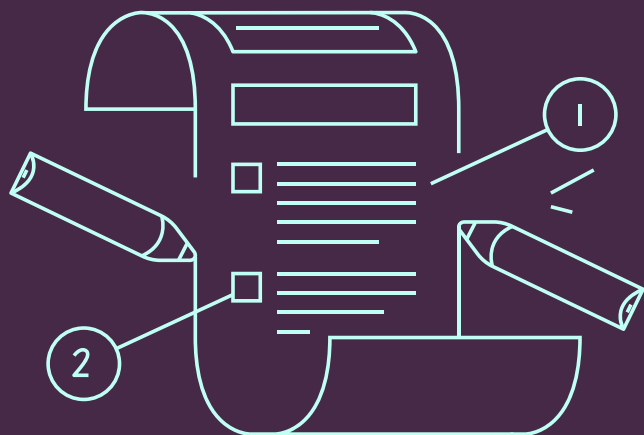


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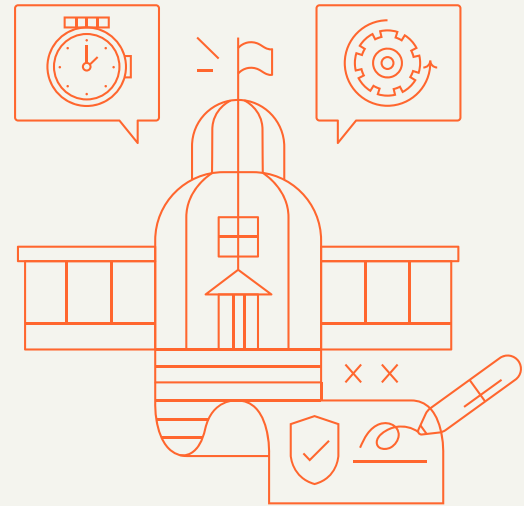
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EDITION



# Election Policy Progress Reports

A 50-state review of how each state has fared at making their election laws more responsive and user-friendly for voters and election administrators over the past year.



## INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

# We're on a mission to make government more efficient, accessible, and responsive to the needs of people.

To do that, we believe in crafting practical state-level policy solutions tailored to the needs of each state's communities that are built upon their existing systems. That requires taking into consideration each state's distinctive landscape, both its existing laws, as well as its political makeup, to come up with state-specific solutions.

One of our key focus areas is state election laws — and for good reason. State election laws impact the everyday lives of eligible voters across the nation, and it's imperative for all states to prioritize legislation that will promote accessibility and security for our elections in order to create a more responsive government. Based on this priority and our philosophy on how to achieve and measure progress, we're releasing our **Election Policy Progress Reports**, a 50-state review of how each state has fared at making their election laws more responsive and user-friendly for voters and election administrators over the past year.

**This is not a total state-to-state comparison of election laws. There are other organizations out there that already do those kinds of ranking scorecards, and do it very well:**

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### **Movement Advancement Project: Democracy Maps**

The Democracy Maps is produced by the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), an independent, nonprofit think tank. The Democracy Maps “track state election laws and policies and create a detailed roadmap of how states can optimize civic engagement and protect the security, integrity and independence of our elections. A state’s “Democracy Tally” counts the number of laws and policies within the state that help create a healthy election system.”

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### **MIT Election Data & Science Lab: Elections Performance Index**

The Elections Performance Index (EPI) is produced by “the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, which is dedicated to the nonpartisan application of scientific principles to election research and administration.” The EPI “compares election administration policy and performance across the states and from one election cycle to the next.”

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### **Cost of Voting in the American States: 2022**

The Cost of Voting Index (COVI) “examines election laws and policies and calculates a single measure of the relative difficulty of voting for each state. States with smaller values make voting more accessible than states with larger values. The 2022 index “updates work that established the relative ‘cost of voting’ during presidential election cycles, in each of the 50 states, from 1996 to 2020. A 2022 iteration was undertaken due to “the spate of changes in 2021, and early 2022.”

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### **CLC: State Scorecards 2022 Grades for Vote-by-Mail and Early Voting Opportunities**

The State Scorecards are produced by the Campaign Legal Center (CLC) which works to “advanc[e] democracy through the law at the federal, state and local levels.” These scorecards grade each of the “states on their vote by mail and early voting laws as of August 1, 2022.”

We’re taking a different approach, but we’re also including their scores in our report to help show you how our state tiering compares. Most importantly, we’ll paint a legislatively-backed picture in our analysis to explain the why behind our differences with these scores.

### **HERE’S HOW WE’RE DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY**

We consulted with our in-house experts, fellows, and advisory board to come up with something new in our annual **Election Policy Progress Reports**. These state-specific progress reports evaluate each state’s progress against its peer states rather than compared against every single state. A state’s grade is based on its own unique existing election law landscape and, primarily, any legislative improvements it made or any setbacks it experienced in expanding voter access and improving election administration over the past year.

# Our Grading Philosophy

Members of the Institute for Responsive Government's advisory board, fellows, and staff reviewed state legislative actions, along with relevant executive and administrative actions, to assess the changes made to the election code by states since the beginning of 2023.

## IN ASSIGNING A GRADE TO A STATE, OUR TEAM CONSIDERED A FEW CORE QUESTIONS:

01

How did the Legislature perform in advancing election reforms and in combating anti-voter efforts?

02

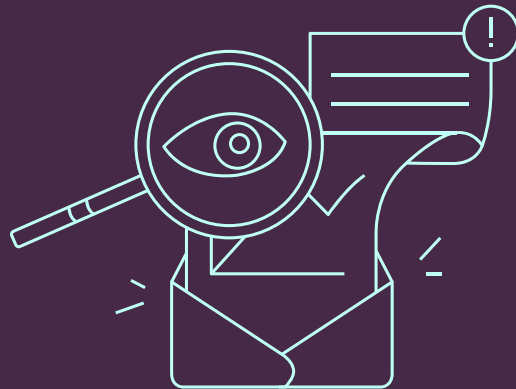
Were the changes to the election code consequential for impacting eligible voters' abilities to participate in elections?

03

Did the state exceed, meet, or fail to meet expectations in bettering their election practices for eligible voters by passing, altering, or implementing election laws?

04

Did the state change tiers from previous scorecards?



Ultimately, this is a measure of state legislative action, or lack thereof, and their work to expand and/or protect the right to vote. The grades are not intended to reflect an overall scoring of a state's election law landscape. Moreover, the grades are not a review of the actual administration of elections. There are many excellent election administrators out there, at both the state and local levels, doing the incredibly hard work of making sure our elections run smoothly and efficiently within the context of their state's laws.

# Methodology

We graded each state based on legislative actions. However, relevant executive and administrative actions were also considered. Although the progress reports are focused around legislation, Responsive Government did not consider every single piece of election-law-related legislation that was passed by any given state. For the most part, bills that were merely “introduced” or passed through a single legislative committee, bills that made very minor changes, and bills that made technical corrections were not considered.

**However, there are a few exceptions to the general rule. For example:**

If a state passed very few or no election laws in a year, we may have considered minor election law changes that state made. For example, while legislation lowering the eligibility age for poll workers from 18 to 16 is a positive change, it’s not a particularly noteworthy policy adjustment, but it’s worth considering if it was the only change a state made to its election laws that year.

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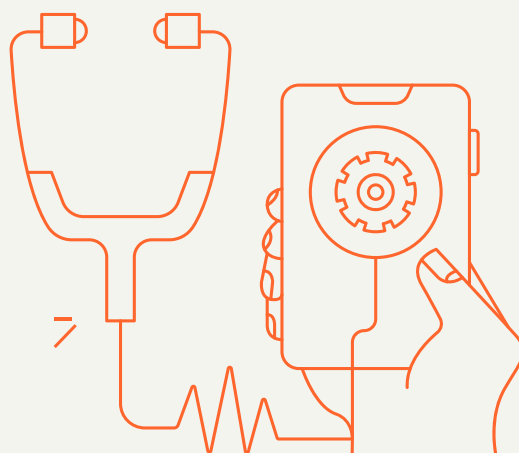
If a state passed a significant reform or omnibus pieces of legislation, we considered the legislation from start to finish. For example, if a largely anti-voter bill was slowly improved over the course of the legislative process, we factored those changes into our measurement of that state’s progress. Conversely, if what initially appeared to be a significant pro-voter piece of legislation was ultimately amended into a less substantial bill before passage, we factored that into our grading.

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If a state failed to pass a significant piece of election law legislation, we may have considered the legislation, despite the fact that it failed to move very far through the process.

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Finally, because each state is graded based on its own unique election law landscape, this means that similar legislation passed in multiple states will be evaluated differently and may be considered more positively or negatively within each of those states’ independent progress reports.



# How Does This Work In Practice?

We began by reviewing each state's existing election law landscape and placing them into one of three tiers: top, bottom, and middle states.

These tiers were based on the voting landscape in 2022 and strongly based off of the Cost of Voting Index scores for that year. In some cases, states have changed tiers based on new rankings from the Cost of Voting Index. Top tier states already have a robust set of pro-voter policies. Bottom tier states have strong voting restrictions and anti-voter policies in place. Middle tier states have a mix of both. Within those tiers, each state was then evaluated individually based on legislative actions taken over the last two years. We also considered the state's actions within the context of whether it moved up or down a tier from last year's scorecard.

**Within the top tier, when reviewing the legislation that was passed, it is considered against the backdrop of all the substantial positive laws the state has already implemented in this area.**

So a state like Oregon, received an "A" for continuing to innovate and pass new pro-voter policies, like extending automatic voter registration to the Oregon Health Authority. However, another top tier state with robust pro-voter policies, California, received a "C" because while it did pass pro-voter policies, it also failed to fix its flawed automatic voter registration system or join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

**Conversely, in a bottom tier state, legislation was considered against the backdrop of the existing host of anti-voter policies the state has already implemented.**

So a state like South Carolina, received a "B" for holding the line on policy changes and providing additional funding to local election offices. And a state like South Dakota, received an "F" for banning drop boxes and instituting a strict 30-day residency requirement, among other things.

**With middle tier states that already had a nuanced mix of pro and anti-voter policies in place, consideration was given to whether a state moved more towards pro-voter policies or in the anti-voter direction.**

For example, North Carolina received an "F" because its legislature curtailed voter access and stripped the power over election boards from the governor to give it to themselves. And Michigan, Minnesota, and New Mexico all received an "A+", our highest grade possible, for instituting a host of pro-voter policies, including establishing a secure automatic voter registration system.

\*Within the scorecards we use the acronyms "SAVR" and "PAVR" to refer to a state's particular type of automatic voter registration. For more explanation on those terms, see: ["Why We Use Terms Like 'Partial AVR' \(PAVR\) and 'Secure AVR' \(SAVR\) When Talking About Automatic Voter Registration Systems."](#)

\*Responsive Government does not track election law changes related to campaigns, campaign finance, or redistricting.

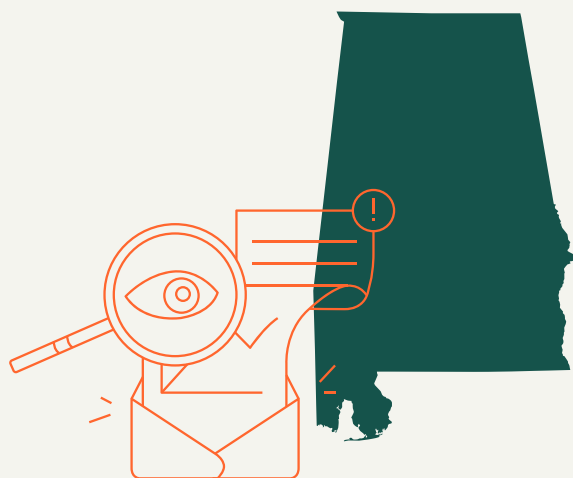
## Election Policy Progress Report

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Election Policy Progress Report

# Alabama



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Alabama Legislature made one small change to increase poll worker pay in the state, and it refrained from enacting any new anti-voter restrictions this past year. However, the state also suffered a major setback in election security as Secretary Allen removed the state from ERIC last year. Therefore, Alabama received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Alabama Started At The Beginning Of 2023:

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:

**Some Permanent Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:

**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Alabama as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

**45<sup>th</sup>**

COVI (2022)

**41<sup>st</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**2/10**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Low**

MAP Democracy Policy  
Tally (2022)



2023

## This Past Year

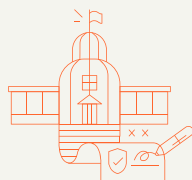


### Legislative Action

The Alabama Legislature avoided enacting additional anti-voter policies and even managed to implement legislation to increase election worker pay.



**H 435** raises the minimum daily pay for election clerks and inspectors.



### Executive Action



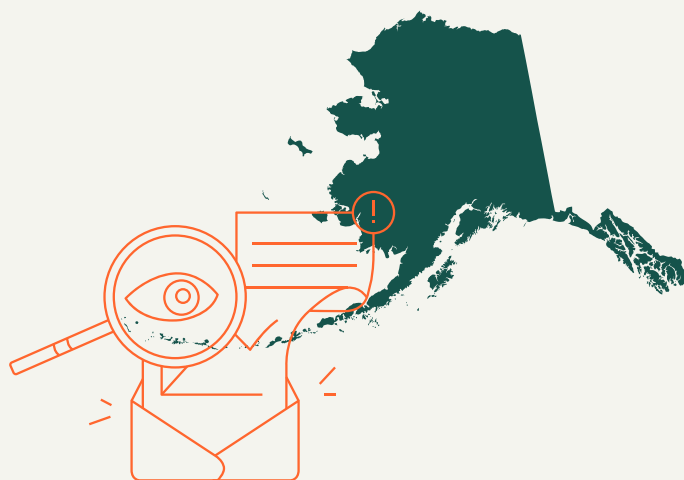
Last year, Secretary of State Allen followed through on his plans to leave ERIC and announced the state had withdrawn from the organization on his first day in office.



Secretary of State Allen also discontinued the state's "Vote for Alabama" mobile voter app that allowed qualified individuals to register to vote and find out information about their local polling place. The app was launched in 2016 by Allen's predecessor as a way to make it easier for eligible Alabamians to register to vote.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Alaska



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Yet again, the Alaska State Legislature did not make any substantial changes to its election laws this past session. Due to the lack of movement on pro-voter policies, Alaska received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Alaska Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**  
(Presidential Race Only)

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee/Regular Ballot  
Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Alaska as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states. Last year, Alaska was considered a bottom tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

**16<sup>th</sup>**

COVI (2022)

**14<sup>th</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**7/10**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Medium**

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

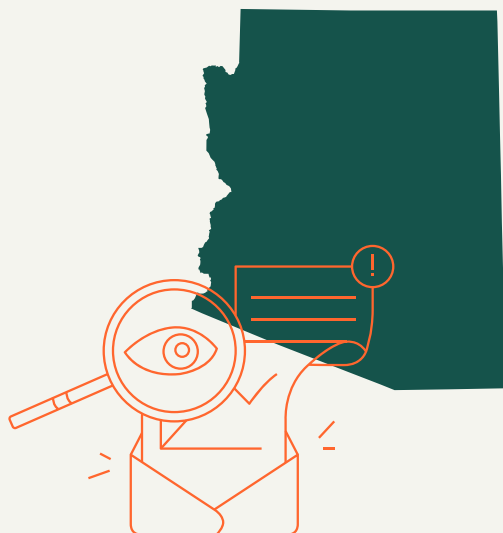
The Alaska Legislature passed only one election-related bill during the 2023 session.



**S 119** requires the Division of Elections to enter into an agreement with the Department of Corrections to verify voter registration data. The bill also requires the Department of Corrections to ensure all returning citizens have a state ID when they are discharged from incarceration or issue them a free ID if they do not have one.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Arizona



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past year, the legislative session remained rife with claims of voter fraud and unsubstantiated election conspiracies, which fueled a host of anti-voter legislation. However, as in past years, the governor was able to successfully veto several of these anti-voter bills that managed to pass the Legislature. Because of the governor's ability to block the majority of bad bills this year, yet still recognizing the significant threat posed by the Legislature's anti-voter actions, Arizona received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Arizona Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Non-Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Arizona as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

26<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

16<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

Once again, the Legislature introduced a substantial number of anti-voter bills during the session. And yet again, most of these bills barely moved past the introduction stage. The Legislature was able to pass important legislation to help protect election officials from harassment.



**SCR 1037**, although not binding on the state, notes that it is the Legislature's position that all election equipment used in Arizona elections must be completely manufactured in the United States, the source code for vote machines should be available to the public, and all ballot images should be publicly posted to the secretary of state's website within 24 hours after the polls close.



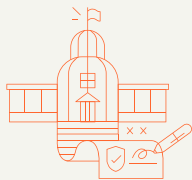
**SB 1061** allows elected officials to make their personal information confidential. This bill also makes release of election officials personal information a crime, expanding existing criminal statutes on release of confidential personal information.



**SB 1273** creates specific requirements for the ballot return assistance language that must be included on absentee ballot envelopes.

2023

# This Past Year



## Executive Action



Governor Hobbs vetoed almost two dozen anti-voter bills this past session that pandered to conspiracy theorists and would have undermined election security in the state. Some of the unnecessary restrictions included:

- **S 1135** would have required the state to withdraw from ERIC, the multistate member organization that helps keep the voter rolls up-to-date.
- **S 1074** would have effectively banned the use of ballot tabulators in the state by establishing strict security requirements that no existing tabulators could meet.
- **H 2415** would have removed voters from the active early voting list for failing to vote in a single general election cycle.
- **H 2560** would have made voter data public, including their name, address, birth year, precinct number, and whether or not they voted in the most recent election.
- **S 1213** would have allowed the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to have final approval over the elections procedure manual in addition to the existing approval requirements for the governor and attorney general.

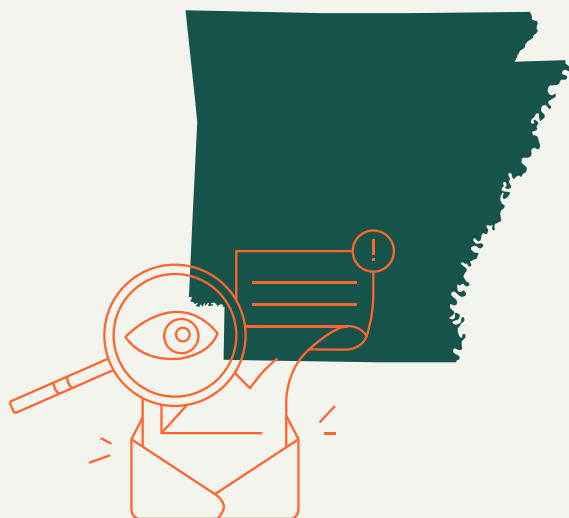


In the fall of 2023, Governor Hobbs issued three executive orders aimed at increasing voter access. She also earmarked \$2.3 million of covid relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund proposals recommended by the Bipartisan Election Task Force.

- **Order 2023-25** expands the number of state agencies that must link to the state's online voter registration site, provide paper registration forms, and evaluate ways to increase access to voter registration, among other things.
- **Orders 2023-24 and 2023-25** reinstitute orders that were first issued by Governor Ducey during the 2020 election. The orders allow state workers to take paid leave to work at the polls during a statewide election and authorize the use of state buildings as polling places and ballot drop off sites.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Arkansas



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Arkansas Legislature continued to impose additional restrictions on voting rights this past year. It banned drop boxes and further restricted the process to return mail ballots. It also expanded the existing private funding ban for elections, without providing any additional resources to local election offices. While there were a few minor pro-voter initiatives passed, Arkansas continues to implement legislation that is hostile to voters. Therefore, the state received, yet again, a D- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Arkansas Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Parole and/or  
Probation Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Non-Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Arkansas as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

48<sup>nd</sup>

COVI (2022)

50<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature enacted several new restrictive anti-voter laws this past session while making only minimal pro-voter changes.



**H 1325** standardizes early voting hours across all available sites in a county by requiring all early voting sites to be open the same hours that the main early voting site is open.



**S 255** expands the state's existing ban on the use of private funds for election administration from county boards of election commissioners to include all state or county employees or officials.



**S 258** explicitly prohibits the use of drop boxes and requires all mail ballots not returned by mail to be "hand-delivered inside the office of the county clerk."



**H 1513** establishes an "Election Integrity Unit" within the office of the attorney general with the authority to investigate election crimes and election security issues.



**H 1407** proposes several amendments to the state constitution requiring the secretary of state to maintain the statewide voter registration list and completing specific list maintenance activities that includes coming up with a system to verify citizenship status for new registrants; clarifying that only U.S. citizens may register and all non-citizen registrations must be canceled and adding trade school IDs to the list of acceptable voter IDs. It also includes a statutory change to require the State Election Board to conduct annual audits of the voter registration list.



**H 1411** makes it a crime for county clerk/election officials to distribute unsolicited mail ballot applications and ballots to voters. It also requires any voter assistants to include their name/address/signature on the voter's mail ballot application and requires anyone picking up an absentee ballot for another voter to show photo ID upon pickup.



**H 1461** requires state and county election officials to submit any new federal election guidance they receive to the state within two days. The secretary of state will then compile all guidance into a yearly report to the Legislature.



**H 1457** establishes a "Poll Watcher Bill of Rights" that lays out the qualifications for serving as a poll watcher, requires counties to establish a broad range of designated observation areas from which watchers must be allowed to observe ballots and tasks the State Board of Election Commissioners with establishing a training program for poll watchers, among other things.



**S 273** changes the deadlines for moving vote center locations before an election; changes requirements for siting vote center locations for runoff elections.



**S 250** requires ballot counting to be completed within 24 hours after the polls close.



**H 1512** authorizes the state to accept all mail ballots from outside the country that arrive within 10 days after the election. Previous law required those ballots to be applied for at least 30 days before the election with a signature, date, and postmark on the ballot by Election Day in order to be counted.





**H 1687** establishes guidelines for counties that may opt to do a hand count of ballots. Any county that decides to hand count paper ballots is responsible for all costs associated with the hand count, including purchasing equipment and labor. However, the county is still eligible to receive the same reimbursement rate for costs as if it had conducted a machine tabulation of votes. Additionally, ballots must still be run through tabulation devices before the county can conduct the hand count for any general election or election that involves more than 5,000 registered voters.



**S 272** authorizes the State Board of Election Commissioners to choose to “conduct an election integrity review” of election records and documents in odd-numbered years. It also authorized the board to audit the results of every presidential primary.

Election Policy Progress Report

# California



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the California Assembly made several pro-voter improvements to its election code, once again, the Assembly failed to upgrade its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system for the third year in a row, leaving more than 4.5 million eligible voters unregistered to vote in the state. California also failed to join the Electronic Registration Information Center, ERIC, that would help ensure the state's voter rolls are accurate and up-to-date. Although the state has a reputation as a national leader on elections, other western states have continued to pass more substantial pro-voter policies while California falls behind. Consequently, California received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where California Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Hard Stop**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for California as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

6<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

46<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Assembly passed pro-voter legislation that makes changes to a wide range of election-related processes — from mail ballot cure procedures to expanding access for disabled voters to making ballot more user-friendly.



**SB 77** improves the cure process for mail ballot deficiencies by requiring clerks to attempt to contact voters via phone, email, or text in addition to regular mail if the voter has provided contact information for those methods.



**AB 292** requires clerks to provide additional information to voters that have declined to indicate a party preference on how to request a partisan political ballot for a primary.



**AB 398** removes the requirement that a voter requesting a replacement ballot first complete a form under penalty of perjury affirming their ballot was lost, destroyed, or never received.



**AB 545** expands in-person voting options for voters with a disability to require a curbside voting option.



**AB 626** allows voters to bring their unvoted mail ballot to the polls and cast it in person so long as the polling place can access real time county voter information to confirm that the voter has not already cast a ballot in that election.



**AB 1037** allows voters to verify their mail ballot signatures electronically.



**AB 1219** improves ballot design and ballot instructions to make them more user-friendly.



**AB 1539** makes it a misdemeanor to vote, or attempt to vote, in an election in California and another state that is held on the same day.



**SB 485** expands existing felonies for interfering with an election and/or voter intimidation to include additional prohibited actions.

However, the Assembly failed to take action on two important bills: one that would have made significant improvements to the state's troubled automatic voter registration system and another that would help the state improve the accuracy of the voter rolls.



**SB 299** (previously SB 846) would have transitioned the state to a substantially safer, more efficient, and more effective Secure AVR used by states like Colorado, Oregon, and Nevada, helping to address the fact that more than 4.5 million eligible California citizens remain unregistered to vote and to improve the accuracy of California's voter rolls. The bill has passed the Senate, but remains pending in the Assembly, with action possible next year.



**AB 1206** would have required the secretary of state join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).



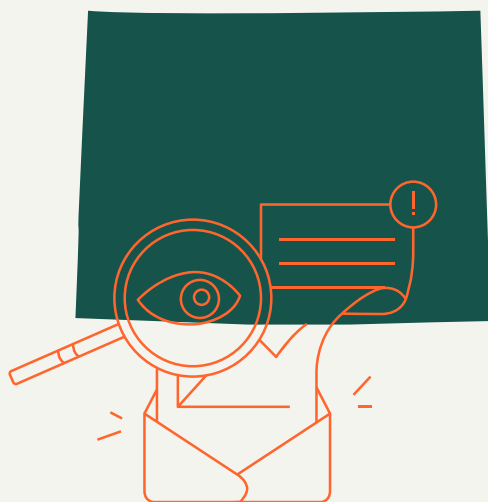
## Implementation Action



As part of the requirements of AB 796, the secretary of state's office launched a Motor Voter Task Force to consult with the DMV and outside experts on the effective implementation of California's automatic voter registration system. The committee and the secretary of state's office produced a report on the current AVR system, noting that there are still nearly 5 million eligible unregistered people in California and that the current system has a declination rate of more than 50% among eligible unregistered people who conduct AVR transactions, with a declination rate of 46% among 16 and 17-year-olds eligible for pre-registration.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Colorado



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Colorado continues to be a national leader in passing pro-voter policies. During this past session, the state Legislature expanded voting access on tribal lands and college campuses and increased opportunities for underrepresented voters. Because of the additional improvements Colorado made over this past year, the state received an A on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Colorado Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Colorado as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

5<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

9<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

Once again, the Assembly continued to expand opportunities for voter registration and participation.



**S 276** makes several changes to election processes: it helps facilitate voting by individuals living on tribal lands, including allowing tribes to set up automatic voter registration systems with the state; it expands opportunities for in-person voting for tribal members; it ensures that all voters receive primary ballots with all major party candidates; it increases voting access on college campuses and in county jails; it allows voters to use certain digital format IDs for election-related purposes; and it requires ballot counting to begin at least 4 days before an election in larger counties, among other things.



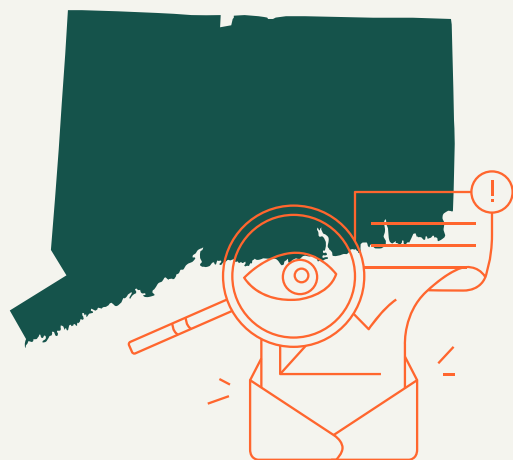
### Implementation Action



Colorado is working on implementing automatic voter registration through tribal enrollment with the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute tribes. This would be a first-in-the-nation model for how a state can effectively expand voting rights to tribes through automatic voter registration.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Connecticut



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again, the Connecticut General Assembly continued to take steps towards making the state's election laws more voter friendly. In addition to creating a 14-day early voting period with same-day registration, the State Voting Rights Act became law. The Assembly also passed the proposed constitutional amendment to establish no-excuse absentee voting for the second time and it will now go on to voters to approve in 2024. Because of the significant progress made this year, Connecticut was given an A on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Connecticut Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Connecticut as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

30<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

20<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

During the 2023 session, the Assembly continued to make major pro-voter improvements to the state's election laws.



**H 6941**, the state budget bill, also included provisions to establish the State Voting Rights Act which expands access to voting. Among other requirements, it establishes a preclearance process that certain jurisdictions with a history of voting rights violations must follow before making changes to their existing election policies and expands language access materials and voter assistance.



**H 5004** creates a 14-day early voting period and authorizes same-day registration during the early voting period.



**HJR 1** proposes a constitutional amendment to create no-excuse absentee voting in the state. As this is the second time it has passed the Assembly, it will now go before the voters in 2024.



**H 6870** requires clerks to begin collecting ballots from drop boxes on a daily basis as soon as ballots go out to voters.



### Implementation Action

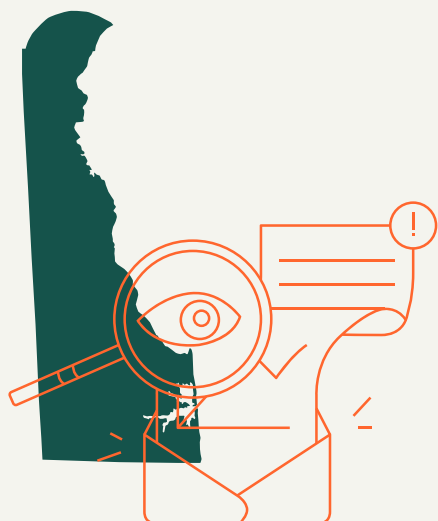


Connecticut is working on implementation of an automatic voter registration system at Medicaid (Access Health CT and Department of Social Services). While delayed from the initial implementation deadline, the agencies are working towards an important expansion of voter registration opportunities to eligible people.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Delaware



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Delaware continued to build on its efforts to expand voting rights this past session. The General Assembly made one minor, but important, change to allow ballot preprocessing and the Department of Elections implemented Secure AVR, which is already showing significant increases in registration rates. The Assembly also took the first important step of a multi-year process to revise felony disenfranchisement restrictions in the state constitution, but failed to pass the amendment out of either chamber this year. Because of that, Delaware received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Delaware Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to All Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Delaware as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

18<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

27<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

After passing several pro-voter policies the past few years, the Legislature made an additional improvement this past session and began the multi-year process to restore voting rights to all individuals upon completion of a felony sentence.



**H 148** allows election officials to begin preprocessing mail ballots as soon as they are received starting 30 days before the election. This is a significant improvement as current law only allows preprocessing to begin the Friday before the election.



**H 82** requires the Department of Elections to send biennial mailers to all registered voters informing them of their polling place, the election dates, the deadline to change party affiliation, and the procedures for voting at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period. Any mailers that come back to the Department as undeliverable will trigger the standard address confirmation notice process.



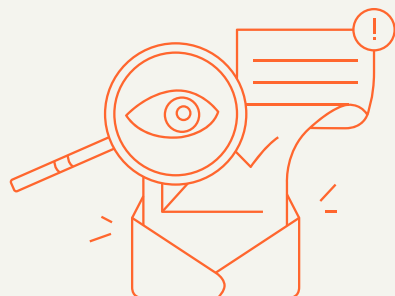
### Implementation Action



The Delaware Department of Elections launched secure automatic voter registration at the DMV this past June. Based on our review of the state's implementation and initial data, the Department of Elections and DMV have incorporated best practices and launched an effective and secure system. Initial data indicates the state's voter registration rates at the DMV have increased 30%.

Election Policy Progress Report

# District of Columbia



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The District of Columbia received a “provisional” grade last year as legislation passed in 2022 had not yet completed the congressional review process as required before becoming law. As both of the council’s pro-voter improvements, including AVR expansion, officially became law this year, D.C. received an A on this year’s progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where D.C. Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**No Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Although the Cost of Voting Index did not include D.C. in its 2022 rankings, based on the number of pro-voter policies in place in 2022, we considered D.C. a top tier jurisdiction for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

**Not Rated**

COVI (2022)

**11<sup>th</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**Not Rated**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Medium**

MAP Democracy Policy  
Tally (2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

As noted above, the council passed two major pro-voter policies late in 2022, which were highlighted on last year's progress report. However, due to the unique nature of D.C.'s governing system which requires congressional approval, they did not become law until earlier this year.



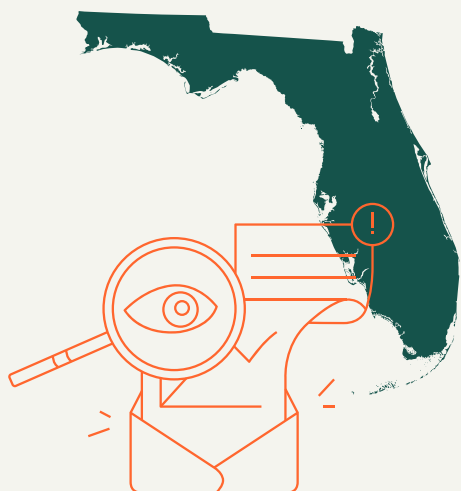
**B 24-507** established a vote by mail system in the district whereby every eligible voter receives a mail ballot automatically. The Board of Elections will be required to establish at least 55 dropboxes throughout the district, adopt a vote center model for polling places, create a ballot tracking system, and establish signature verification rules.



**B24-0951** expanded the existing automatic voter registration system by creating a "preapproved" voter registration list that includes eligible D.C. residents that have provided documentation establishing citizenship to the DMV or Medicaid. These individuals simply appear at the polls and then activate their registration by voting.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Florida



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature continued to push legislation to further restrict voter access in the state. Instead of clarifying confusing election laws, particularly around voter eligibility, the Legislature opted to empower the newly formed Office of Election Crimes to begin prosecuting citizens for these crimes, which are often the result of simple misunderstandings and honest mistakes. The Legislature also passed new restrictions on voter registration groups. The secretary of state also took action to make the state's voter rolls less secure and accurate by resigning the state's membership in ERIC. Despite the negative actions taken by the legislature and secretary of state this year, fortunately, the impact on voters is likely to be minimal, therefore, Florida received a D- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Florida Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:

**Some Permanent Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:

**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:

**ID Requested, by not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Florida as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Florida was considered a bottom tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

33<sup>rd</sup>

COVI (2022)

17<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

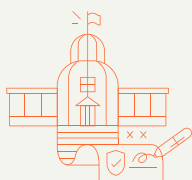
Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature continued to pass new anti-voter policies.



**S 4** (passed during special session) authorizes the state to begin prosecuting cases investigated by the recently established “Office of Election Crime and Security”.



**S 7050** imposes onerous registration requirements on third party voter registration groups that requires them to re-register for every general election cycle and subjects them to substantially increased fines and penalties for errors; shortens the deadline to request mail ballots. This bill also creates new voter list maintenance practices that subject voters with non-traditional addresses to additional scrutiny. The provisions governing third party voter registration groups are currently the subject of ongoing litigation and have been preliminarily enjoined.



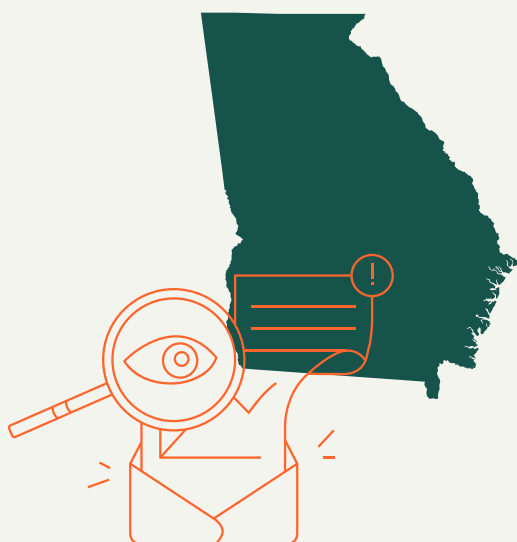
### Executive Action



Earlier this spring, Secretary of State Byrd terminated the state’s membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). Although Governor DeSantis championed the state’s joining the organization just four years ago as an important tool to “ensure our voter rolls are up-to-date,” the state chose to succumb to misguided political pressure and pull out of ERIC.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Georgia



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the Georgia Assembly ultimately rejected some of the more severe anti-voter provisions that were proposed, such as banning dropboxes. With the state passing additional restrictions to further ban private funding in elections without providing any additional state funds for local election offices, Georgia received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Georgia Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Parole and/or  
Probation Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Georgia as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Georgia was considered a bottom tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

**29<sup>th</sup>**

COVI (2022)

**21<sup>st</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**6/10**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Fair**

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

Once again, the Assembly took steps to restrict private funds in election administration.



**S 222** expanded the existing ban on the use of private funding for election administration to include county and municipal governments and their employees and added felony criminal penalties for violations.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Hawaii



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Hawaii State Legislature added a few clarifying amendments to its election laws this past session after implementing several substantial pro-voter pieces of legislation over the past few years. However, the state failed to pass legislation that would further streamline their new AVR system. The minor improvements Hawaii did make earned them a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Hawaii Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, by not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Hawaii as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

4<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

29<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Hawaii Legislature made only minimal, clarifying changes to its election laws during this past session.



**SB 19** made minor corrections to the universal vote by mail law to clarify that when an eligible voter casts a ballot it cannot become invalid solely because the voter later becomes ineligible to vote, such as by death.



**HB 130** clarifies that election officials have until 5 business days after an election to verify voters' ballots instead of 7 calendar days.



**SB 1541** revises existing felony voting laws to clarify that voting more than once in an election applies to elections in Hawaii or any other state or territory.

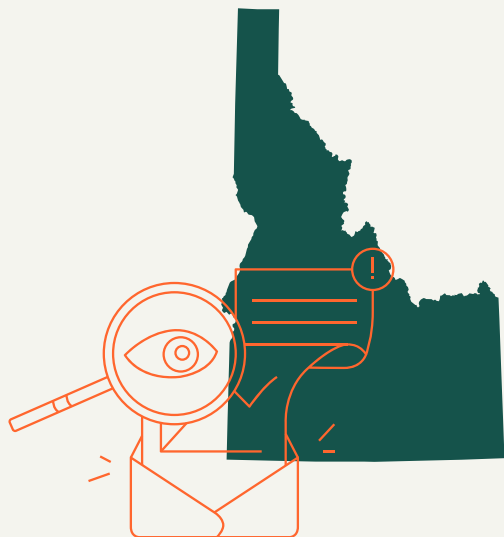
Although the Legislature recently implemented its new automatic voter registration system, it also failed to pass legislation this past session that would have created a more streamlined process.



**SB 383** would have made the new AVR system explicitly an opt-out system.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Idaho



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During the 2023 session, the Idaho Legislature continued to push for stricter anti-voter measures. Proposed legislation ranged from stricter voter ID laws to the repeal of no-excuse absentee voting and same day registration, the latter of which would have lost the state its current exemption from the National Voter Registration Act. Although not all of these measures became law, the Legislature did enact stricter ID and residency requirements and further restricted the use of private funds in elections. Because of these additional restrictions, Idaho received a D on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Idaho Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, by not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Idaho as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

**28<sup>th</sup>**

COVI (2022)

**30<sup>th</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**7/10**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Fair**

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

Although the Idaho Legislature managed to avoid passing some of the most significant anti-voter legislation that was proposed, it did further tighten voter ID and registration requirements.



**H 340** establishes new stricter ID and residency requirements for voters.



**H 239** allows a voter that reasonably believed they were a U.S. citizen at the time they voted to use that as a defense against a charge of voting when not qualified due to lack of U.S. citizenship.



**H 124** eliminates student IDs as a valid source of voter ID. This law is currently being challenged in court.



**H 11** extends the existing ban on the use of private funds in elections to clarify that all elected officials and state of Idaho employees are prohibited from accepting private funds for election administration.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Illinois



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past session, the Illinois General Assembly passed an omnibus election reform bill that expands opportunities to register and vote in the state. However, it missed another opportunity to improve its automatic voter registration system. Therefore, Illinois received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Illinois Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Illinois as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

9<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

23<sup>rd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

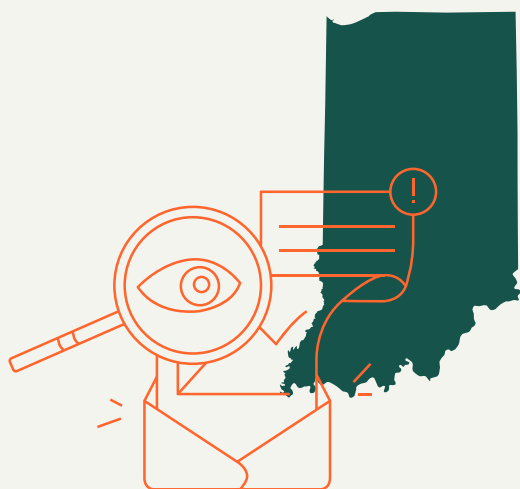
The Assembly made several pro-voter improvements to the election code. But, yet again, the Legislature failed to move forward legislation that would have updated the existing automatic voter registration system to make it more secure, efficient, and effective at registering voters.



**S 2123** requires large jurisdictions (populations over 500,000) to set up at least 2 vote centers where any voter in the jurisdiction can vote, requires all vote centers to offer curbside voting, allows 16-year-olds to preregister to vote, and establishes Election Day as a holiday, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Indiana



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

In the last few years, the Indiana General Assembly worked hard to expand early voting and make the absentee voting process more user-friendly. However, after passing those pro-voter policies, the Assembly moved to curtail absentee voting by adding new ID number requirements to absentee ballot applications and prohibiting sending unsolicited applications to voters. Therefore, Indiana received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Indiana Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Indiana as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

36<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

31<sup>st</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action



**H 1334** prohibits election officials from distributing unsolicited mail ballot applications, revises the mail ballot app to request voters' driver's license number or last 4 of their social security number, and establishes a process for county election boards to allow voters to correct defective mail ballot applications, among other things.

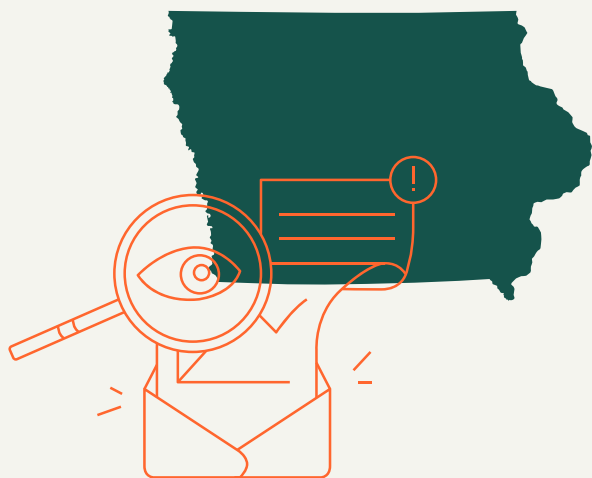


**S 106** prohibits local jurisdictions from adopting any changes related to conducting elections unless they are specifically allowed by state law. Any local laws adopted before January 1 of this year that violate this new law would be invalidated.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Iowa



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Iowa Legislature remained mostly quiet on election law changes this past session. However, both the Legislature and Secretary of State Pate succumbed to partisan political pressure and took action to leave the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a highly effective multistate, bipartisan organization that helps states maintain accurate voter rolls. Because of this, Iowa received a D on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Iowa Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Iowa as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

23<sup>rd</sup>

COVI (2022)

3<sup>rd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year

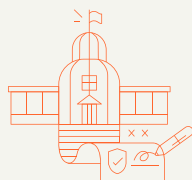


### Legislative Action

The Legislature made one small, but detrimental change to the state registrar's list maintenance duties.



**H 716** repeals a section of code that required the state registrar to use ERIC to make updates to the statewide voter registration system. The bill also allows each political party to set the rules for participating in its caucus.



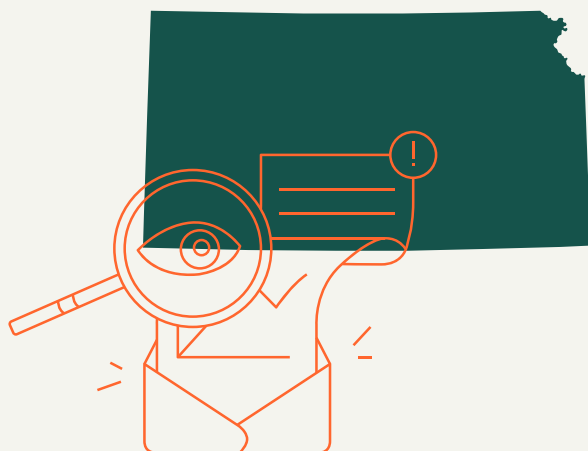
### Executive Action



Unfortunately, Iowa joined the list of states that left ERIC last year. Although Secretary Pate had praised the organization's work as late as February 2023 for helping the state remove deceased voters from the rolls, the secretary abruptly reversed course and recommended the state leave the group just one month later.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Kansas



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After several sessions of tension between the Kansas Legislature's anti-voter tendencies and the governor's more pro-voter stance, this session saw less substantial changes to the state's election laws. The Legislature also managed to pass a technical corrections bill to modernize and update several portions of the election code, with bipartisan support, that was championed by the secretary of state. Therefore, Kansas received a C- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Kansas Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

EElectronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kansas as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

40<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

44<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Kansas Legislature continued to introduce anti-voter legislation this past session. Fortunately, only a very small number of those bills ultimately became law. The Legislature also managed to pass bipartisan-supported legislation that updates and modernizes the election code.



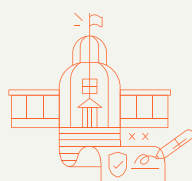
**H 2053** extends the deadlines around participating in presidential primaries to make participation more difficult: voters can only register up to 31 days before the primary (instead of the standard 21 days), voters must request mail ballots 30 days before the primary (instead of the Tuesday before the election), and all ballots must be returned by the close of polls (instead of allowing ballots postmarked by election to be received 3 days after).



**S 106** prohibits election officials from sending unsolicited ballots to voters unless it is a universal mail ballot election or the voter is on the limited mail voting list.



**S 221** requires county election office websites to include easily accessible voter information, such as polling hours and sample ballots and establishes new election crimes for tampering with election equipment, among other things.



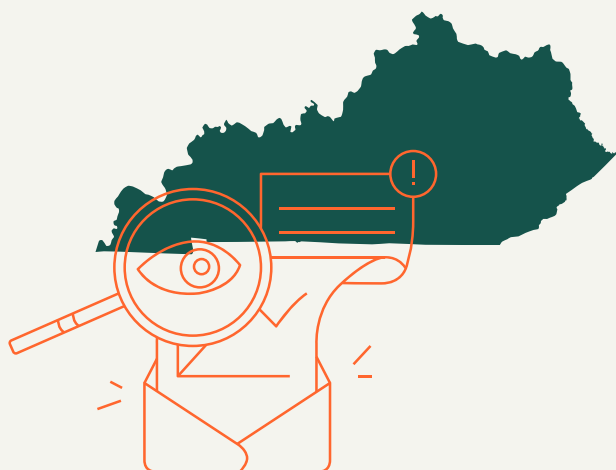
### Executive Action



Governor Kelly vetoed S 209, which contained both anti and pro-voter policies. While the bill would have shortened the deadline to return mail ballots, it also would have explicitly allowed voters to return mail ballots to drop boxes and satellite election offices.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Kentucky



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The General Assembly continued to focus on passing bipartisan election reforms this past session. Unfortunately, the Assembly also remained unable to pass legislation to automatically restore voting rights. Secretary of State Adams, however, has continued to challenge false fraud narratives from election deniers and has maintained the state's support for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) voter list maintenance group. Therefore, Kentucky received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Kentucky Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to All Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Some  
permanent disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **YES**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kentucky as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

39<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

32<sup>nd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



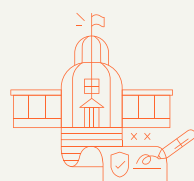
### Legislative Action



**H 302** gives the attorney general the authority to establish uniform rules for inquiries into election irregularities and removes the prohibition on investigating the same county in consecutive elections. It also gives the secretary of state the final say on polling place consolidation decisions approved by local boards of elections, among other things.



Kentucky continues to have one of the highest rates of disenfranchisement in the country. And once again, the General Assembly failed to pass legislation that would provide a path to allow for automatic restoration of voting rights. While individuals may currently have their rights restored thanks to a broad reaching executive order issued by current Governor Beshear, the order may easily be rescinded by a future governor. Therefore, it's critically important that the Legislature act to pass restoration of rights legislation.



### Executive Action



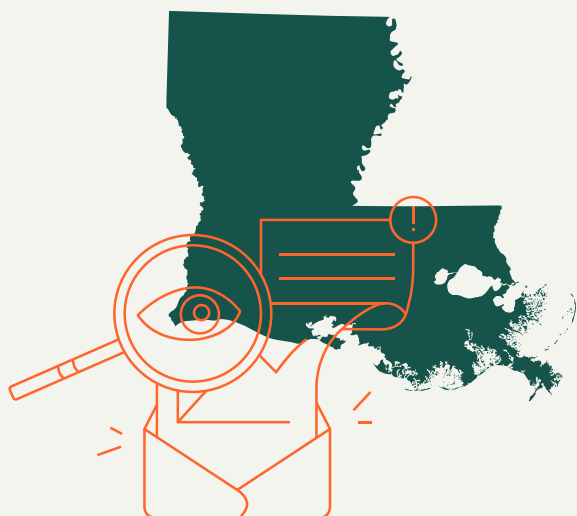
At a time when elections remain under constant attack from partisan actors, Secretary of State Adams has worked to promote policies that help ease the burdens on voters and election administrators alike, by championing early voting and working to secure additional funding for county election offices.



Thus far, Secretary of State Adams continues to defend the state's membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), as a valuable tool to help keep the state's voter rolls accurate. This comes at a time when many other secretaries have hastily left the organization based on a widespread propaganda campaign intended to manipulate states into leaving the voter list maintenance group.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Louisiana



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Louisiana Legislature attempted to pass several anti-voter restrictions that Governor Edwards had previously successfully vetoed during the 2022 session. Once again the governor stood up for voters and local election workers and vetoed the bills. Unfortunately, several anti-voter changes were also able to become law, including a constitutional ban on private funding in elections. Therefore, Louisiana received a C- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Louisiana Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**5 Years Post-Release from State  
Custody**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Louisiana as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

31<sup>st</sup>

COVI (2022)

42<sup>nd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature passed a mix of voter reforms into law.



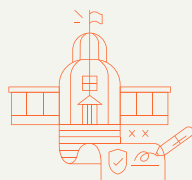
**H 311** is a constitutional amendment that prohibits the use of private funding for election administration, unless state election laws specifically allow it. Voters opted to enact this constitutional change in October 2023.



**S 23** removes the ability of local registrars to determine if their office is unsuitable for early voting and designate alternate early vote location. Instead, the secretary of state will decide if the local registrar's office is appropriate for early voting and the secretary will set any alternate location in the parish if needed.



**H 216** authorizes service members and dependents stationed in Louisiana to serve as pollworkers even if they are officially residents of another state.



### Executive Progress



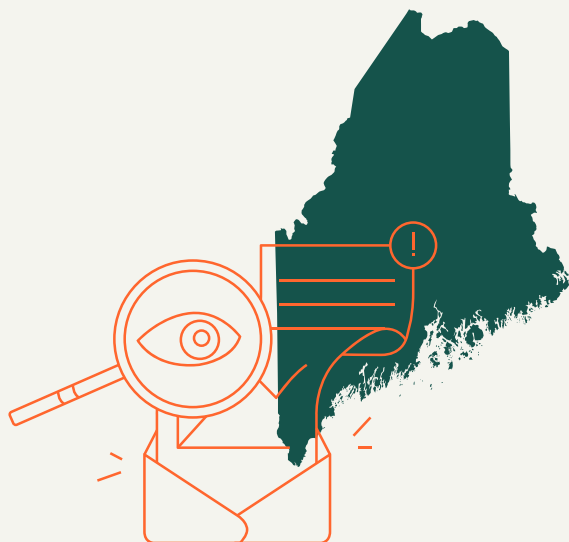
Governor Edwards again successfully vetoed a few anti-voter bills passed by the Legislature, including the following:

- **H 260** would have prohibited local election officials from following any federal directives or guidance or accept or disburse any federal election funds without prior approval from the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. A similar measure was also successfully vetoed by Governor Edwards last session.
- **H 646** would have required the Department of State to conduct an annual voter list canvass in addition to the yearly canvass already conducted by local registrars of voters. This is the third time this additional annual canvas has been promoted by the secretary of state.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Maine



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Maine Legislature implemented several pro-voter reforms during both the regular and special sessions. This comes after the state passed several major pieces of pro-voter legislation over the past few years. Because Maine continued to make progress, although slightly less substantial than previous years, the state received an A- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Maine Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **YES**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**No Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Maine as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

15<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

33<sup>rd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

After several years of instituting major election law changes, the Legislature continued to make pro-voter improvements during both the regular and special sessions this past year.



**H 858** expands the deadline to register for an election via AVR to seven days before the election. The prior system paused registrations for an upcoming election starting 21 days before the election.



**H 552** increases the list of allowable excuses to request an emergency absentee ballot.



**H 252** establishes a task force to study the use of schools as polling sites.

### Special Session:



**S 677** allows all voters to join the permanent absentee list and receive ballots by mail. It also eliminates the authority for clerks to remove a voter from the permanent list for failing to vote in just a single general election.



**H 1013** makes it a crime to block dropbox access and requires municipalities to maintain a clear path to all dropboxes.



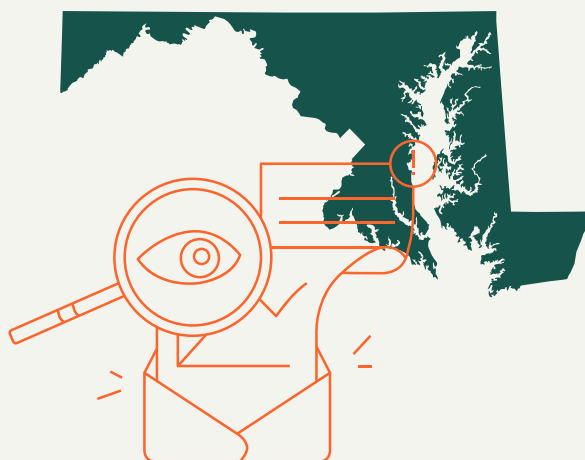
**LD 258**, the state budget bill, included much-needed funding for additional full time staff within the secretary of state's office.



**S 809** extends the deadlines to implement both the state's new online voter registration system OVR and permanent absentee list.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Maryland



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year the Maryland General Assembly was finally able to successfully pass legislation to establish a cure process for mail ballots and allow ballot preprocessing after similar changes were vetoed last year. However, the Assembly failed to move forward legislation to upgrade its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system. Therefore, Maryland received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Maryland Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Maryland as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

14<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

19<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

This past year the Assembly was finally able to pass legislation to improve the absentee voting process for both voters and election officials, after earlier attempts were vetoed by the governor.



**H 535/ S379** establishes a cure process for absentee ballots and requires preprocessing to start eight days before early voting starts.



**H 1200** establishes minimum poll worker pay rates and requires the State Board to develop a campaign to recruit poll workers.



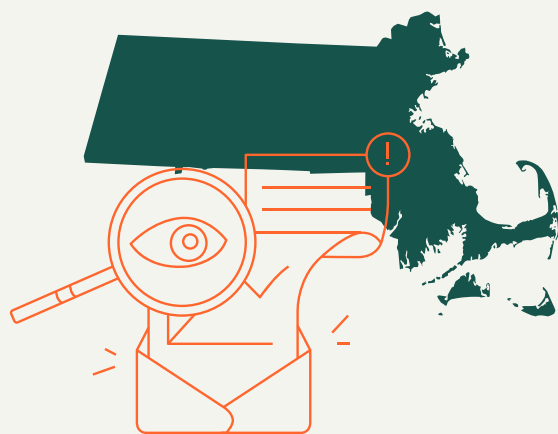
**H 410** revises the process for siting polling places and establishes a process for public participation before polling place changes can be implemented.



Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to advance legislation to upgrade the state's existing automatic voter registration system to a more effective Secure AVR system.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Massachusetts



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Last year, the Massachusetts Legislature passed the historic VOTES Act, which substantially improved voter access. This year, the Legislature missed an important opportunity to build on that progress by passing legislation to enact same-day voter registration. However, the Legislature did manage to secure necessary funding for local election offices to implement the early voting reforms passed last year. With everything taken into consideration, Massachusetts received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Massachusetts Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Massachusetts as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

12<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

10<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action



The Massachusetts Legislature provided critically important funding to implement early voting changes. The supplemental budget bill appropriated additional funding to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to administer grants “to cities and towns for additional costs to administer early voting in person and by mail.”



Legislators were, once again, unable to come together to pass legislation to implement same-day voter registration in Massachusetts.



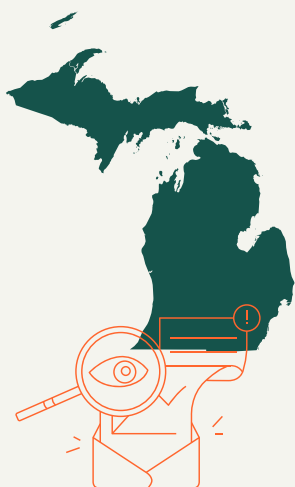
### Implementation Action



Last January, Massachusetts launched Secure AVR at motor vehicle offices, ensuring that more people are registered to vote and updated as part of a license transaction, while also improving the security and efficiency of the process. Additionally, Massachusetts' past work to expand AVR to Medicaid paid dividends with recent data showing their success. MassHealth's implementation of Partial Automatic Voter Registration showed a five-fold increase in voter registrations in the recent release of data in the Election Administration and Voting Survey.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Michigan



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Michigan's Legislature, after years of lackluster movement on voting rights, finally stepped up this past year and began implementing the pro-voter policies that Michigan voters overwhelmingly voted to support in the "Promote the Vote" ballot initiatives passed during the 2018 and 2022 general elections. Because of the significant positive changes seen this year, especially after a slew of anti-voter legislation introduced last year in the Legislature, Michigan is one of only three states to receive an A+, our highest grade possible, on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Michigan Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Michigan as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Michigan was considered a top tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

27<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

7<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

After the Legislature introduced dozens of anti-voter bills during the 2022 session, this past year the Legislature reversed course and introduced dozens of pro-voter reforms that focused on implementing the “Promote the Vote” ballot initiatives.



**H 4983** updates the existing automatic voter registration system to streamline registrations for individuals that have documented proof of citizenship and expands automatic registration to additional state agencies beyond the DMV.



**H 4569** allows 16 year olds to preregister to vote.



**S 367** establishes a nine-day early voting period before all federal and statewide elections and requires sites to be open for at least 8 hours each day from the second Saturday before the election through the Sunday before the election. Starting in 2026, early voting could be extended an additional day to the Monday before the election.



**S 370** establishes a cure process for missing and mismatched signatures and gives voters until 5pm three days after the election to cure defects. Voters would also be allowed to cure signature defects on absentee ballot applications up to four days before the election.



**S 373** expands the list of acceptable voter ID to include student photo IDs and photo IDs issued by local governments.



**S 339** requires the secretary of state to establish an online ballot tracking system for voters to track the status of their mail ballot applications and ballots. The tracking system must include details on the reason for a ballot rejection and information on how to cure the problem.



**S 259** allows military and overseas voters to have their mail ballots counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received within six days after the election.



**H 4697** requires each municipality to establish at least one drop box in their city and one box for every additional 15,000+ voters for voters to deposit both ballots and mail ballot applications. Boxes must be accessible starting 40 days before the election for 24 hours a day through the close of polls on Election Day.



**H 4699** establishes a permanent mail voter list. Voters can only be removed from the list if they request to be removed, move without updating their voter registration info, they are no longer qualified to vote, or if they fail to vote for six consecutive years.



**H 4437**, the state budget bill, authorizes the Department of State to award "incentive grants to counties to coordinate the implementation of early voting by local governments within their jurisdiction."



**H 4568** repeals an archaic law that criminalized hiring transportation to take voters to the polls.





**H 4567** ensures that a voter that gets a mail ballot in person by signing an affidavit instead of showing ID will no longer have their ballot treated as a challenged ballot.



**H 4570** requires the secretary of state to establish an online absent voter ballot application system that allows voters to request their mail ballot online.



**S 594** expands online voter registration options by allowing individuals to register to vote using the last four digits of their social security number.



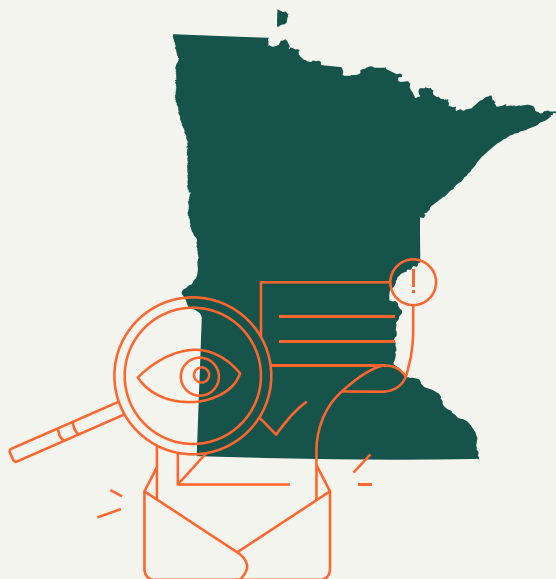
## Executive Action



During this past session, both Governor Whitmer and Secretary of State Benson were incredible pro-democracy partners to the Legislature and helped move a substantial package of pro-voter legislation through the process to become law.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Minnesota



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year the Legislature stepped up and passed two historic pieces of legislation that make sweeping pro-voter changes to almost every aspect of election law. This comes after years of little to no movement on pro-voter policies in the state. Therefore, Minnesota is one of only three states to receive an A+, our highest grade possible, on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Minnesota Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to all Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Minnesota as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Minnesota was considered a top tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

24<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

2<sup>nd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature's passage of the "Democracy for the People Act" and restoration of voting rights to more than 50,000 disenfranchised individuals made significant improvements to the state's election laws.



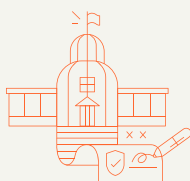
**H 3**, the "Democracy for the People Act" establishes Secure AVR which will automatically register voters during license transactions, through MinnesotaCare applications, and across additional state agencies that provide benefits or services as the governor designates. The bill also allows 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote, creates a permanent absentee voter list that allows any voter to receive mail ballots for all future elections, and expands language access opportunities at the polls.



**H 28** automatically restores the right to vote upon release from state custody for individuals formerly incarcerated for felony convictions.



**H 1830** established the Voting Operations, Technology, and Election Resource (VOTER) Account with \$1.25 million to be appropriated to the fund each year for counties, cities, and towns. The funds can be used to purchase equipment, hardware, or software; make capital improvements; pay for election staff; and a variety of other election administration-related activities. The legislation also allocates an additional \$500,000 to the secretary of state to administer accessibility grants to cities and townships for polling place improvements.



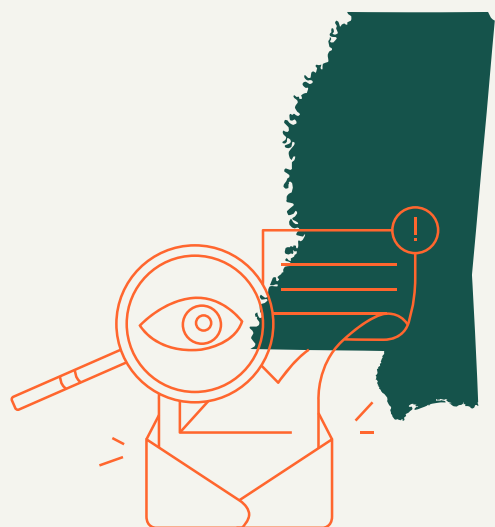
### Executive Action



Secretary of State Simon yet again remained an important advocate for pro-voter reforms such as automatic voter registration and the restoration of voting rights that were passed by the Legislature this past year.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Mississippi



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Legislature passed two significant anti-voter pieces of legislation this past year, including a bill to purge voters from the registration rolls on the basis of non-voting and a bill that criminalizes ballot handling by anyone other than the voter. And once again, the Legislature failed to restore voting rights to returning citizens. Because of these setbacks and lack of action, Mississippi received a D on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Mississippi Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Mississippi as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

49<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

51<sup>st</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

This past session, the Legislature passed bills designed to make it more difficult for voters to return mail ballots and make it easier for registered voters to be removed from the voting rolls.



**H 1310** requires clerks to send voters address confirmation notices to any voter: that has failed to vote for two federal elections, is flagged by the USPS change of address database, is registered in another state, or otherwise seems to have moved in or out of state. Any voter that is sent a confirmation notice is automatically moved to "inactive" status and then removed from the voter rolls if they fail to respond for 4 years. Any voter on "inactive" status that appears at the polls must vote a provisional ballot. The law also includes a one-time lookback provision to review registration records to find potential noncitizens. And finally, it directs the secretary of state to audit election procedures in every county for the 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2027 general elections.



**S 2358** makes it a crime for anyone other than family, a household member, or a caregiver of a voter to knowingly collect or transmit the voter's ballot. The law is currently the subject of an ongoing lawsuit and has been blocked from being enacted for the 2023 primary and general elections.



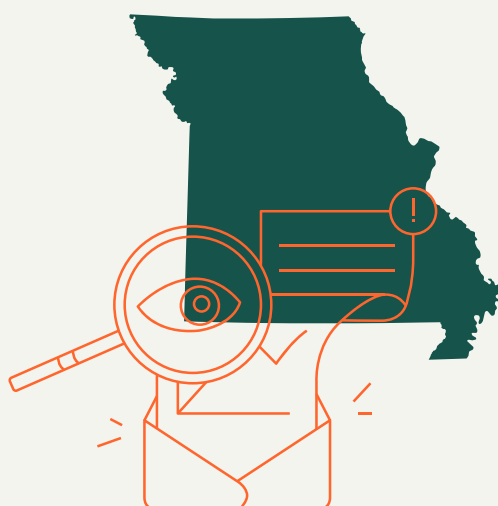
**S 2353** increases poll worker pay.



The Legislature also once again failed to act to restore voting rights to returning citizens. Instead the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals stepped in and struck down the state's lifetime ban on voting for individuals convicted of certain felonies, although this ruling has been vacated as the entire Fifth Circuit hears the case.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Missouri



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the Missouri General Assembly appeared on track to pass important restoration of rights legislation this past year, unfortunately it was unable to get it across the finish line. Meanwhile Secretary of State Ashcroft unilaterally acted to remove the state from ERIC, the multistate voter list maintenance organization. Because the state failed to pass restoration of rights changes, failed to implement even the smallest of pro-voter policies, and pulled out of ERIC, Missouri received a C- on this year's scorecard.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Missouri Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to All Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Parole and/or  
Probation Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Missouri as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

42<sup>nd</sup>

COVI (2022)

22<sup>nd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

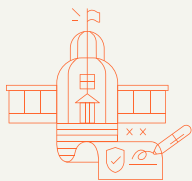
## This Past Year



### Legislative Action



The Missouri Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2023 session. Despite several attempts to restore voting rights to returning citizens, language that would have restored voting rights upon release from incarceration was removed in conference committee.



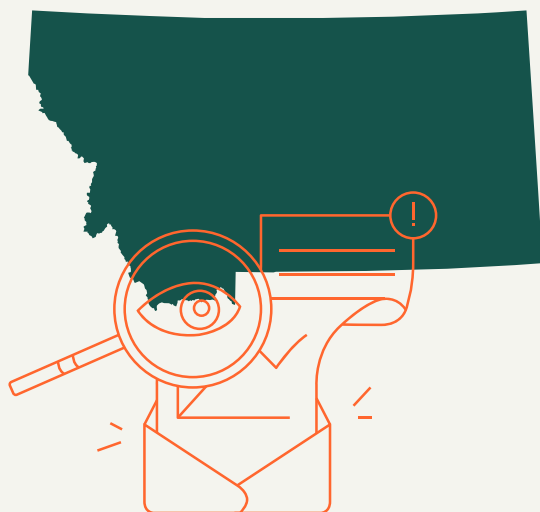
### Executive Action



Earlier last year, Secretary of State Ashcroft withdrew the state from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) without any alternative plan to ensure the state's voter rolls remain accurate and up-to-date.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Montana



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again the Montana Legislature introduced several anti-voter bills this past session. Overall, the Legislature passed less restrictive legislation than 2022's string of anti-voter laws that were struck down by the courts. However, the Legislature did enact a private funding ban without providing any additional public funding for elections. Because the legislation passed this past year was not as detrimental as 2022's slate of bills, Montana received a C- on this year's scorecard.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Montana Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Montana as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states. Last year, Montana was considered a middle tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

34<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

36<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)



2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

This past year the Montana Legislature scaled back its anti-voter legislation after last year's aggressive attempts to enact additional restrictions. However, it did enact a ban on private funding for elections as well as several mixed pieces of legislation related to the voter rolls.



**S 117** prohibits the use of private funds for election administration and makes a violation of the law a felony.



**H 196** requires ballots to be continuously counted once tabulation has begun and imposes a new reporting timeline for when results must be initially reported and updated once the polls close.



**H 754** specifically authorizes the DMV to release records to counties to verify voter registration record information.



**S 335** requires voters to be on the active voter list to receive a mail ballot, including voters on the permanent mail ballot list. Any voter on the "inactive" list must "reactivate" their registration before they may receive a ballot. It also requires clerks to attempt to contact any voter with an "undeliverable" ballot in the "most expedient means available" to determine the reason the ballot was returned.



**S 498** requires county registrars to attempt to confirm a voter's address if the voter fails to return an address confirmation mailer.

The Legislature also passed several bills aimed at establishing new election crimes:



**H 892** makes it a misdemeanor to vote more than once in the state or purposely remain registered to vote in more than one location in Montana or any other state. While double voting is of course illegal, double registration usually is not. That's because voters often register in their new home state without reaching out to their prior state of residence to "officially" cancel the old registration. By including double registration as a crime, the provision needlessly places individuals at potential legal risks for taking steps to register to vote in their new home state of Montana.



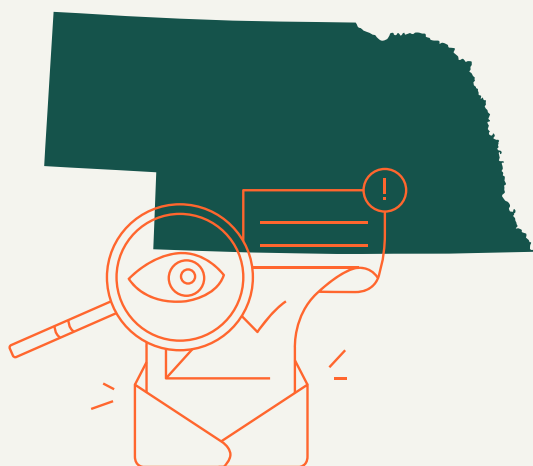
**S 61** makes it a crime to interfere with election officials/election workers.



**H 173** makes it a crime to install an unauthorized modem on a voting system and/or use a modem to transmit info to/from the voting system.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Nebraska



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Nebraska Legislature passed legislation to implement voter ID requirements following a 2022 vote by Nebraska citizens that approved a constitutional amendment to require voter ID. Although lawmakers proposed several different versions of voter ID that ran the gamut from very strict to more lenient, the one ultimately adopted by the Legislature fell somewhere in the middle. Therefore, Nebraska received a C- on this year's scorecard.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Nebraska Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Nebraska as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

25<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

6<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

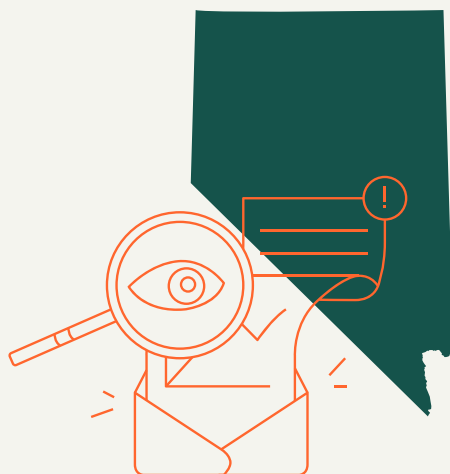
This past year the Legislature focused all of its election-related efforts on implementing a voter ID law.



**L 514** requires voters to show valid ID at the polls or include a photocopy of their ID or their actual DL/ID number when applying to vote by mail. Acceptable ID must include the voter's name and photo and must be issued by the state or federal government, a tribe, a political subdivision of the state, an in-state college or university, or a hospital or assisted-living facility. Voters that lack acceptable ID may still vote if they qualify under one of the narrow "reasonable impediment" exemptions that require them to affirm they do not have ID due to an illness/disability, they lack the required documents to get an ID, or because of a religious objection to being photographed.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Nevada



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After passing several significant pieces of pro-voter policies in its last session, the Nevada Assembly continued to pass mostly voter-friendly improvements this past session. Unfortunately, Governor Lombardo successfully vetoed some of those efforts, including legislation that would have improved voter accessibility and language access and allowed for faster election results. Due to the continued progress made by the state, Nevada received a B+ on this year's scorecard.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Nevada Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Nevada as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states. Last year, Nevada was considered a middle tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

7<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

13<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Nevada Legislature continued to pass important pro-voter policies this past year.



**S 327** expands voting opportunities on tribal lands by requiring clerks to provide an election day polling place, a ballot drop box, and an early voting location on tribal land, unless the tribe opts out.



**S 216** allows voters on tribal lands to register and/or vote via the electronic system setup for UOCAVA voters. It also requires local clerks to meet with tribes to create plans for in-person voting and drop box siting.



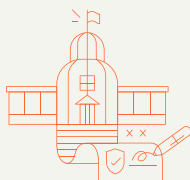
**A 286** expands opportunities for eligible incarcerated individuals to vote.



**S 54** requires the secretary of state to create an elections procedure manual at least once every two years and requires that the manual must be approved by the Legislative Commission every four years. The secretary may only make minor changes to the manual that do not substantively affect election administration in the years between legislative approval.



**S 406** enacts additional protections for election workers by making it a felony to threaten or use force to interfere with election worker's duties or retaliate against them for doing duties. The bill also prohibits doxxing election officials.



### Executive Action

Unfortunately, Governor Lombardo vetoed several pro-voter pieces of legislation last session.



**A 242** would have increased the number of accessible voting machines required at each polling place, required election workers to be trained on use of those machines, and required all ballots to be counted by vote tabulators.



**A 246** would have improved language access for voters.



**S 443** would have expanded ID options for eligible individuals utilizing same day registration.



**S 404** would have allowed local clerks to begin counting early-in person ballots as soon as the early voting period begins. This would have allowed election officials to report election results more promptly.

2023

## This Past Year



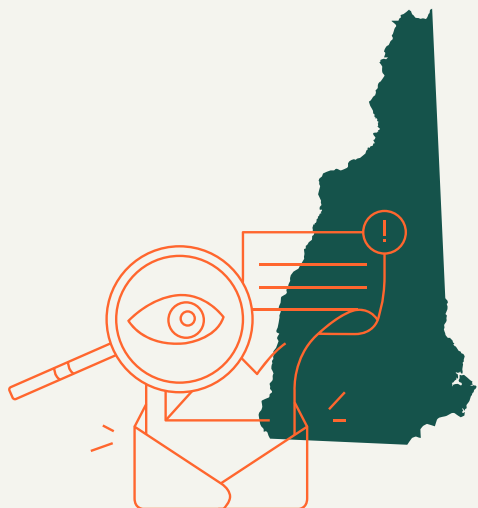
### Implementation Action



The secretary of state's office continues to work on enacting all of the pro-voter policies that were passed by the Assembly over the last few years. As a core part of these efforts, the state is working steadily to overhaul the statewide voter registration system by 2024.

Election Policy Progress Report

# New Hampshire



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After years of pushing dozens of anti-voter bills, this past year the General Court was finally on track to make a significant pro-voter improvement by establishing an online election information portal that would have allowed voters the opportunity to register or revise registration information and request absentee ballots. Unfortunately, despite widespread bipartisan support, a single legislator was able to derail the effort late in the final days of the session. Because New Hampshire failed to convert the legislative consensus on the need for change into law, the state received a C- on this year's scorecard.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where New Hampshire Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Hampshire as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

50<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

39<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

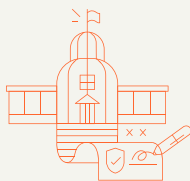
The Legislature made only one minor change to election laws during the 2023 session. Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to pass a bill that would have been a significant step forward for election administration.



**H 244** slightly shortens the deadline for receiving mailed absentee ballot applications to noon the day before the election. Previously, the law required clerks to mail ballots out up to 5pm the day before the election. However, individuals will still have until 5pm the day before the election to personally appear at their local clerks' office to pick up a mail ballot.



**SB 70** would have established an online election information portal where citizens could register to vote, update existing voter registrations, and request absentee ballots. The legislation also included authorization for the secretary of state to establish a grant system for cities and towns to use HAVA funds for "improving election security and technology." Such funding could have been used to help those jurisdictions purchase badly-needed updated voting equipment.



### Executive Action



Last year, Secretary of State Scanlan announced the establishment of a "Special Committee on Voter Confidence" aimed at restoring voter confidence in elections. Unfortunately, the commission was based on a false premise. Based on testimony of voters, election officials, and nonpartisan experts, the Commission's final report found that New Hampshire citizens of all parties had high levels of confidence in elections, and that New Hampshire elections are accurate and secure.

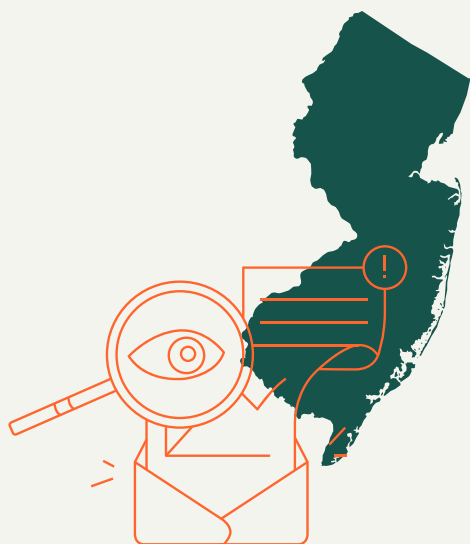


Although the state has been allocated over \$7 million in federal election security grants, the secretary of state has declined to spend the vast majority of such funds — over \$5.5 million in security grant funds remain unspent, the largest share of unspent funds among the states. This represents a missed opportunity to make investments in election infrastructure to improve the voter experience.



Election Policy Progress Report

# New Jersey



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Unfortunately, the state Legislature failed to take action on any significant pro-voter reforms, including a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration, which would have been among the most impactful reforms for voters in New Jersey. Due to lack of movement on critical pro-voter reforms, New Jersey received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where New Jersey Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to all Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Felon Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Jersey as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

13<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

43<sup>rd</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



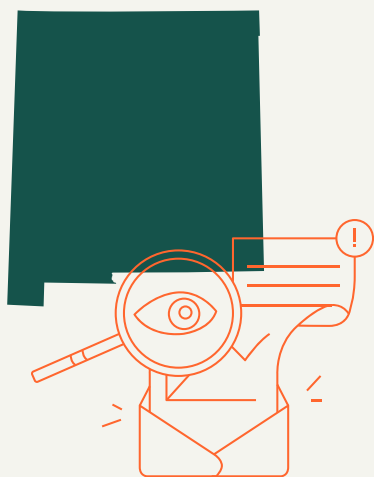
### Legislative Action



The Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2023 session. Unfortunately, that included failing to take action on a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration. The state Senate president blocked the bill from moving forward.

Election Policy Progress Report

# New Mexico



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After the New Mexico Legislature failed to pass any pro-voter legislation in 2022, they stepped up significantly in 2023 and passed two substantial election laws, the New Mexico Voting Rights Act and a package of important technical reforms. New Mexico is one of only three states that received an A+, our highest grade possible, on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where New Mexico Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Hard Stop**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights: **Parole and/or  
Probation Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Mexico as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

21<sup>st</sup>

COVI (2022)

25<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

During this past session, the New Mexico Legislature passed historic pro-voter legislation. With the strong support of a coalition of New Mexico democracy organizations, as well as the secretary of state and governor, the New Mexico Voting Rights Act finally became law.



**H 4** the New Mexico Voting Rights Act establishes secure automatic voter registration at the DMV, expands online voter registration opportunities, creates a permanent absentee voter list, expands Native voting access, automatically restores the right to vote for returning citizens upon release from felony incarceration, and establishes an Election Day holiday.



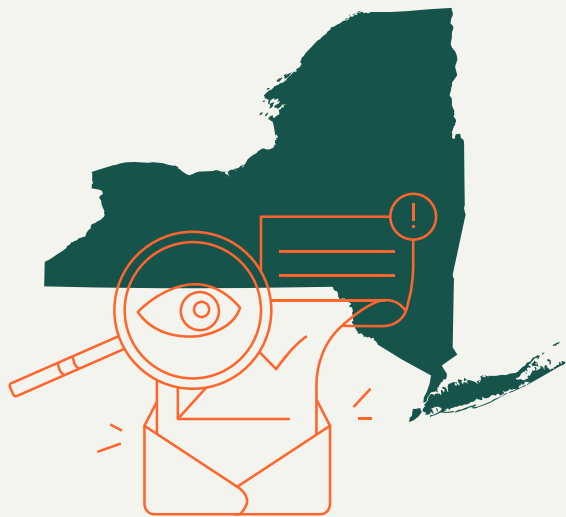
**S 180** requires vote centers for statewide elections, expands the list of individuals that may return a ballot on a voter's behalf, establishes a robust notice and cure provision for mail ballots, and extends the time that early voting centers may be open.



**S 43** expands the existing crime of intimidating election workers to include the secretary of state, county and municipal clerks, and employees of those offices.

Election Policy Progress Report

# New York



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the New York Assembly and Governor Hochul stepped up to pass an important package of pro-voter reforms. After 2022's temporary fix to ensure that any voter could vote by mail, this year the Legislature finally passed a permanent solution – the “Early Mail Voter Act.” They also established a “Golden Day” that will allow voters to both register and vote on the first day of early voting. However, the state also missed a critical deadline for PAVR implementation this year. Therefore, New York received an A- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where New York Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New York as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

**17<sup>th</sup>**  
COVI (2022)

**47<sup>th</sup>**  
EPI Score (2020)

**7/10**  
CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Fair**  
MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Assembly passed a historic package of pro-voter reforms during this past year's session.



**S 5984-A/A 6132-A** establishes a "Golden Day" that allows voters to register to vote and cast their ballot during a single trip on the first day of early voting.



**S 7394-A/A 7632-A** allows any voter to cast an early vote by mail without requiring an excuse. A lawsuit to block implementation of the new law has been filed by a variety of groups seeking to restrict mail voting to only those voters that qualify to vote absentee.



**S 587/A 268** requires the State Board of Elections to "establish and host an education and training institute" that would create a program to certify poll workers.



**S 5965-A/A 4009-A** requires local correctional facilities to give adults being released from incarceration information about voting rights and offer them a voter registration form.



**S 6519-A/A 1565-A** prohibits last minute changes to early voting sites within 48 hours of the start of early voting and requires that any late changes to locations must be communicated to voters at least five days before early voting starts.



**S 6195/A 1177** changes the standards for ballots that have to be cured to allow voters to seal or tape their absentee ballot envelope without having them flagged to be corrected.



**S 1733-A/A 5180-A** expands voter registration and preregistration opportunities in high schools.



**S 7550/A 7690** revises the absentee ballot cure process to ensure ballots mailed by election day can be counted even if election officials receive them up to seven days after the election. It also shortens the early voting period by one day for presidential primaries, but extends the time polls are open to nine hours each day.



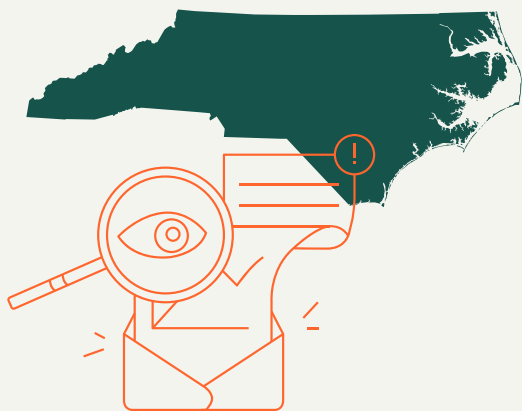
### Implementation Action



Due to contracting and vendor delays, New York did not meet the January 2023 implementation deadline for AVR at the DMV. Implementation will likely be delayed until mid-2024 at the earliest, and will likely be delayed for non-DMV agencies beyond the January 2024 implementation deadline.

Election Policy Progress Report

# North Carolina



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The North Carolina Legislature has repeatedly attempted to enact anti-voter legislation over the past few sessions. Unfortunately, this past year, the Legislature was able to finally follow through and successfully override Governor Cooper's vetoes of two such laws that will curtail voter access and strip power over election boards from the governor and shift it to the Legislature. Therefore, North Carolina received an F on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where North Carolina Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES (but not on Election Day)**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for North Carolina as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

22<sup>nd</sup>

COVI (2022)

40<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature enacted two significant pieces of anti-voter legislation this past session, overriding the objections (and veto) of the governor. It also enacted additional election administration restrictions in a state budget bill.



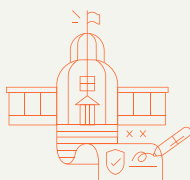
**SB 747** shortens the deadline to return absentee ballots by three days, bans private funding for elections, and requires voters that use same day registration during the early voting period to have their address verified by USPS before their ballot will be counted, among other things. This law is currently the subject of ongoing litigation.



**SB 749** removes the governor's power to appoint members to the State Board of Elections and gives it to the legislature and removes the state board and governor's power to appoint members to the county-level election boards and gives it to the Legislature. This law is currently the subject of ongoing litigation and has been temporarily blocked by the trial court.



**HB 249**, an appropriation act, also included provisions that bar the state from joining the voter list maintenance organization ERIC and repeals prior funding that had been allocated for the state's ERIC membership.



### Executive Action

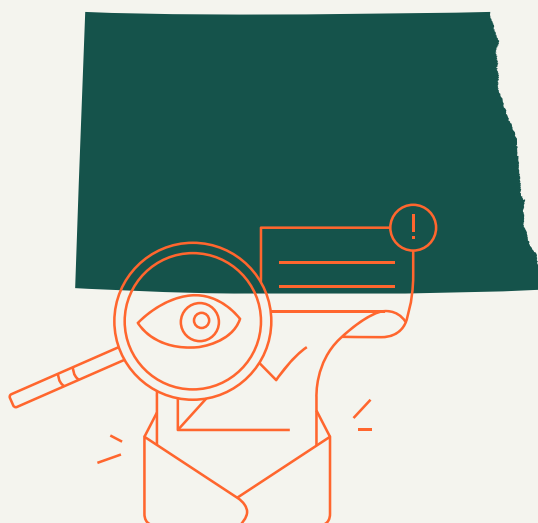


Although Governor Cooper vetoed SB 747 and SB 749, both vetoes were successfully overridden by a supermajority determined to enact anti-voter legislation this last session.



Election Policy Progress Report

# North Dakota



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Assembly implemented some important pro-voter policies during this past year's legislative session. It expanded the deadline for voters to cure signature issues and it extended the timeframe for clerks to begin preprocessing ballots. However, the Assembly also acted to curtail the governor's emergency powers after he took the responsible step to expand access to vote by mail during the pandemic in 2020. North Dakota received a B- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where North Dakota Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **N/A**

Online Voter Registration: **N/A**

Same-Day Registration: **N/A**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Non-Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for North Dakota as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

**10<sup>th</sup>**

COVI (2022)

**5<sup>th</sup>**

EPI Score (2020)

**7/10**

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

**Fair**

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Assembly passed a mixture of pro and anti-voter reforms during this past session.



**H 1192** extends the deadline for voters to cure mismatched signatures on absentee ballots to thirteen days after the election and allows auditors to begin preprocessing mail ballots three days before the election, among other things.



**S 2292** expands the definition of “election observers” and entitles them to access where they “can plainly view and hear the occurrences of the polling place, without infringing on the voter privacy area.” The law balances expanded observer access by also amending the existing crime of obstructing a voter to ensure observers do not disrupt the voting process.



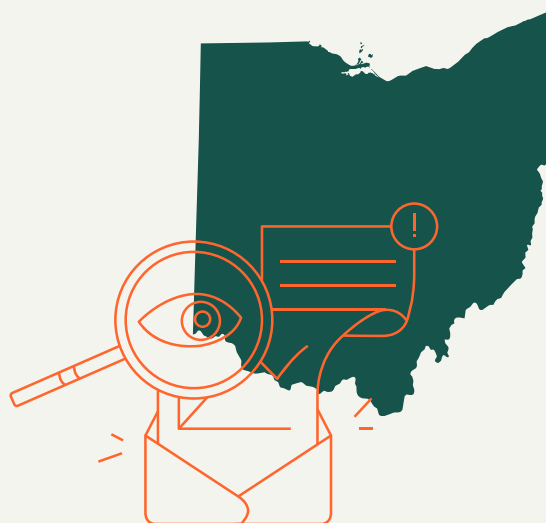
**H 1167** limits the governor’s ability to take actions during emergencies. This was instituted as a direct response to actions the governor took during the 2020 election to keep voters safe by mailing all voters a primary ballot so they could participate in the election from the safety of their home.



**H 1431** requires any voter that shows a state driver’s license or ID card that indicates non-citizenship to cast a provisional ballot and later return to their election official with a state driver’s license or ID card that does indicate citizenship in order for their ballot to be counted.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Ohio



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Ohio General Assembly took a break from enacting any new election-related laws during this past session after passing significant anti-voter legislation during the 2022 lame duck session. The secretary of state, however, took action to make the state's voter rolls less secure and accurate by resigning the state's membership in ERIC, which is why Ohio received a C- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Ohio Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:  
**DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Non-Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Ohio as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

41<sup>st</sup>

COVI (2022)

26<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

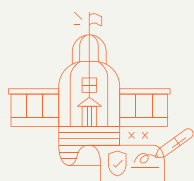
## This Past Year



### Legislative Action



The General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2023 session.



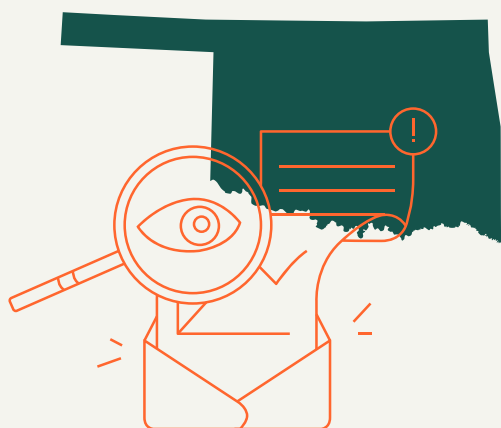
### Executive Action



Although Secretary of State LaRose stated in early 2023 that the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is "one of the best tools that we have for maintaining the accuracy of our voter files," only a few weeks later he reversed course and announced the state would be leaving the group in March the same year. This change will make Ohio's voter rolls less secure and more inaccurate.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Oklahoma



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the Oklahoma Legislature made several anti-voter changes this past session, it also established a hard stop voter registration system and launched an online voter registration portal. Therefore, Oklahoma received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Oklahoma Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Oklahoma as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

35<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

49<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

3/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

During the 2023 session, the Legislature made a significant improvement to the voter registration process at driver's license offices and instituted new protections for election workers.



**S 1040** revises the current voter registration process at Service Oklahoma to ensure that an individual is not provided the opportunity to register to vote if the applicant provides documentation indicating they are not a U.S. citizen.



**S 481** establishes new misdemeanors for threatening/intimidating election workers or impersonating election workers.

However, most of the election laws Oklahoma passed this last session aimed to further restrict voter access.



**H 2682** prohibits the use of private funding for election administration and institutes criminal penalties for violations of the law.



**S 376** requires an individual assisting a voter with their mail ballot to include their own name and address on the voter's affidavit.



**S 377** requires voter registrations to be canceled if a voter is excused from jury duty for non citizenship and it establishes a 60 day waiting period to re-register if a voter voluntarily cancels their own voter registration for any reason.



**H 2052** limits the state's membership in a multi state voter list maintenance organization. It also removes specific reference to ERIC, currently the only existing list maintenance organization that has proven to be an effective tool to keep voter rolls secure and up-to-date.



**H 1950** requires the secretary of the state election board to obtain death records from the Social Security Administration to identify potentially deceased voters and submit all possible matches to county election boards for possible removal.



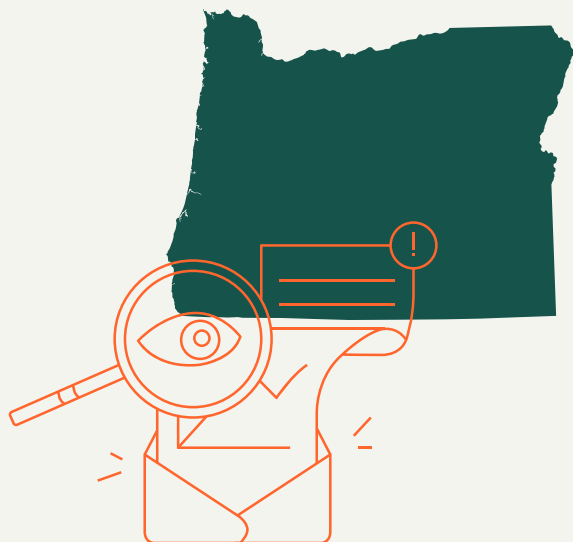
### Implementation Action



Oklahoma successfully launched its online voter registration system this summer.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Oregon



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After several failed years of effort to expand AVR, this past year the Oregon Legislature was finally able to make significant progress by expanding the existing AVR system to Medicaid offices. However, the Legislature remained unable to make strides towards ending felon disenfranchisement in the state. Nevertheless, because of its significant progress in expanding its best-in-the-nation AVR system beyond the DMV, Oregon received an A on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Oregon Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Secure AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**OVR+**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Oregon as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

1<sup>st</sup>

COVI (2022)

28<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Oregon Legislature passed important legislation to make the voting process even more inclusive by authorizing Medicaid offices to automatically register individuals to vote when they sign up or renew health care coverage with the Oregon Health Plan.



**HB 2107** expands automatic voter registration (AVR) beyond the DMV to the Oregon Health Authority.



**SB 166** specifically guarantees all qualified voters the right to vote and the right to a secret ballot, and allows voters that will be out of the area when mail ballots go out to receive an early absentee ballot starting at 43 days before the election, among other things.



**SB 1094** authorizes the secretary of state to apply for federal funds to establish a pilot project to provide live video feed of rooms where ballots are tallied and ballot drop box sites.



**HB 2004** is a proposed ballot measure that would allow the state to implement ranked choice voting for all federal and state elections. Voters will decide whether to enact the new voting method during the November 2024 general election.



There is still more work for Oregon to do in future legislative sessions, as the Legislature failed to act on efforts to end felon disenfranchisement in Oregon. With the passage of SB 579, Oregon could have joined Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia as jurisdictions where an individual does not lose their voting right simply because of a felony conviction.



### Implementation Action

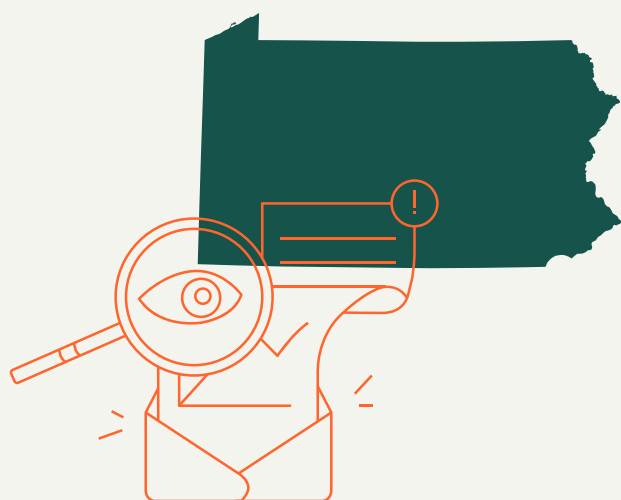


Oregon helped provide the first impact analysis of what Medicaid AVR would mean for states with robust AVR systems at the DMV. A study by the secretary of state's office found that SAVR at Medicaid would help the state reach 85% of the remaining unregistered but eligible population, helping to register hard-to-reach communities not covered by AVR at the DMV.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Pennsylvania



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the General Assembly failed to act to expand voting rights. And once again, it was gubernatorial action that made the difference. This past year, Governor Shapiro authorized procedural changes to institute partial automatic voter registration (PAVR) at the DMV. Because of this bold action by the governor after the inaction by the Assembly, Pennsylvania received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Pennsylvania Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to All Eligible Voters**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Pennsylvania as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

32<sup>nd</sup>

COVI (2022)

35<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year

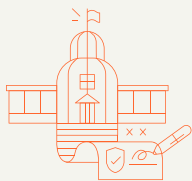


### Legislative Action

The Assembly passed only one election-related bill last session.



**HR 47** is a resolution that directs the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on “voting patterns and knowledge about voting rights among formerly incarcerated qualified electors in Pennsylvania.”



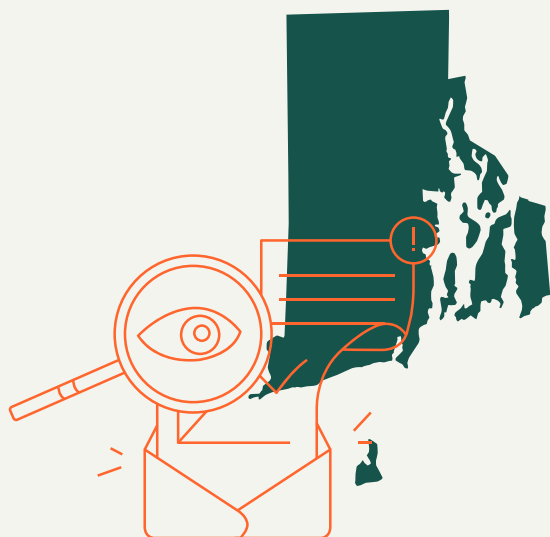
### Executive Action



Governor Shapiro instituted partial automatic voter registration (PAVR) at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Last fall, the governor authorized a procedural change that will create an opt-out registration process when eligible individuals obtain or renew a license or ID card with PennDOT.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Rhode Island



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After passing significant pro-voter reforms in 2022, the Assembly continued to build on that progress by passing several minor pro-voter policies this past session. The state also successfully launched its online mail ballot portal earlier this year as part of the 2022 reform package. However, it missed an opportunity to upgrade its automatic voter registration system. Therefore, Rhode Island received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Rhode Island Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration:  
**YES (presidential races only)**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Rhode Island as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

20<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

8<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Assembly instituted a few minor pro-voter reforms this past session. But the Legislature failed to move forward legislation that would have updated the existing automatic voter registration system to make it more secure, efficient, and effective at registering voters.



**S 613/ H 6240** requires local jurisdictions to take into account a variety of factors when sitting polling places to ensure poll placement is equitable and will maximize voter participation.



**S 35/H 5055** allows 17-year-olds to vote in a primary if they will be 18 by the general election.



**S 742/H 5462** requires the secretary of state to appoint a liaison to facilitate communications between the Department of State and the Board of Elections.



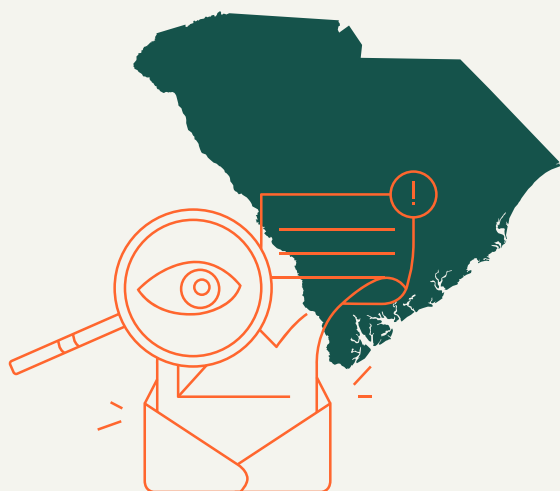
### Implementation Action



Last year, the state's secure online mail ballot application portal opened for voters to begin requesting ballots. The portal was implemented as part of the Let RI Vote Act passed in 2022.

Election Policy Progress Report

# South Carolina



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the South Carolina Legislature did not pass any significant pro-voter reforms this past session, it did secure much-needed funds for local election offices. Therefore, South Carolina received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where South Carolina Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **YES**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for South Carolina as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

43<sup>rd</sup>

COVI (2022)

24<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

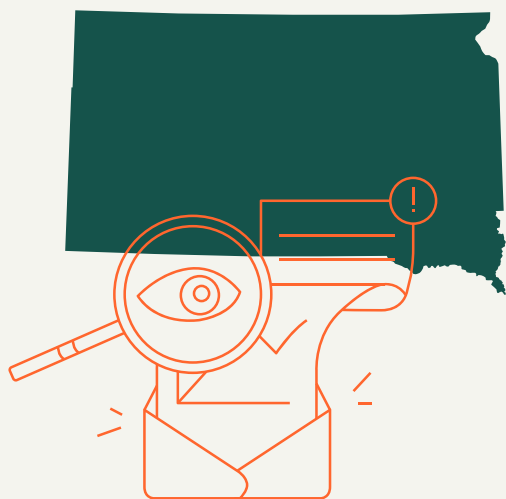
The Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2023 session. However, it did manage to secure funding for local election offices in the state budget bill.



**H 4300** appropriated additional funding that will go directly to counties for local election administration.

Election Policy Progress Report

# South Dakota



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past year, the Legislature took significant steps to restrict voter access. In addition to banning drop boxes and subjecting county auditors to criminal penalties for violations of the law, the Legislature instituted a strict 30-day residency requirement before individuals can register and vote in the state. Due to these restrictions, South Dakota received an F on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where South Dakota Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for South Dakota as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states. Last year, South Dakota was considered a middle tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

37<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

48<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature passed anti-voter legislation that both impedes voter access to the polls and exposes election officials to potential criminal penalties for failing to follow these new anti-voter laws.



**S 139** requires individuals to maintain residency in the state for 30 days before being eligible to register and vote.



**S 140** revises voter list maintenance procedures and requires county auditors to conduct list maintenance based on questionable data including jury duty excusals and obituaries.

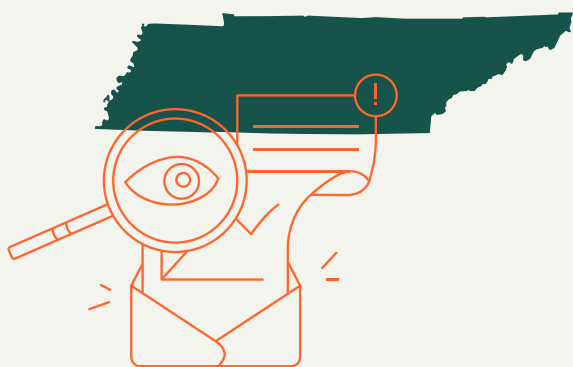


**H 1165** bans drop boxes, subjects county auditors to criminal penalties for failing to follow absentee ballot laws on drop boxes and signature review, and prohibits counting ballots that are returned to local election offices after the polls close (as previously allowed), among other things.



Election Policy Progress Report

# Tennessee



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the Tennessee General Assembly introduced dozens of election-related bills this past session, only a few minor changes, albeit positive, became law. However, the secretary of state's office made a major policy shift in the process that allows individuals to have their voting rights restored. Tennessee already has an extraordinarily high rate of felony disenfranchisement and this new change will ensure the state is unable to make meaningful progress towards correcting the problem. Tennessee received a D- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Tennessee Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Required**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Tennessee as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

38<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

37<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action



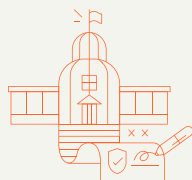
**S 346** requires all high schools to inform each high school senior that once they reach 18 years of age they may be eligible to vote. Schools should also inform them of voter eligibility requirements, how to register, and the date of the school's voter registration drive.



**H 1000** allows individuals convicted of illegal registration or illegal voting to have their record expunged after 15 years if they have paid any associated fines/fees/restitution and met all conditions of release.



**S 854** authorizes candidates to receive a list of all voters that have updated their voter registration address at the polls. In the event of a recount, those address updates must be verified as part of the recount process.



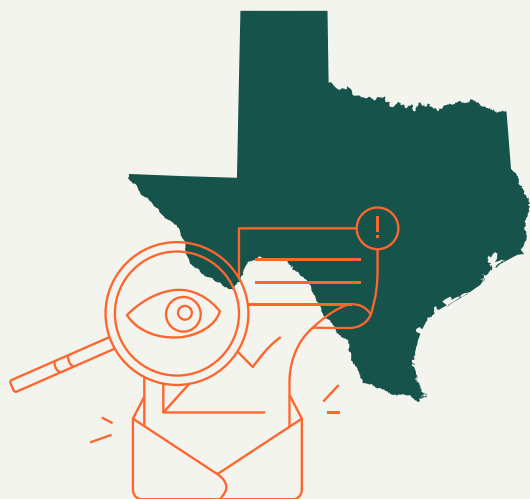
### Executive Action



Last year, the secretary of state's office announced a shift in the state's process for restoring voting rights that will now require returning citizens to either be granted clemency or have their rights restored by a circuit court judge in order to be eligible to register and vote. Tennessee already has the second highest number of citizens that remain disenfranchised due to felony convictions and this policy shift will only further increase the level of disenfranchisement.

## Election Policy Progress Report

# Texas



### Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Texas continues to remain at the bottom of states on voting rights. After passing significant anti-democratic reforms in 2021 that spurred numerous lawsuits and challenges, the Legislature continued to pursue anti-voter policies this past session. The Legislature introduced hundreds of election-related bills, and fortunately, the hard work of pro-voter groups on the ground meant that most of the worst anti-voter bills did not become law. The Legislature did however, manage to pass several pieces of legislation that targeted the election administration process in the state's largest populated county. With all that considered, Texas received a D on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Texas Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Parole and/or Probation Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**Photo ID Requested**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Texas as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

46<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

34<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

Once again, the Texas Legislature continued to enact further barriers to voting in the state. Last year, that included passing legislation to control the election administration of the state's largest county and removing the state from the multistate list maintenance organization, ERIC, which helped the state keep its voter rolls accurate.



Bills targeting Harris County:

- **S 1750** targets Harris County by removing the election administrator position only in counties of 3.2M+.
- **S 1933** authorizes the secretary of state to order administrative oversight of any county over 4M+.



**S 1070** authorizes the state to discontinue its membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).



**H 5180** requires the election records custodian to provide public access to ballot images or cast vote records once the final election canvass is complete and provide access to original voted ballots beginning 61 days after the election.



**H 1299** requires voters, and any voter assistant, to include a wet signature on mail ballot envelopes and makes it a crime for an individual assisting a voter to not include their wet signature on the envelope.



**H 1243** increases the penalties for illegally voting/attempting to illegally vote to a felony.



**S 1599** establishes notice and cure provisions for voters to correct certain defects on mail ballot applications and ballots. However, the law also needlessly requires signature verification committees to review a voter's signature even if the voter's identification number matches voter registration records.



**H 246** establishes a pilot program in six counties to video record ballot counting and processing.

However, the Texas Legislature also made several positive changes to expand voter access including expanding voter options for individuals with disabilities and extending the required early voting hours to cover all counties, among other things.



**S 477** expands access for voters with disabilities. It allows voters with mobility issues to bypass any lines at the polls, requires election officials to establish a reserved parking spot for voters that cannot enter the polls, and requires clerks to offer curbside voting procedures for those voters that cannot enter the polls, among other things.



**H 357** revises the information required to access the online ballot tracking system to require a voter's DOB instead of their registration address.



**H 1217** requires all counties to offer 12 consecutive hours of early voting during the final week of early voting—regardless of population size.



**H 315** adds a disclaimer to the absentee ballot envelope explaining why it is helpful for the voter to include their phone number and how it can assist the county clerk in processing the application.



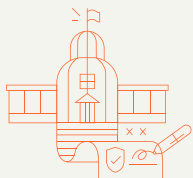
**H 1631** no longer requires poll workers to commit to 5 continuous hours to be able to choose the hours they will serve.



**S 1052** allows poll workers to be paid for up to 2 hours of work completed before the polls open.



**H 1632** requires the secretary of state to establish a fully online training program for election judges, early voting ballot board members, signature verification committee members, and counting station members.



## Executive Action



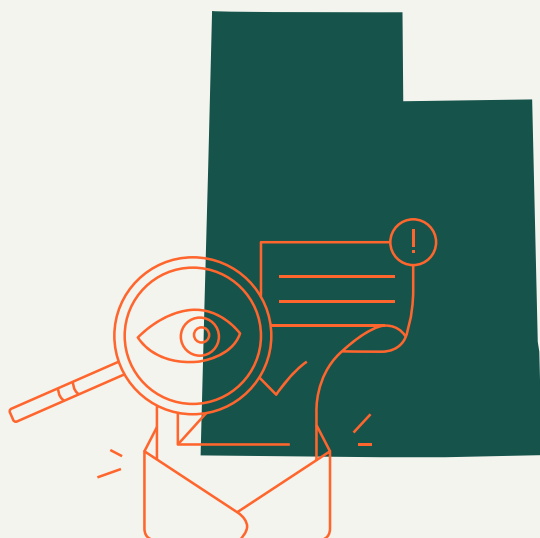
Governor Abbott vetoed H 3159 which would have improved mail ballot access for individuals with disabilities and allowed them to securely and secretly cast a ballot.



Secretary of State Jane Nelson officially withdrew the state from ERIC this past October.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Utah



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Last year the Utah State Legislature made mostly pro-voter amendments to its election laws. However, it also needlessly rolled back the deadline for voters to change their party affiliation in presidential primary years. Accordingly, Utah received a B on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Utah Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Utah as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

8<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

38<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

# This Past Year



## Legislative Action

The Legislature passed a number of pro-voter improvements. However, there were also a few setbacks:



**H 303** revises standards for access to the voter registration database and requirements to protect certain individuals' voter registration information as confidential. It also allows political parties and candidates to have access to protected individuals' addresses for political purposes.



**H 448** expands the lieutenant governor's power as the chief election official for the state. It also revises notice and cure provisions for mail ballots, changes voter list maintenance obligations for both the lieutenant governor and local clerks, and requires an accessible voting method for disabled voters that are unable to vote by mail.



**H 37** requires election offices to provide disabled voters that are unable to vote by mail with an accessible voting method. It requires the director of elections to issue signature matching and cure provision regulations, including a method for a disabled voter to verify their mail ballot that complies with the ADA. It also revises existing cure procedures to allow clerks to send voters notice of an issue within two business days, regardless of the method used to contact the voter, and requires clerks to send a cure affidavit, or link to a cure affidavit to the voter with the notice.



**S 17** allows registered voters to remain a resident of their prior in-state address for 30 days after an in-state move, allows unhoused individuals to use a "non-traditional" location as their place of residence for voter registration purposes, and expands the definition of "covered voters" for overseas and military ballots to include a broader range of citizens that are living abroad during an election.



**H 347** increases penalties for tampering with or destroying drop boxes or ballots deposited inside them.



**H 69** requires election officials to provide notice of early voting options, including dates, times, and locations, starting 28 days before an election, instead of the current 19 days before.



**H 162**, similar to H 37, improves access for voters with a disability, by requiring election officials to provide an accessible voting method for voters unable to utilize vote by mail. It also provides safeguards to ensure that disabled voters' that do vote by mail do not have their ballots disqualified for "inconsistent signatures" related to their disability.



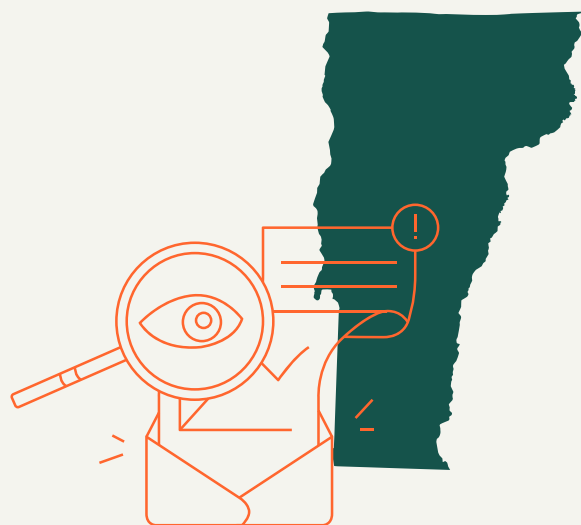
**H 269** requires the Office of the Legislative Auditor General to "conduct a biennial audit of elections and related processes." This is in addition to the annual audit already conducted by the lieutenant governor.



**H 365** significantly shortens the deadline for voters to change party affiliation in presidential primary years by requiring voters to make any party changes by early January instead of March 31, as is currently allowed.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Vermont



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For the second year in a row, the Vermont General Assembly did not make any substantial changes to its election laws. While Vermont is consistently a leader on election policy and has made substantial gains in previous years, this year the election landscape remained the same. Therefore, Vermont received a B on this year's progress report for maintaining its existing pro-voter policies.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Vermont Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**Open to All Eligible**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**No Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Vermont as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

3<sup>rd</sup>

COVI (2022)

1<sup>st</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)



2023

## This Past Year



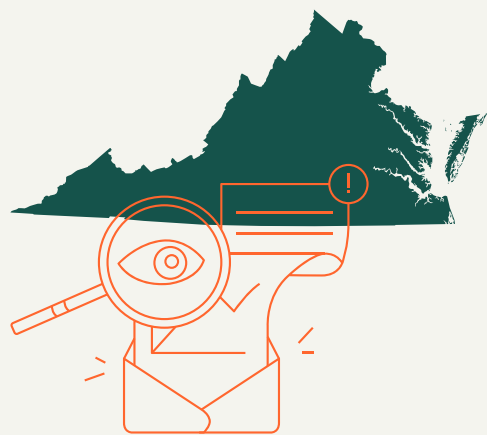
### Legislative Action



The General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2023 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Virginia



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the Virginia Assembly removed a significant impediment to absentee voting in the state by repealing the burdensome witness requirements. Unfortunately, Governor Youngkin took several actions to move the state's elections laws backwards, particularly in maintaining secure voter rolls and increasing voter access. Overall, the anti-voter measures undertaken by the governor will have a more profound impact on voting in the state. Therefore, Virginia received a D+ on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Virginia Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Some Permanent  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Virginia as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

11<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

18<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

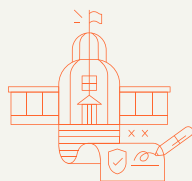
The Assembly made a significant pro-voter improvement to the absentee ballot process this past session.



**H 1948** repealed the onerous witness requirement for absentee ballots and replaced it with a more voter-friendly requirement to include the last four digits of the voter's SSN and birth year on their ballot envelope.



**H 2471/S 1514** changes the removal process for registrars that fail to perform their duties.



### Executive Action



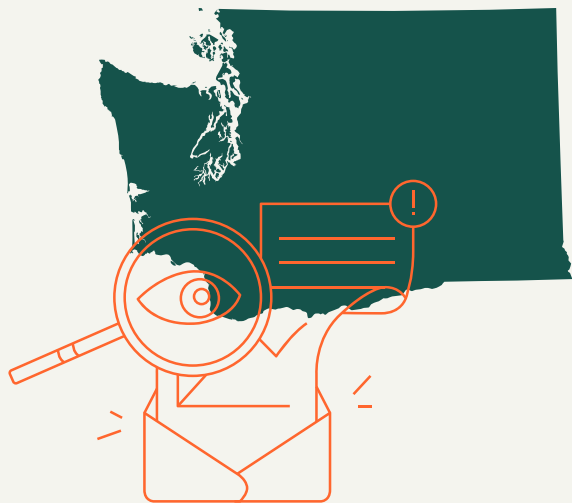
Last year, Governor Youngkin announced that he was ceasing a previous executive practice of automatically restoring voting rights to returning citizens upon release from prison. Instead, individuals convicted of a felony return to a default rule of disenfranchisement and in order to have their rights restored, they must file an application which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for potential restoration. This process is currently the subject of ongoing litigation.



In addition, under pressure from Governor Youngkin, Virginia, despite being one of the founding member-states of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), resigned from the list maintenance organization in 2023. Instead, the state has opted to sign individual agreements with a handful of neighboring states and utilize less reliable data sources in an attempt to keep the voter rolls up-to-date.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Washington



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After several years of effort, this past year the Washington Legislature finally succeeded in upgrading to a Secure AVR system, which will make the state's voter registration system more efficient and effective. As a top tier state, we expect more out of Washington, and this year it certainly delivered, and in doing so, it received an A on this year's progress report for its improvements to the state's automatic and online voter registration systems and its expansion of the state's voting rights act.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Washington Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Partial AVR**

Online Voter Registration:  
**DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Prison Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**Regular Ballot Early Voting**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Washington as of 2022, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other top tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

2<sup>nd</sup>

COVI (2022)

12<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature passed several significant pieces of pro-voter legislation during the 2023 session.



**SB 5112** updates the existing automatic voter registration system to fully streamline registration for individuals with an enhanced driver's license and expands automatic registration to additional state agencies beyond the DMV.



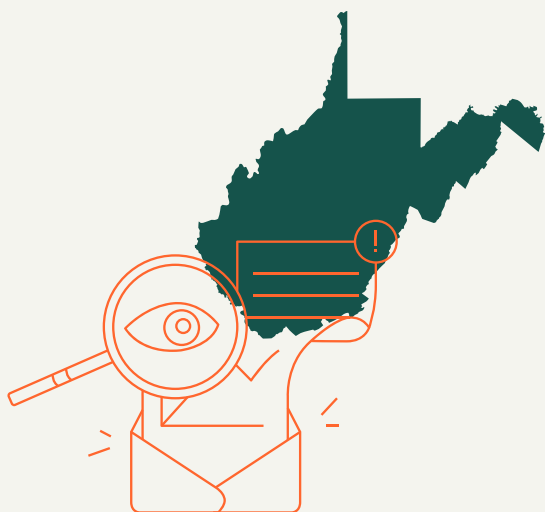
**HB 1048** strengthens the "Washington Voting Rights Act" to ensure that communities of color have an equal opportunity to elect a representative of their choice.



**SB 5208** increases opportunities to register using the state's existing online voter registration system by allowing citizens without a driver's license to register online by using the last four digits of their social security number or their learner's permit number.

Election Policy Progress Report

# West Virginia



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The West Virginia Legislature made one minor pro-voter improvement to the state's election laws this past year by extending the online voter registration deadline by a few hours. However, the state took a major step back with regards to election security when Secretary Warner pulled the state out of ERIC without establishing a reliable alternative method to ensure the state's voter rolls remain accurate and up-to-date. West Virginia received a C- on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where West Virginia Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:  
**Hard Stop**

Online Voter Registration:  
**DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**ID Requested, but not Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for West Virginia as of 2022, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, West Virginia was considered a bottom tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

19<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

15<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year

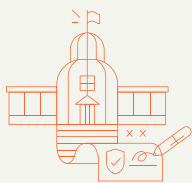


### Legislative Action

The West Virginia Legislature made only one small improvement to election laws this past year.



**S 631** slightly extends the online voter registration deadline a few additional hours from close of business on the 21st day before the election to 11:59pm on the 21st day.



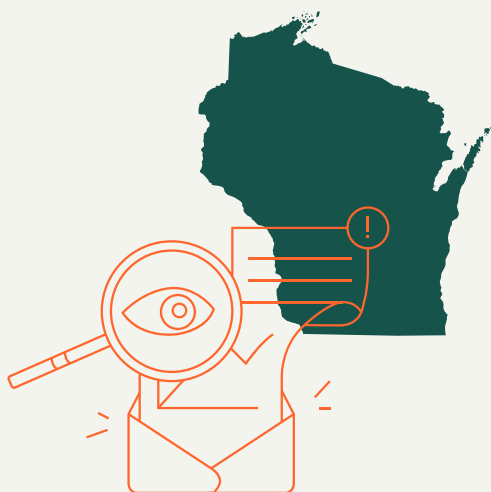
### Executive Action



Last year, Secretary of State Mac Warner resigned the state's membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helped keep the state's voter registration list up-to-date. Unfortunately, this action will only make the state's voter rolls less secure and accurate.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Wisconsin



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Over the past few sessions, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature have repeatedly sought to make election law changes based on allegations of election fraud and baseless conspiracy theories. This past year was no different and the Legislature focused its efforts on removing the state's nonpartisan Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) administrator based on conspiracy theories surrounding the 2020 election. Wisconsin received a D on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Wisconsin Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:  
**Parole and/or Probation  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Wisconsin as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states.

### How Our Tier Compares

47<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

4<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)



2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

The Legislature concentrated its energy on removing the state's highest election administrator during this past year's session.



**SR 4** is a Senate Resolution that attempts to fire the state's nonpartisan WEC Administrator based on lies about the 2020 election. The resolution is currently the subject of litigation filed by the attorney general.



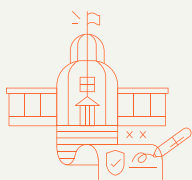
**SJR 73** is a proposed constitutional amendment that would require voters to present a photo ID to vote. The resolution must be passed again next session and then would then be put to the voters for final approval.



**SJR 78** is a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit the use of private funding for election administration. It would also prohibit anyone other than election administrators from performing certain election-related tasks. The resolution must be passed again next session and then would then be put to the voters for final approval.



**S 433** shortens the timeline for delivering mail ballots to voters during presidential primaries to 21 days before the primary instead of the current 47 days.



### Executive Action



For yet another session, Governor Evers vetoed several anti-voter bills that passed the Legislature.

- **S 98** would have required the Wisconsin Election Commission to verify the citizenship status of everyone on the voter rolls.
- **A 433** would have changed the definition of "indefinitely confined" to severely limit which voters may join the permanent absentee voter list. It would also have required the Commission to remove all voters from the list that joined during the beginning of the pandemic.
- **A 396** would have dramatically reduced the fees paid to receive voter registration lists in a way that could "significantly hinder and reduce services provided to Wisconsin clerks and voters," as Governor Evers noted in his veto message.



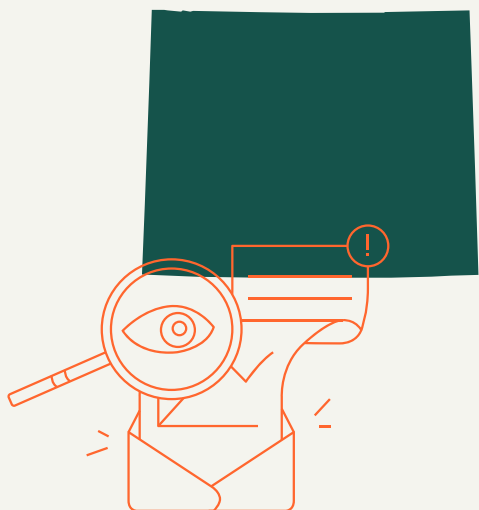
## Implementation Action



The Wisconsin Elections Commission recently revised the design of absentee ballot envelopes to make them more voter-friendly and make them easier for clerks to process.

Election Policy Progress Report

# Wyoming



## Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After taking a break from passing anti-voter restrictions in 2022, the Legislature returned this last year to pass several anti-voter laws. Fortunately, Governor Gordon stepped in and vetoed legislation that would have unduly restricted absentee voting. The state did, however, implement laws to shorten deadlines to send mail ballots to voters, shorten deadlines for voters to change party affiliation, and institute ID requirements for voters requesting mail ballots in person. Therefore, Wyoming received a C on this year's progress report.

2023

## Looking Back

### Where Wyoming Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:

**Some Permanent  
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information  
Center Member: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:  
**In-Person Absentee**

ID Requirements:  
**No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Wyoming as of 2022, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2023 activity against other bottom tier states. Last year, Wyoming was considered a middle tier state.

### How Our Tier Compares

44<sup>th</sup>

COVI (2022)

45<sup>th</sup>

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard  
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating  
(2022)

2023

## This Past Year



### Legislative Action

After making a small improvement to the county election administration process in 2022, this past year the Legislature focused once again on passing legislation to make it harder for election workers to do their jobs and for voters to cast ballots.



**S 153** shortens the timeframe for clerks to send mail ballots to voters down to 28 days before the election, instead of the current 45 days.



**H 103** significantly moves up the deadline to change party affiliation before a party primary to 96 days before the election. The current deadline allows voters to change party preference up to 14 days before the primary.



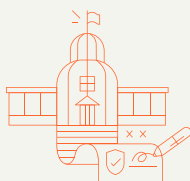
**H 279** requires voters applying for a mail ballot in person to show ID as if they were voting at the polls on Election Day.



**H 5** expands the list of information stored in the official voter registration database to include a unique voter identifying number, info related to absentee ballot status, and date of registration.



**H 79** adds concealed carry permits to the list of acceptable voter ID.



### Executive Action



Governor Gordon vetoed S 131, which would have prevented anyone other than county clerks or the secretary of state from distributing unsolicited mail ballot applications in any form to voters. In his veto letter, the governor noted the legislation could “inappropriately suppress proper absentee voting.”