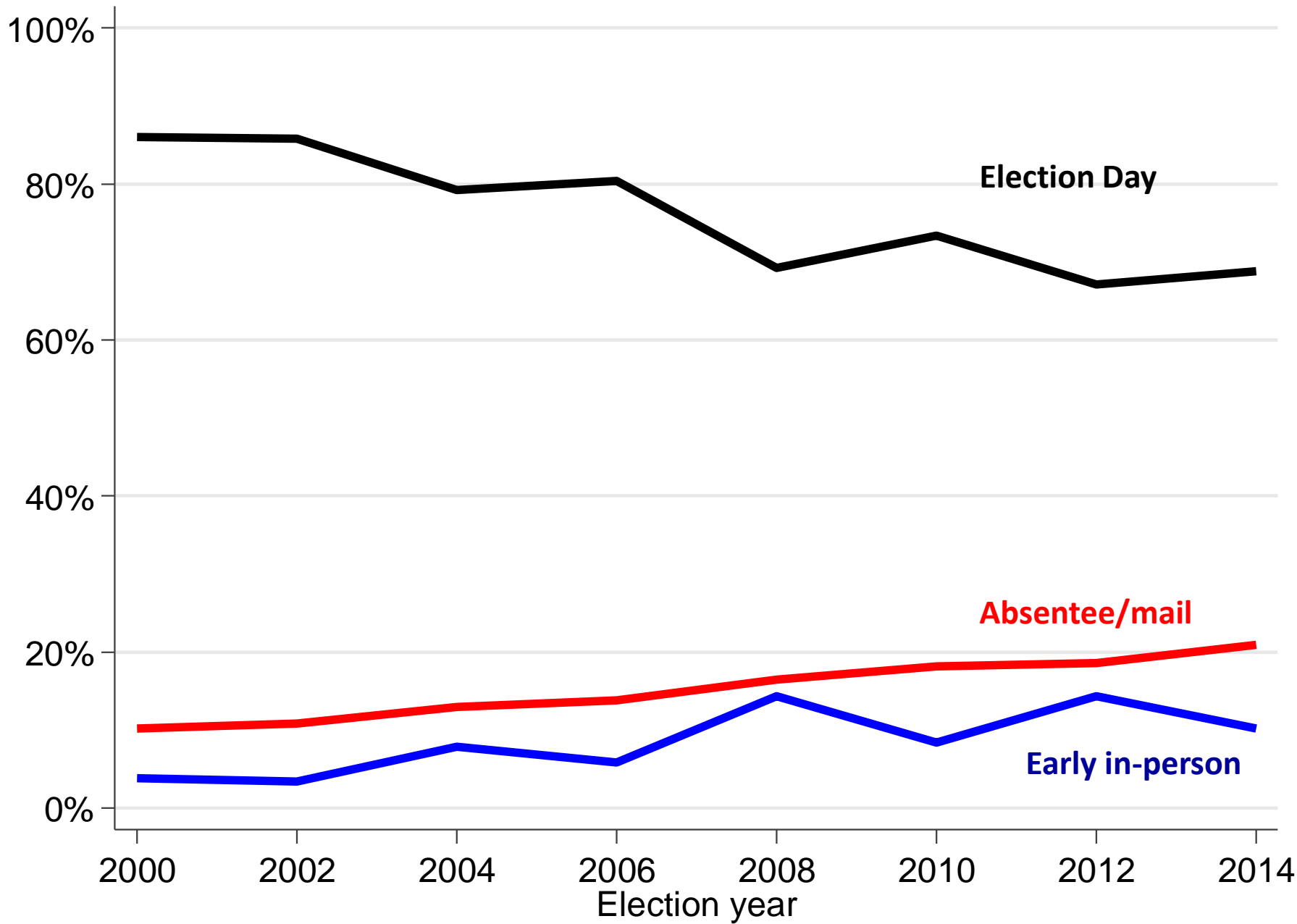
MIT



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, various years



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, various years



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, various years

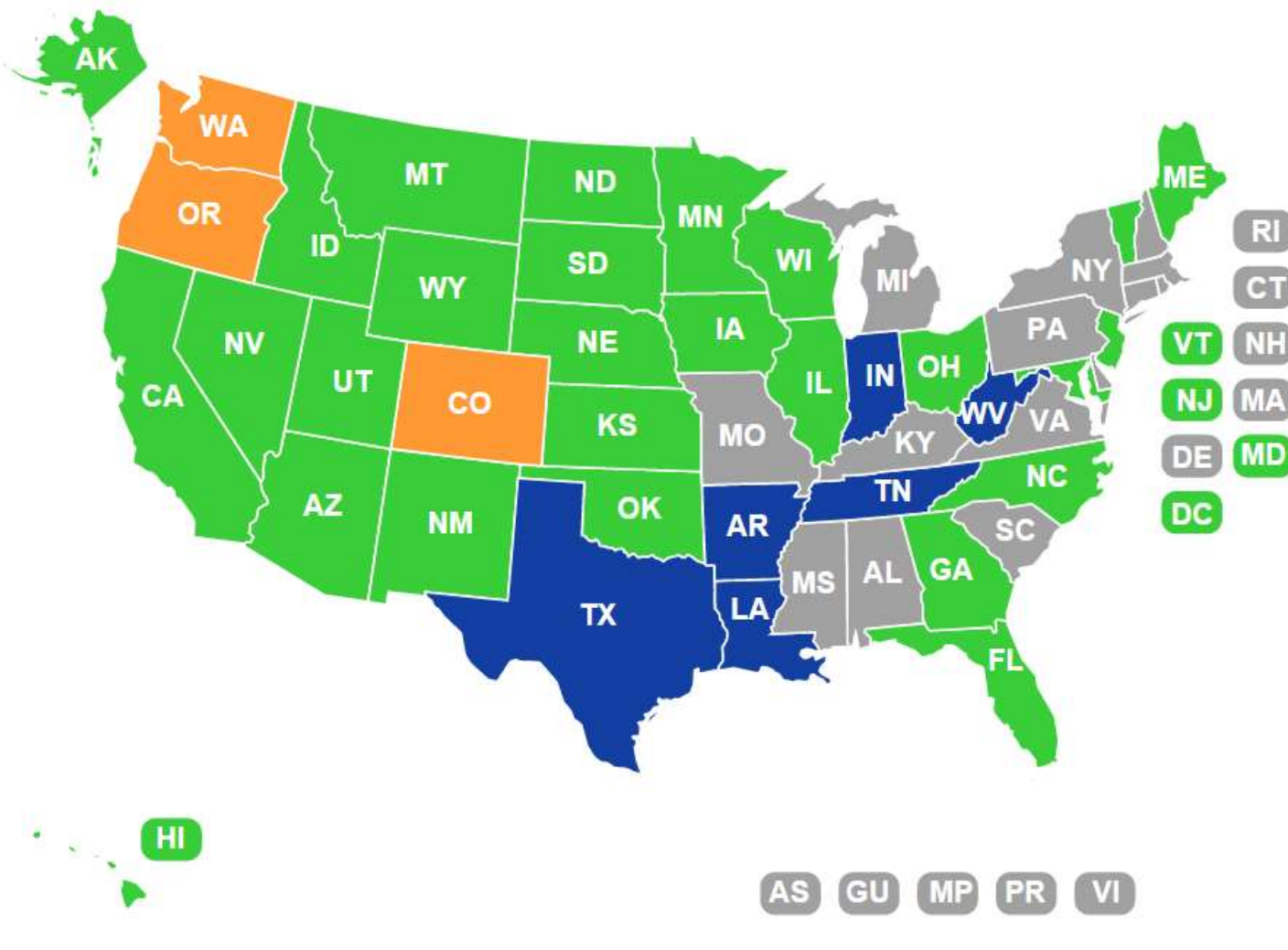
# Flavors of Pre-Election Day Voting

- Traditional classifications
  - Absentee voting
    - Excuse required
    - No-excuse
      - Permanent
  - Early voting
    - How many sites?
    - How many days?

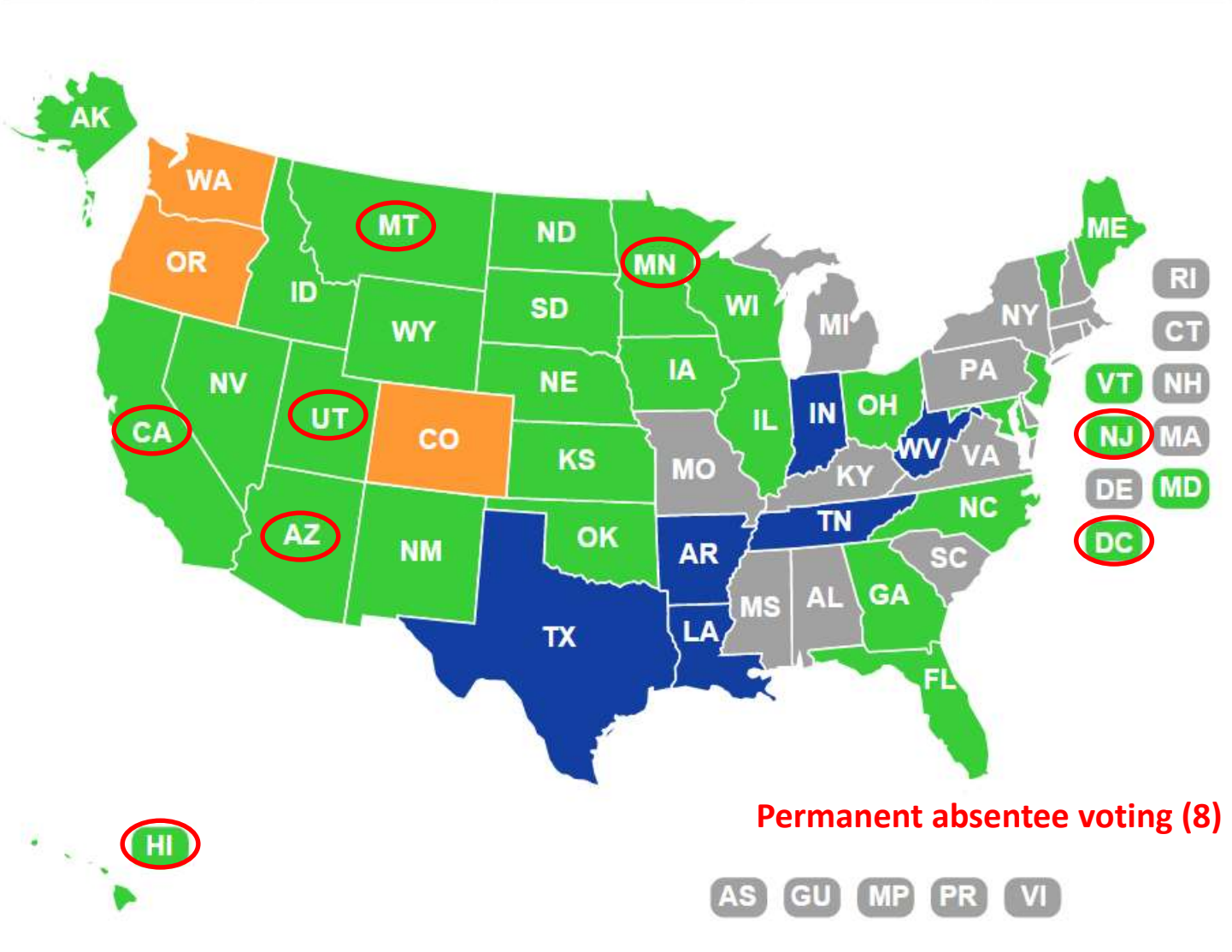
# Flavors of Pre-Election Day Voting

- Traditional classifications
  - Absentee voting
    - Excuse required
    - No-excuse
      - Permanent
  - Early voting
    - How many sites?
    - How many days?
- New complications
  - Vote-by-mail
  - Early voting by other means
  - Vote centers

	6	28	3	14
No-excuse absentee voting	Early voting	Early voting AND no-excuse absentee voting	All-mail voting	No early voting: excuse required for absentee



	6	28	3	14
No-excuse absentee voting	Early voting	Early voting AND no-excuse absentee voting	All-mail voting	No early voting: excuse required for absentee

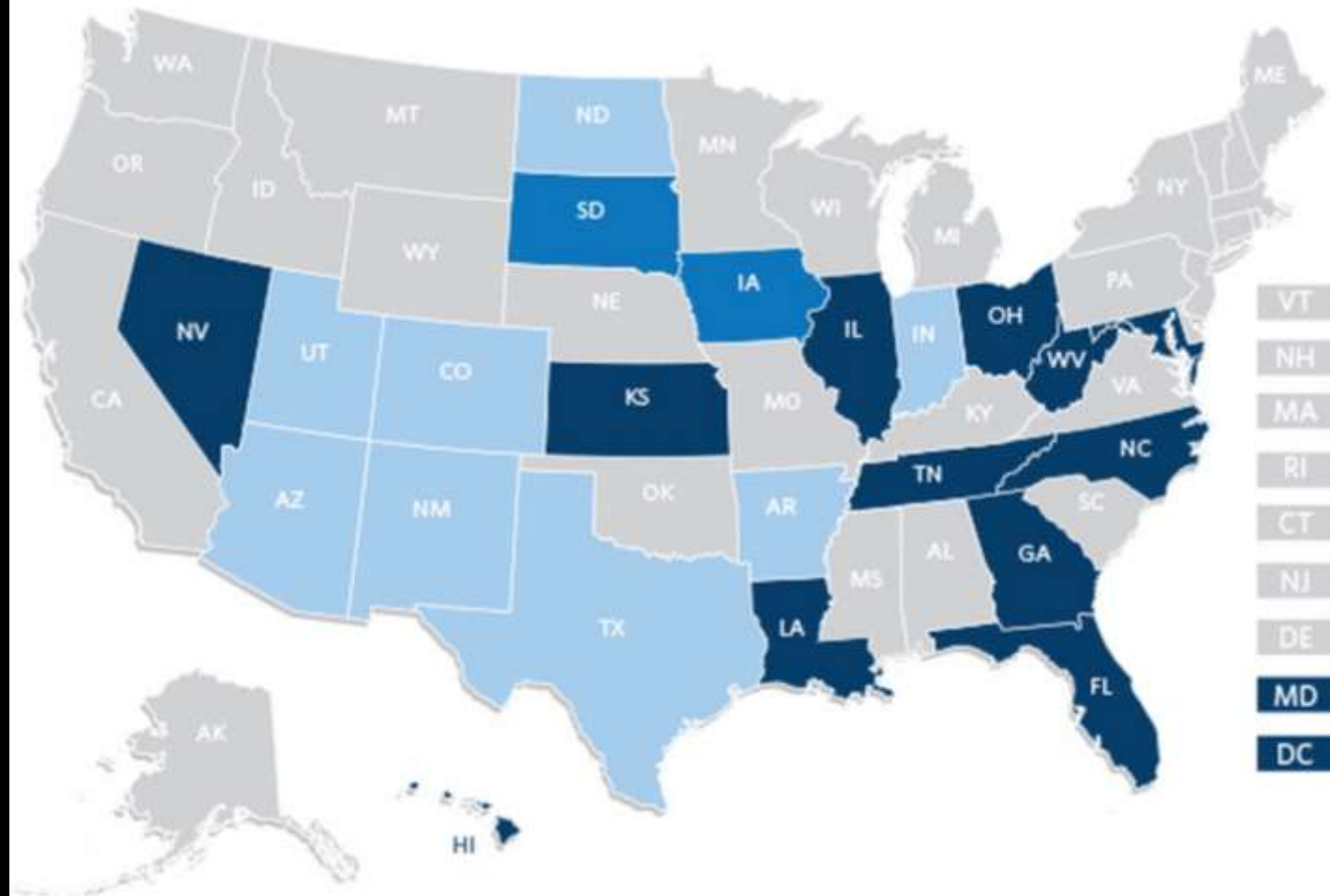


**Permanent absentee voting (8)**

Source: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx>

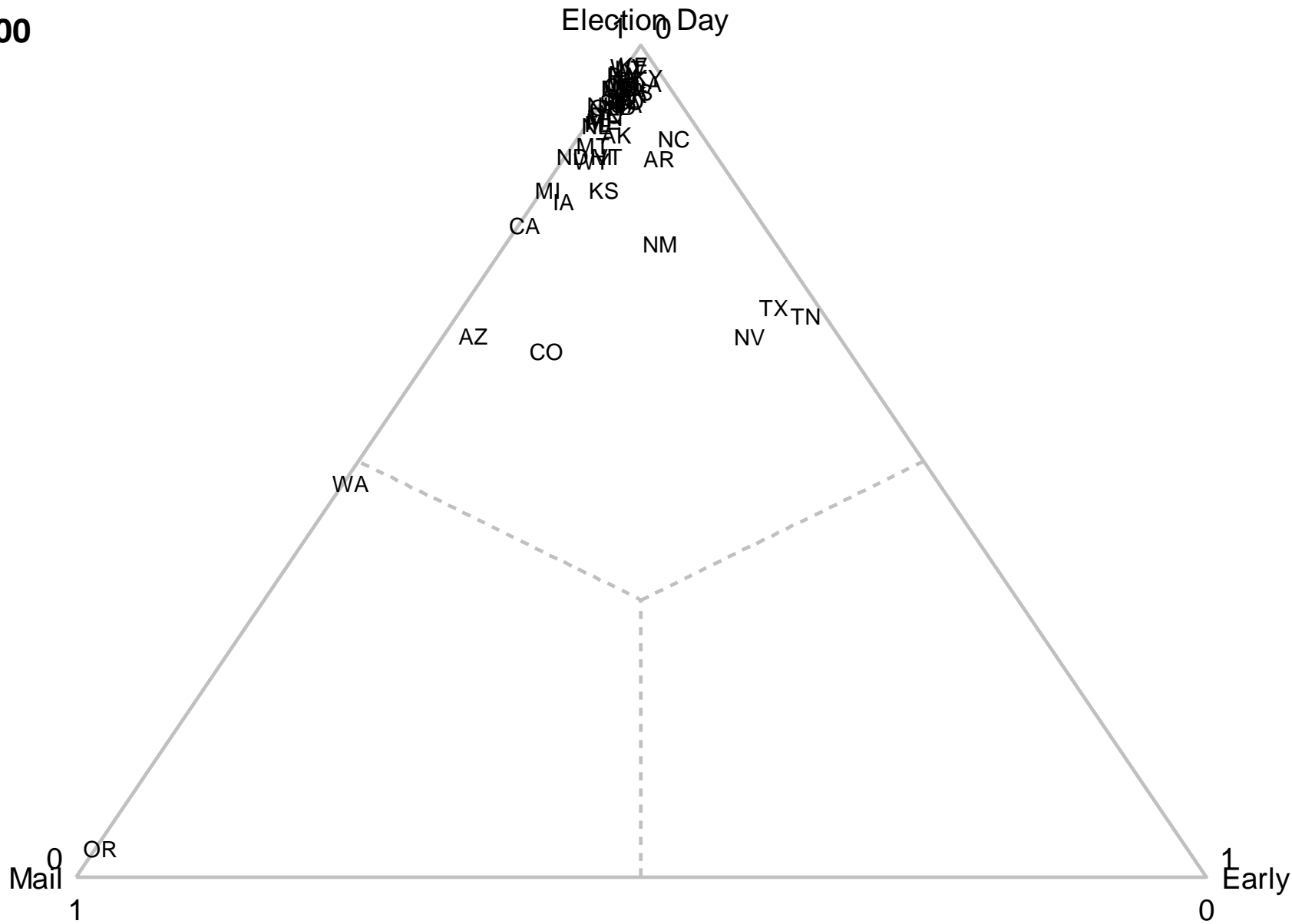


# States Using Vote Centers in 2014



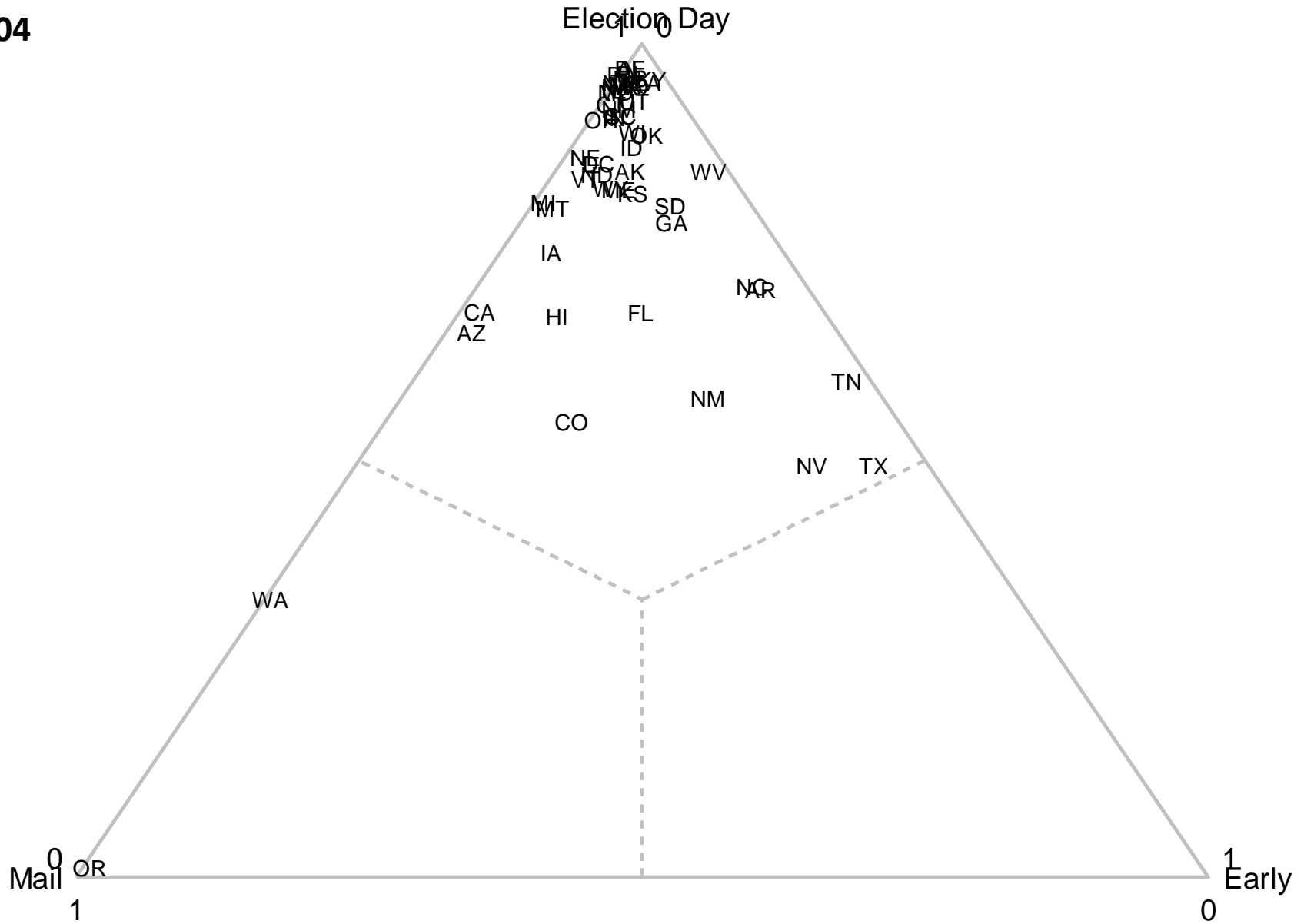
- States with jurisdictions using vote centers only for **Election Day**
- States with jurisdictions using vote centers only for **early voting**
- States with jurisdictions using vote centers for **early and Election Day** voting

2000



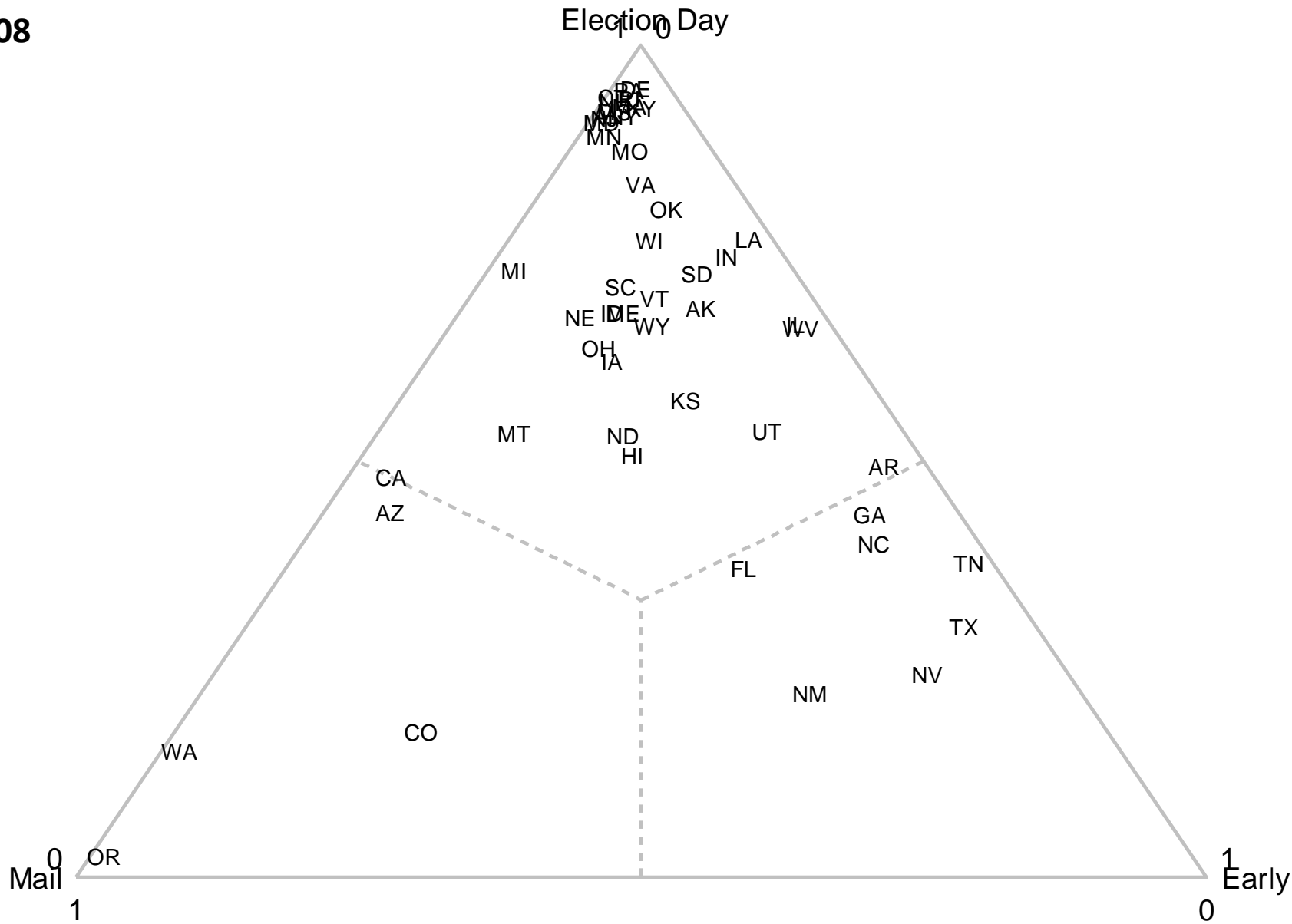
Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

2004



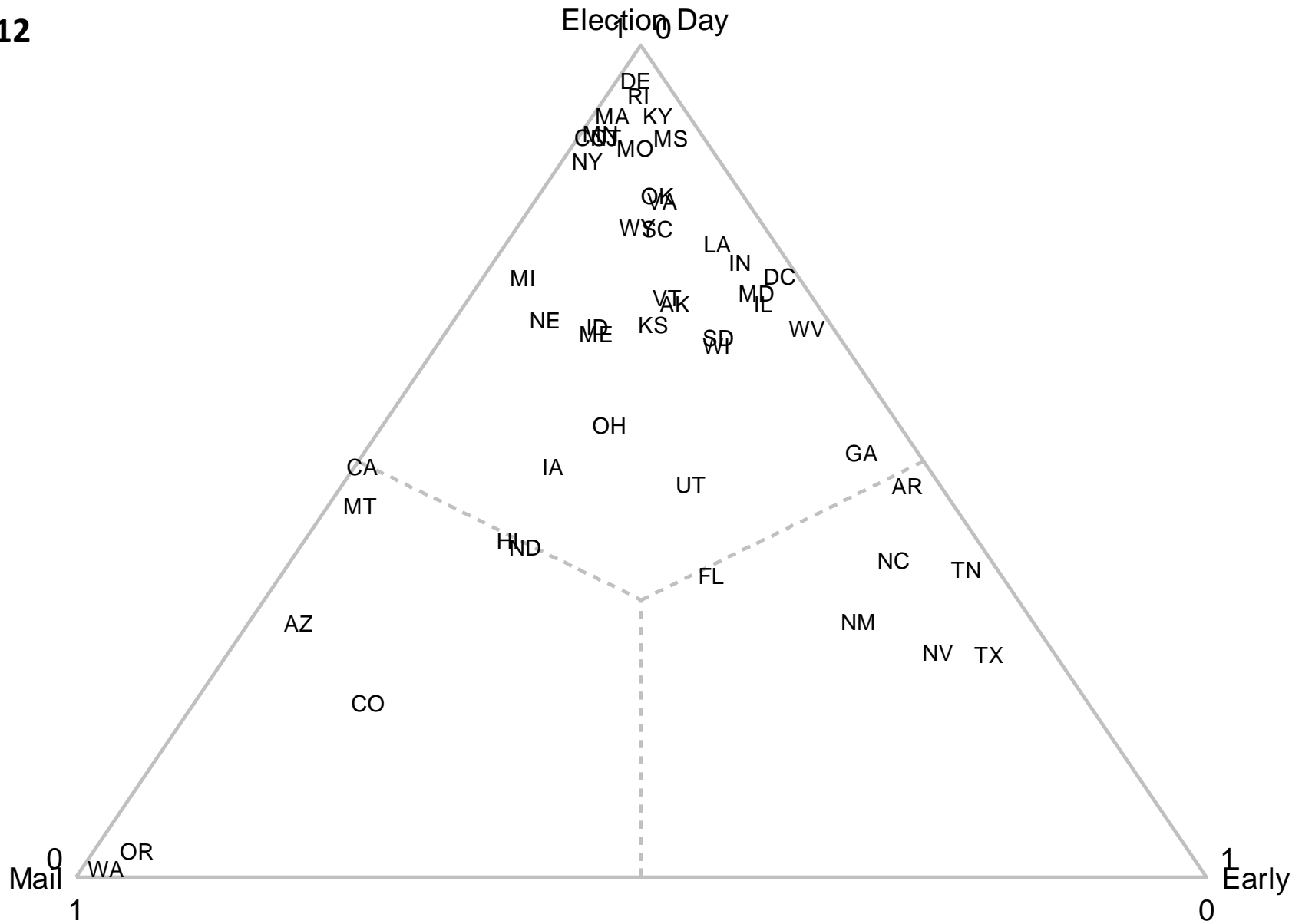
Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

2008



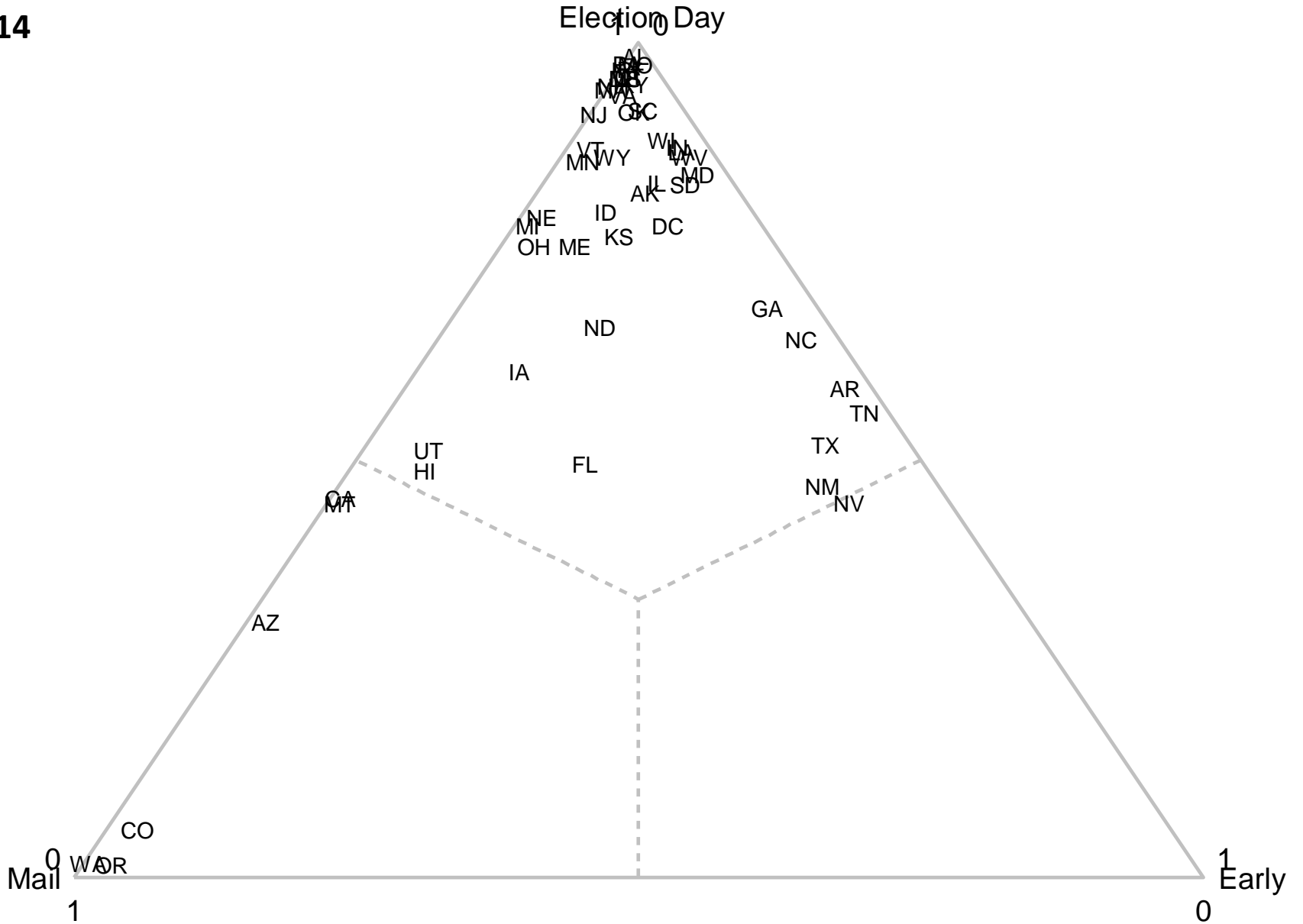
Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

2012



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

2014



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

# Who Uses Early and Absentee Voting?

# Who Uses Early and Absentee Voting? Party

	Election Day	Early In-Person	Absentee
Democrat	49.6%	26.5%	23.8%
Republican	53.1%	23.8%	23.1%
Independent	52.8%	23.2%	24.0%

Note: Excludes “traditional” states and all-mail states

Source: Cooperative Congressional Election Study, 2012



# Who Uses Early and Absentee Voting? Interest in News/Public Affairs

	Election Day	Early In-Person	Absentee
Most of the time	49.2%	27.0%	23.7%
Some of the time	55.0%	22.3%	22.8%
Only now and then	57.9%	18.7%	23.4%
Hardly at all	58.9%	16.1%	25.1%

Note: Excludes “traditional” states and all-mail states

Source: Cooperative Congressional Election Study, 2012

# Who Uses Early and Absentee Voting?

## Race

	Election Day	Early In-Person	Absentee
White	53.4%	23.1%	23.5%
Black	46.8%	37.8%	15.4%
Hispanic	47.4%	24.1%	28.5%
All other	51.7%	20.0%	28.4%

Note: Excludes “traditional” states and all-mail states

Source: Cooperative Congressional Election Study, 2012

# Policy Considerations

- Convenience
  - Societal expectations
- Security
- Costs
- Quality election administration
- Equity

# Some Resources

- NCSL (Google “NCSL Early Voting”)
- Early Voting Information Center (EVIC) @ Reed College: [earlyvoting.net](http://earlyvoting.net)
- E-mail me: [cstewart@mit.edu](mailto:cstewart@mit.edu)