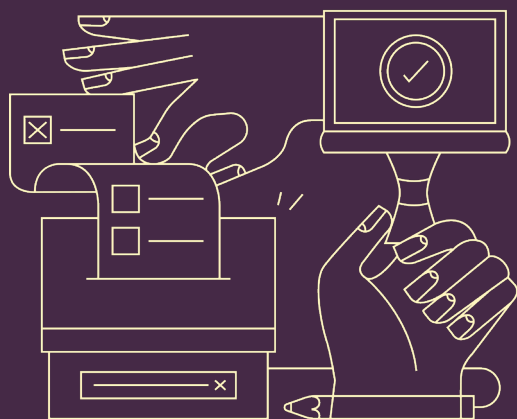


Institute *for*
Responsive
Government

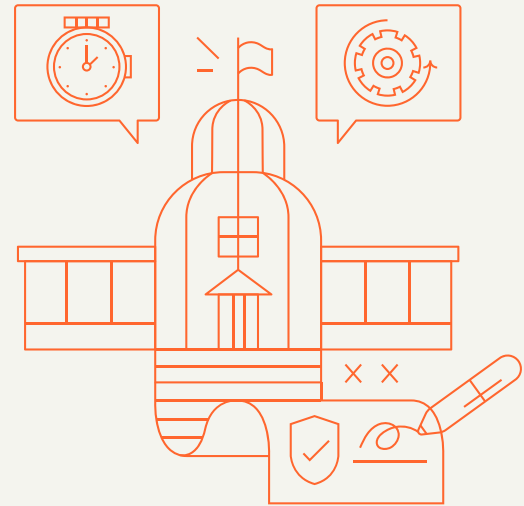
20
25

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:

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.”

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.”

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. This study updates the Cost of Voting Index (COVI) for the 2024 US presidential election by analyzing recent legislation that affects voting accessibility across the 50 states.

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 2024.

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

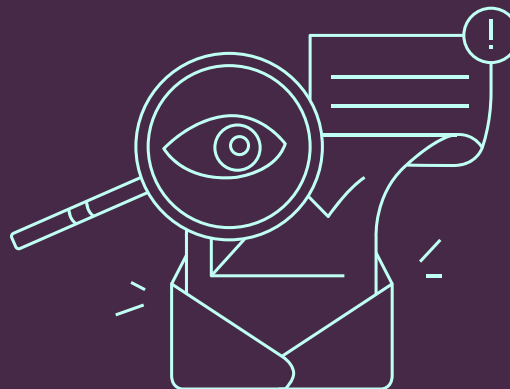
Were the changes to the election code consequential for impacting eligible voters' abilities to participate in elections?

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 implementation 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.

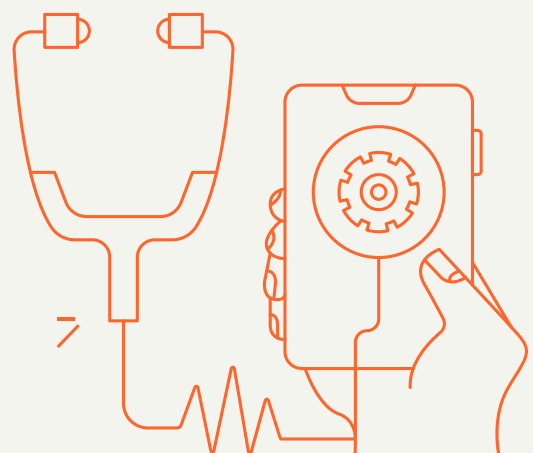
However, there are a few exceptions to the general rule. For example:

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.

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.

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.

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 2024 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 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.

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 Colorado, received an “A+” for continuing to innovate and pass new pro-voter policies, like lowering the voter pre-registration age to 16. 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 polices the state has already implemented.

Conversely, in a bottom tier state, legislation was considered against the backdrop of the existing host of anti-voter polices 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 New Mexico received an A- for providing funding for election administration and implementation of pro-voter policies that were passed in 2023, but was marked down for issues with implementing voting rights restoration.

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.

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 the State Auditor. And Michigan, Minnesota, and Colorado all received an “A+”, our highest grade possible, for instituting new pro-voter reforms and implementing a host of pro-voter policies passed in 2023.

*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.

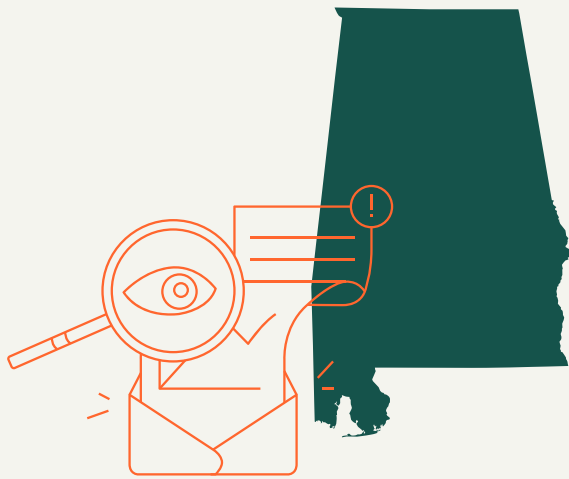
Election Policy Progress Report

Index

ALABAMA.....	8	MONTANA.....	62
ALASKA.....	10	NEBRASKA.....	64
ARIZONA.....	12	NEVADA.....	66
ARKANSAS.....	14	NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	68
CALIFORNIA.....	16	NEW JERSEY.....	70
COLORADO.....	19	NEW MEXICO.....	72
CONNECTICUT.....	21	NEW YORK.....	74
DELAWARE.....	23	NORTH CAROLINA.....	76
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	25	NORTH DAKOTA.....	78
FLORIDA.....	27	OHIO.....	80
GEORGIA.....	29	OKLAHOMA.....	82
HAWAII.....	31	OREGON.....	84
IDAHO.....	33	PENNSYLVANIA.....	86
ILLINOIS.....	35	RHODE ISLAND.....	88
INDIANA.....	37	SOUTH CAROLINA.....	90
IOWA.....	39	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	92
KANSAS.....	41	TENNESSEE.....	94
KENTUCKY.....	43	TEXAS.....	96
LOUISIANA.....	45	UTAH.....	98
MAINE.....	48	VERMONT.....	100
MARYLAND.....	50	VIRGINIA.....	102
MASSACHUSETTS.....	52	WASHINGTON.....	105
MICHIGAN.....	54	WEST VIRGINIA.....	107
MINNESOTA.....	56	WISCONSIN.....	109
MISSISSIPPI.....	58	WYOMING.....	111
MISSOURI.....	60		

Election Policy Progress Report

Alabama



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After a brief hiatus from enacting anti-voter legislation in 2023, the Alabama Legislature passed strict new absentee ballot restrictions this year. Although they also passed legislation to protect election workers from harassment and violence, the bill also expanded the list of crimes that result in a loss of voting rights. Therefore, Alabama received a D on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Alabama Started At The Beginning Of 2024:

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: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Alabama as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

47th

COVI (2024)

38th

EPI Score (2022)

2/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During this past year, the Alabama Legislature passed legislation to protect election workers but also enacted new absentee ballot restrictions.



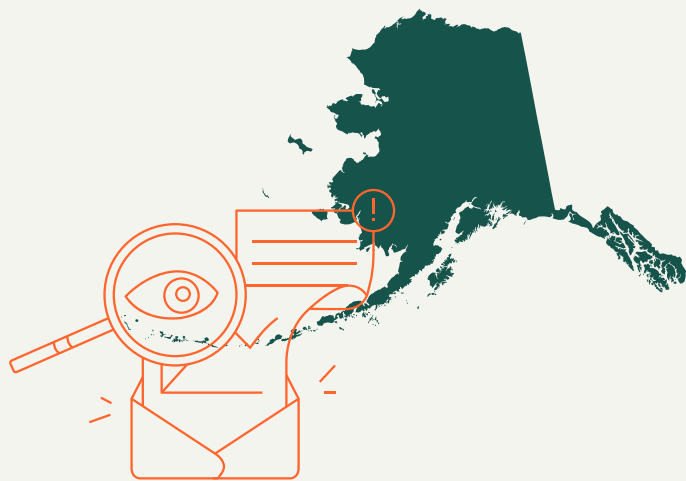
SB 1 prohibits individuals from distributing or returning absentee ballot applications for others and makes violations a felony. Voters that rely on the assistance of others to return their applications, such as the elderly and disabled, will likely face challenges in getting their ballot. The law is currently the subject of an ongoing lawsuit. This past fall the court blocked the portion of the law that infringed on blind, disabled and illiterate voters' ability to receive assistance under federal law. Litigation remains ongoing.



HB 100 attempts to protect election workers from threats and violence by punishing individuals that commit felony crimes against election workers with disenfranchisement. While increasing protection for election workers is critically important, there are other, more effective, tools to ensure their safety. Additionally, the bill goes beyond the stated goal of protecting election workers to further extend the list of disenfranchising crimes to a host of other non-election related crimes.

Election Policy Progress Report

Alaska



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the Alaska Legislature did not make any substantive changes to its election laws. Due to its lack of action, Alaska received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Alaska Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Alaska was a top tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

19th

COVI (2024)

24th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

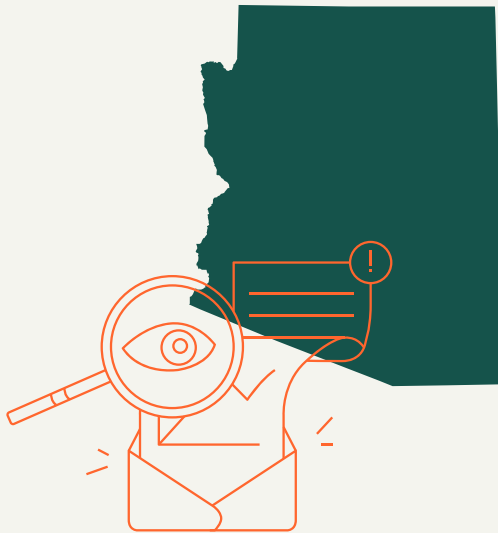


Legislative Action

The Alaska Legislature did not pass any election-related bills during the 2024 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

Arizona



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Over the last year, many elected officials within the Arizona State Legislature continued to push false narratives around voter fraud leading to a slew of anti-voter measures passed. However, Governor Hobbs served as an important backstop by vetoing those bills. The Legislature did, however, unite behind an important bipartisan solution to correct a potentially serious issue with the election recount calendar that could have led to the state missing key certification deadlines. Therefore, Arizona received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Arizona Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

25th

COVI (2024)

24th

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

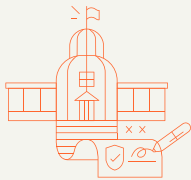
Although many within the Legislature continued to push anti-voter legislation based on false claims of voter fraud, fortunately, most of those extreme pieces of legislation failed to gain traction this session. Instead, the Legislature came together to pass a correction to the election calendar.



HB 2785 corrected a critically important timing issue with election recounts that could have caused the state to miss important certification deadlines. It also requires counties to open the weekend after general elections to assist voters with curing defects on mail ballots.



HB 2482 requires county records to text or email a voter within 24 hours to notify the voter of any changes made to their voter registration record.



Executive Action



Governor Hobbs vetoed several bills this session that would have undermined election security and created unnecessary headaches for voters. These restrictions included:

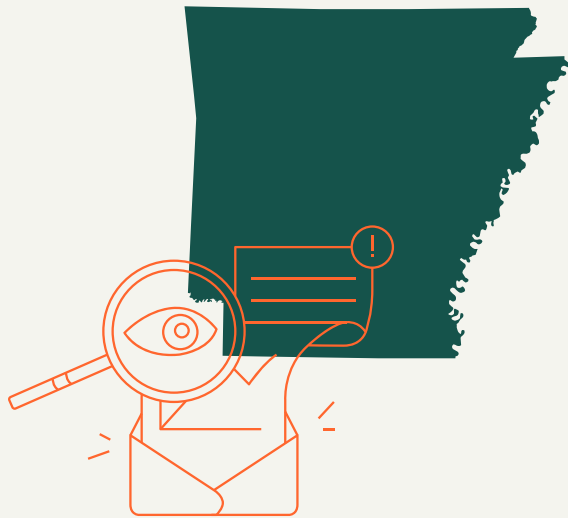
- **SB 1060**, which would have greatly expanded poll watcher and observer access in ways that would likely be disruptive to election officials trying to oversee the election.
- **HB 2404**, which would have stopped county recorders from sending voter registration cards to registered voters with an address outside the state except for in very limited circumstances.
- **HB 2612**, which would have unnecessarily increased the criminal penalties for certain election-related crimes.



Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and his team worked quickly to ensure voter access after a longstanding MVD error was discovered, which led to 218,000 Arizona voters registered without proof of citizenship. The secretary's office cured as many voters as possible from the list using existing state databases. It also asked the Arizona Supreme Court to permit affected voters to cast full ballots in the November 2024 general election. Quick and effective action by the secretary's team will help ensure that disruptions to the Arizona electorate are as minimal as possible moving forward into 2025.

Election Policy Progress Report

Arkansas



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During the 2024 fiscal session, the Arkansas Legislature provided additional funds for election staff. However, the Legislature also approved a new emergency rule from the State Board of Election Commissioners that attempts to prohibit third party groups from submitting voter registration forms via an online portal. Therefore, Arkansas received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Arkansas Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

44th

COVI (2024)

50th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

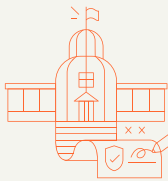


Legislative Action

The Arkansas Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session, but it did pass legislation to provide funding for additional election workers.



HB 1051 appropriated an additional \$100,000 to the State Board of Election Commissioners for up to 20 part time or temporary workers as needed during the year.



Executive Action



Earlier this year, the State Board of Election Commissioners proposed – and the Legislature approved – a new emergency rule that requires a “wet signature” on paper voter registration forms. This rule prohibits voter registration forms from being submitted via e-mail or fax because the forms would lack the voter’s handwritten signature in pen. The new rule is currently the subject of an ongoing lawsuit but remains in effect while the case proceeds.

Election Policy Progress Report

California



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, California made several small pro-voter improvements to its elections. And while the Legislature finally passed legislation to improve its automatic voter registration system, unfortunately Governor Newsom vetoed the bill. This will continue to leave more than 4 million eligible voters unregistered to vote in the state. California also failed to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which would have helped keep the state's voter rolls accurate and up-to-date. Therefore, California received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where California Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **NO**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for California as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

4th

COVI (2024)

45th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Once again, the California Legislature passed several pieces of pro-voter legislation that make changes to a wide range of election-related processes. Yet again, the Legislature failed to take action to join ERIC, a multistate list maintenance organization that would help ensure the state's voter rolls are up-to-date.



AB 2951 changes the process for notifying voters that may be removed from the voter rolls due to mental incompetency, death, or imprisonment due to a felony conviction.



AB 2839 prohibits individuals and organizations from distributing materials that contain disinformation or deepfakes about elections from 120 days before a state election to 60 days after.



AB 2642 makes it a crime to intimidate, threaten, or coerce someone for engaging in certain election-related activities, such as voting or assisting someone voting. Individuals that currently administer elections, or did so in the past, are also protected against harassment.



AB 2582 repeals the existing law that created separate registration procedures for new voters registering after the existing 14-day deadline. Instead, these voters may continue to use the same-day registration process that is available to all voters during early voting and on Election Day.



AB 2127 extends the Motor Voter Task Force, which consults with the DMV and outside experts on the effective implementation of California's automatic voter registration system until 2030.



AB 3184 requires election officials to combine the mail ballot signature verification statement with the ballot ID envelope statement and to accept a signature on the combined statement as meeting the requirement for either. It would also allow a list of missing signatures to be made public to candidates and initiative/referendum committees to allow them to follow up with voters and ensure their ballots are able to be counted. The bill also extends the deadline for certifying election results, among other things.



SB 1450 requires the secretary of state to reestablish the taskforce that reviews all-mail or vote center elections that was disbanded as of January 2022.



SB 1328 increases the secretary of state's oversight over e-pollbooks and other electronic voting equipment, requires voting equipment vendors and manufacturers to notify the secretary of potential flaws with the equipment within 24 hours of discovery, and expands upon the existing felony interference with voting equipment to include additional illegal actions.

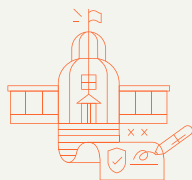


SB 1174 prohibits local governments from passing laws that would require voters to show photo ID to vote in municipal elections.

Yet again, the Assembly failed to take action on legislation that would help the state improve the accuracy of the voter rolls.



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



Executive Action

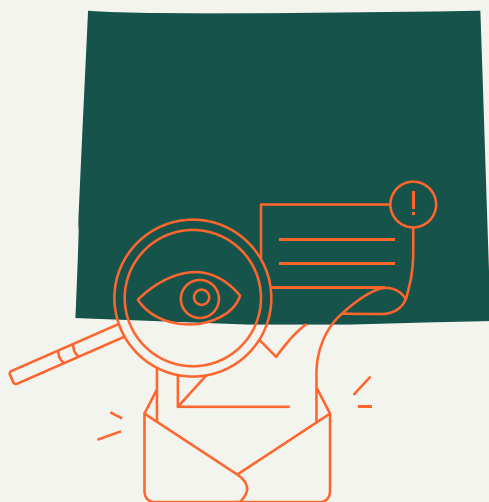


Unfortunately, Governor Newsom vetoed several pro-voter bills during this past year.

- **SB 299** would have established a process to allow eligible unregistered individuals to be pre-approved for voter registration through their transaction at the DMV and improved protections for non-citizens interacting with the state's AVR system. Signing SB 299 into law had the potential to help pre-approve over 4 million eligible, but unregistered voters in the state.
- **AB 884** would have improved language access for voters in various language minority groups.
- **AB 544** would have established a pilot program to provide grants to 3 counties to help facilitate in-person voting at jails for qualified incarcerated individuals.
- **AB 2724** would have required high schools to provide students with information on voter preregistration and an opportunity to register.

Election Policy Progress Report

Colorado



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Yet again, the Colorado General Assembly advanced new pro-voter policies, including first-in-the-nation legislation that extended voter preregistration to 15-year-olds as well as increasing voter access for qualified incarcerated individuals. While this might seem like a small change, extending the pre-registration age will have a significant impact for other gold standard programs Colorado already implemented, like automatic voter registration. No other state has taken this initiative thus far, keeping Colorado ahead of the curve regarding pro-voter policies. These additional improvements earned the state an A+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Colorado Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Colorado as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

8th

COVI (2024)

3rd

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Colorado Legislature continued to pioneer new ideas to further expand voting in the state. This year it passed legislation to lower the voter preregistration to 15 and set new requirements for voting in jails that will greatly expand ballot access.



SB 210 lowered the pre-registration age from 16 to 15 and expanded dropbox access on college campuses. Lowering the preregistration age to 15 will allow people under 16 years of age obtaining their permit from the DMV to benefit from Colorado's AVR system.



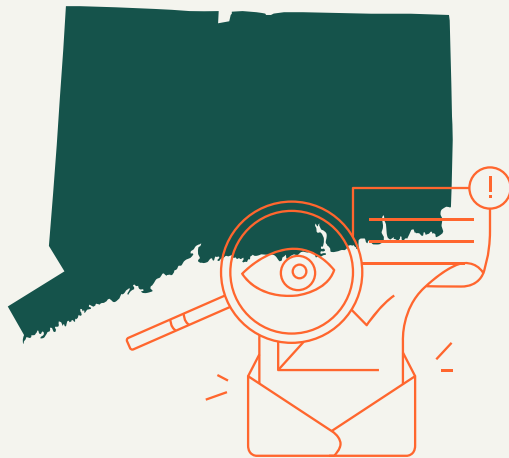
SB 72 requires sheriffs to establish polling places inside jails for every general election and requires every jail to designate a ballot drop off location.



Implementation Action



Colorado continues to work 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.



Institute for Responsive
Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Connecticut State Legislature continued to pass pro-voter reforms. In addition to passing important legislation to protect both voters and election workers from harassment, the Legislature took an important step towards possibly allowing voter pre-registration for 16-year-olds in coming years. Therefore, Connecticut received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Connecticut Started at the Beginning of 2023

Automatic Voter Registration:
Partial AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

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

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Connecticut as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

20th

COVI (2024)

25th

EPI Score (2022)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past session, the Legislature improved voter access for individuals in nursing homes, made progress towards implementing voter preregistration, and expanded election worker protections.



HB 5308 allows voters in nursing homes to designate an individual to submit their mail ballot application and pick up their ballot.



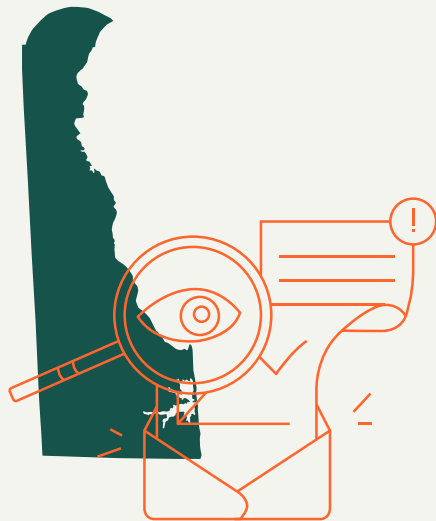
HJR 216 is a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution that allows the Legislature to establish voter pre-registration for 16-year-olds in the future. This resolution has the potential to be voted on again by the Legislature in 2025 and then be placed on the ballot for voters to decide.



HB 5498 requires officials to make daily video recordings of drop boxes publicly accessible and limits removal of voters from the permanent voting list to those whose address confirmation is returned as undeliverable. It also clarifies that it is a crime to attempt to block a voter from voting, whether the voter is attempting to deposit a ballot into a drop box, vote in person at the polls on Election Day, or cast a vote during early voting period. The bill also protects election workers from harassment and violence, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

Delaware



Institute for Responsive
Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Delaware Legislature made one small change to its election laws in the name of voter accessibility. While it passed important legislation to ensure that voters with disabilities will have adequate access to the polls for all state elections, the Assembly, once again, failed to move a critical restoration of rights constitutional amendment forward. Therefore, Delaware received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Delaware Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Delaware as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

28th

COVI (2024)

26th

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Delaware General Assembly passed one small, but important, initiative this year:



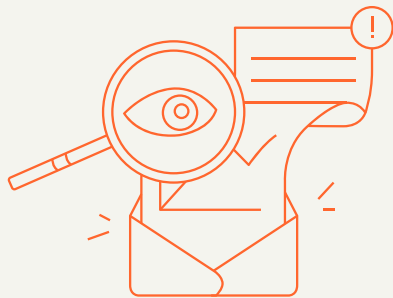
HB 293 requires the Department of Elections to ensure that all polling places in the state are accessible to voters with disabilities and have accessible parking for every election held in the state.



Unfortunately, the General Assembly was yet again unable to move SB 180 forward, which would have put the state on a path to restore voting rights for all individuals that have completed a term of incarceration for a felony conviction.

Election Policy Progress Report

District of Columbia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Council of the District of Columbia passed a trio of emergency bills aimed at protecting election workers from violence and harassment while on the job during the 2024 elections. It also passed legislation to make technical amendments to the District's newly enacted automatic voter registration law. Therefore, D.C. received an A on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where D.C. Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure 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 2024 rankings, based on the number of pro-voter policies in place in 2024, we considered D.C. a top tier jurisdiction for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

Not Rated

COVI (2024)

36th

EPI Score (2022)

Not Rated

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the D.C. Council passed several emergency acts focused on protecting election workers from acts of harassment and violence committed against them because of their work.



B 25-684, B 25-685, and B 25-806 increase penalties for crimes committed against election workers and officials while they are performing their official duties throughout the 2024 election cycle.



B 25-0752 makes technical amendments to the District's automatic voter registration system that streamlines and simplifies the AVR process for the Board of Elections and the DMV. This legislation was passed by the council and is currently pending final approval with the mayor.



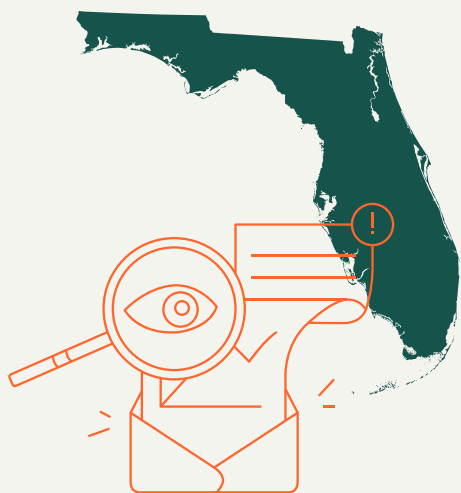
Implementation Action



The Board of Elections and the DMV teams are working closely to implement the innovative “pre-approval” automatic voter registration system successfully in advance of an October 1, 2025 launch date.

Election Policy Progress Report

Florida



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Florida Legislature only made a few minor changes to its election laws. It extended existing laws to continue to protect minors from having their voter pre-registration application made public and instituted a process to ensure voters would not have their party affiliation changed without their written consent. After several years of passing anti-voter legislation, these small improvements earned Florida a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Florida Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Florida as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

33rd

COVI (2024)

35th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature made relatively minor, positive changes to elections laws this past year.



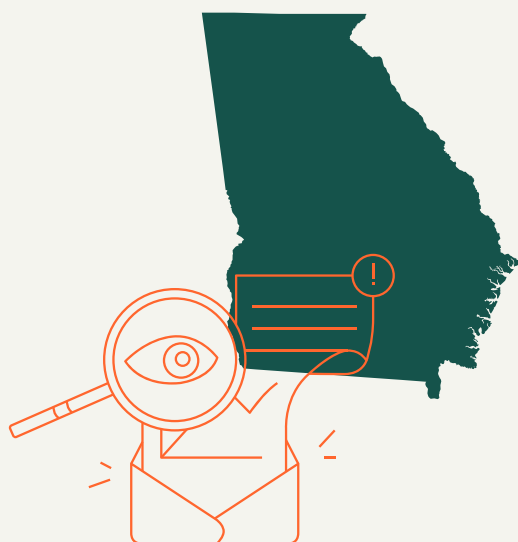
HB 135 prohibits election officials from changing a registered voter's political party affiliation unless the voter gives written consent to make the change and signs their name confirming the change. The bill also requires the DMV to provide voters with a printed receipt with their voter registration information and any changes to party affiliation made during the DMV transaction.



HB 7003 repealed an automatic sunset provision that would have made voter pre-registration applications for 16- and 17-year-olds subject to public disclosure starting in October 2024.

Election Policy Progress Report

Georgia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the Georgia State Legislature passed anti-voter restrictions. Instead of tackling real problems within the Georgia election system – such as the fraudulent mass voter challenges that have tied up local election offices for months – the Legislature opted to pass poorly thought-out legislation that does very little to address the real issues Georgia’s electoral system currently faces. Instead of listening to state election officials who tried to raise red flags about costs, legislators opted to pass a bill to remove QR codes and barcodes from ballots in the name of “election security” that will likely end up costing the state tens of millions of dollars to implement. The State Election Board also passed new rules to revise election administration processes right before the general election. Taking into consideration the significant rollbacks seen this year, Georgia received a D+ on this year’s progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Georgia Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Partial AVR

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

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
Strict Photo ID

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Georgia as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states. Last year, Georgia was considered a middle tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

36th

COVI (2024)

11th

EPI Score (2022)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Once again, the Legislature chose to focus on false claims of election fraud and passed several pieces of legislation that will do very little to increase election security. The new changes are also likely to substantially increase costs for election administration without any additional funds being provided.



SB 189 attempts to provide some sideboards to voter challenges by defining what constitutes “probable cause” to mount a challenge. However, the minimal changes are unlikely to change much in practice. The bill also contains an extremely costly provision that requires the secretary of state to rid all ballots of QR codes and other barcodes that are used to tabulate ballots.



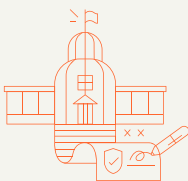
HB 974 requires the secretary of state to establish a program to provide images of all scanned paper ballots online. It also requires some questionable election security measures, such as printing all ballots on security paper with watermarks, that can be very expensive and would provide little value in the name of security.



HB 1207 prohibits election officials from hiring anyone that is not a U.S. citizen to perform election-related duties and greatly expands poll watcher access. However, it also shores up existing criminal provisions to protect election officials and poll watchers from harassment or interference while performing their duties.



SB 212 restructures election official duties in counties that have probate court judges that serve as election administrators. Counties would be required to shift to a Board of Elections with a designated election supervisor.



Executive Action



Despite numerous concerns from election officials and clerks throughout the state, the State Election Board approved a host of reforms aimed at making last-minute changes to various election administration processes. Fortunately, the Georgia Supreme Court paused the new rules from going into effect for the 2024 election.

Election Policy Progress Report

Hawaii



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the Hawaii Legislature passed only one election-related piece of legislation this session, it was an important step. By requiring the state to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), the Legislature has ensured Hawaii will be able to maintain accurate voter rolls for years to come. Hawaii earned an A- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Hawaii Started at the Beginning of 2024

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

3rd

COVI (2024)

33rd

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

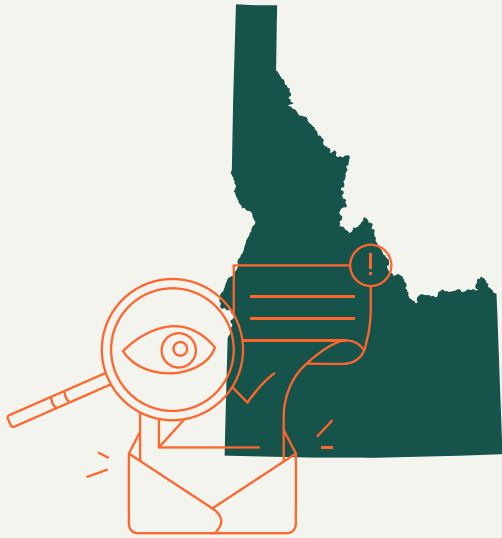
The Hawaii State Legislature passed important legislation to require the state to join ERIC, which will help ensure the state's voter rolls remain current and up-to-date.



SB 2240 requires the state to apply to join ERIC by June of 2025.

Election Policy Progress Report

Idaho



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This year the Idaho Legislature passed restrictions on ballot returns by third parties. However, the state also expanded eligibility for its free voter ID program to all residents over 18. Therefore, Idaho received a C on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Idaho Started at the Beginning of 2024

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, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Idaho as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

27th

COVI (2024)

32nd

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Although the Legislature made small improvements, like expanding the state's free voter ID program to all, it also passed legislation to restrict third party ballot returns.



HB 532 expands the state's limited free voter ID card program to all residents over the age of 18.



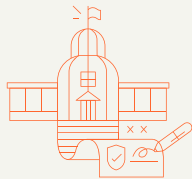
HB 599 restricts third party ballot return by limiting ballot collection to a relative, caregiver, household member, an election official, mail carrier or other person compensated by the voter to deliver their ballot. It also bars individuals, other than election officials and mail carriers, from transmitting more than six ballots.



HJ 5 is a constitutional amendment that further clarifies the state's already existing constitutional requirement that voters must be U.S. citizens to vote in Idaho elections. Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.



SB 1394 creates new felony election crimes for tampering with vote machines or vote tally systems.



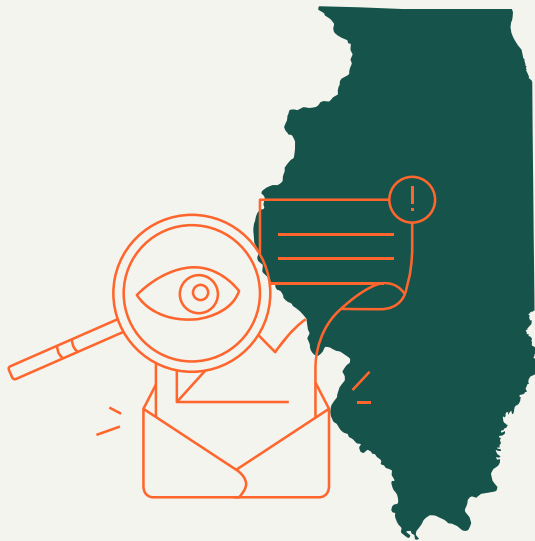
Executive Action



This past year, Governor Little issued Executive Order 2024-07 aimed at ensuring only U.S. citizens will vote in the state's elections. The order directs the secretary of state to ensure non-citizens are not on the voter rolls and directs state agencies to ensure voter registration materials are not provided to non-citizens, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

Illinois



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Illinois State Legislature only made small changes to its election laws this past session. Although no significant changes were made, the Assembly missed another opportunity to improve its automatic voter registration system. Therefore, Illinois received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Illinois Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

9th

COVI (2024)

39th

EPI Score (2022)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Illinois Legislature passed only one minor election-related piece of legislation this past session.



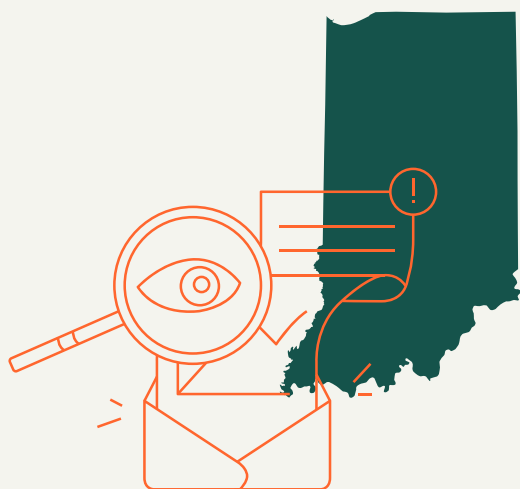
HB 4488 is an omnibus elections bill that made minor technical changes to existing law, among other things.



And for yet another year, legislators 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.

Election Policy Progress Report

Indiana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Although the Indiana General Assembly made minor improvements to cure provisions and extended protections for election workers this session, it also passed legislation that creates significant unnecessary barriers for individuals registering to vote for the first time. Additionally, the legislation makes it more difficult for election officials to obtain assistance and continuing education. The restrictions created will have lasting negative impacts on voters and greatly outweighs the minor improvements made. Therefore, Indiana received a D on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Indiana Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Indiana was considered a bottom tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

31st

COVI (2024)

20th

EPI Score (2022)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past session, the Indiana Assembly focused its energy on passing a significant piece of new anti-voter legislation aimed at making it easier to remove individuals from the voter rolls and making it more difficult for election officials to receive assistance and continuing education.



HB 1264 requires additional proof of residency for first-time registrants, requires election officials to verify voter's citizenship against motor vehicle records that may be outdated, and bans local election officials from joining or interacting with organizations that have directly/indirectly financed elections. This burdens young voters, could lead to naturalized citizens being wrongfully purged from the voter rolls, and bars local election officials from getting support from nonpartisan election organizations.



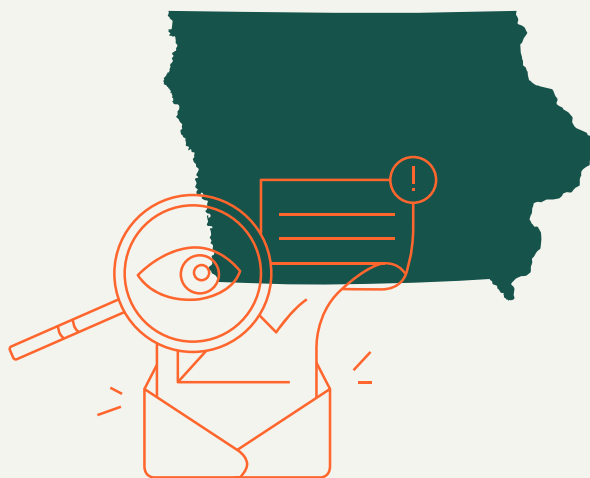
SB 170 extends existing criminal protections for election workers to protect them from harassment and violence while on the job.



HB 1265 revises cure procedures to allow voters to return cure forms to early voting sites, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

Iowa



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This year the Iowa Legislature made one minor, but positive, change to the state's election laws. It extended the state's existing election worker training requirement to all elections, not just the primary and general. Therefore, Iowa received a B on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Iowa Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **NO**

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

24th

COVI (2024)

7th

EPI Score (2022)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

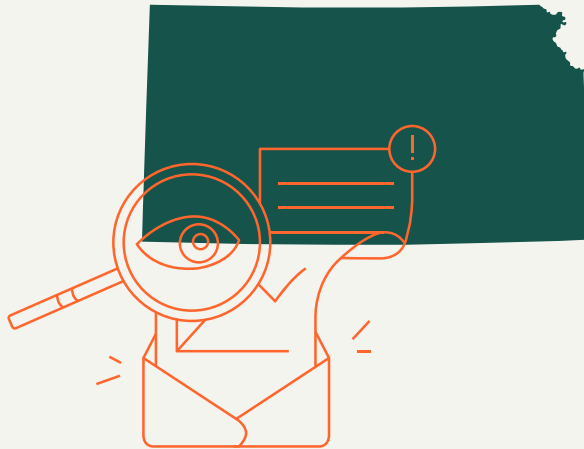
This past session, the Iowa Legislature passed legislation to ensure election workers receive training before all elections, not just the primaries and general elections.



HB 2466 extends the requirement for county election commissioners to conduct a training course for election workers to all elections. The bill also requires the state commissioner of elections to conduct an unofficial canvass of election results after most regular elections rather than just the general election as current law requires.

Election Policy Progress Report

Kansas



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the Kansas Legislature continued to pass anti-voter legislation. Fortunately this year, Governor Kelly used her veto power to successfully stop both of the bills passed by the Legislature. Therefore, Kansas received a C on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Kansas Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **YES**

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:
Strict Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kansas as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

38th

COVI (2024)

28th

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

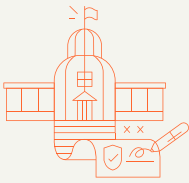
2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Kansas Legislature passed two anti-voter bills this past session. Both were fortunately vetoed by Governor Kelly.



Executive Action

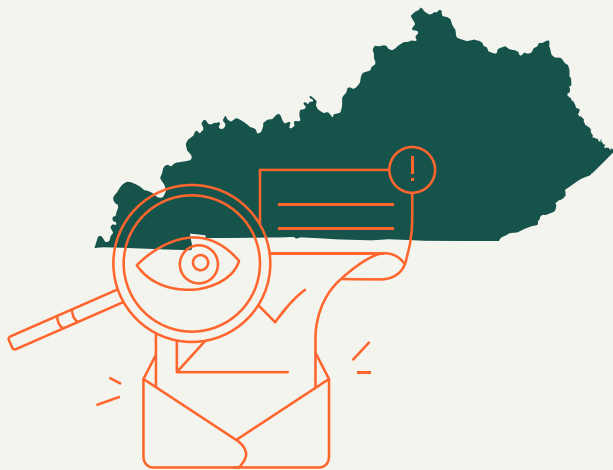


Governor Kelly vetoed two pieces of legislation this past year.

- HB 2614 would have added additional paperwork requirements for voters seeking to have their ballot returned by another person and required county election officials to track individuals returning ballots on behalf of other people.
- HB 2618 would have extended the private funding ban to prohibit government officials from also accepting federal funds for elections unless the funds were first specifically appropriated by state law. This would have compromised the state's ability to accept federal election security resources from agencies like the Department of Homeland Security, particularly when such resources would be needed to respond rapidly to an emerging cybersecurity threat or other emergency or disaster.

Election Policy Progress Report

Kentucky



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the Kentucky Legislature took small steps to expand voter access to early voting and increase voter access for incarcerated individuals. However, the Assembly also voted to override the governor's veto of legislation that pushes the state to leave the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), the multistate voter list maintenance organization, that helped ensure Kentucky's voter rolls remained accurate and up-to-date, unless the state is granted a waiver from certain requirements. Therefore, Kentucky received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Kentucky Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights: **Some permanent disenfranchisement**

Early Voting Opportunities: **YES**

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kentucky as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

37th

COVI (2024)

37th

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

While the Assembly made small progress towards increasing voter access, it also took a step back with respect to maintenance of the state's voter rolls.



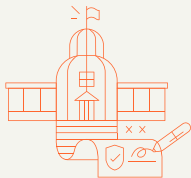
HB 580 expanded eligibility for early voting in-person options and expanded mail ballot access for eligible voters that are currently incarcerated.



HB 44 prohibits the state from maintaining its membership in ERIC, the voter list maintenance organization, unless the state gets a waiver to release it from the obligation to undertake efforts to register unregistered persons. It was enacted after the Legislature voted to override the governor's veto.



SB 143 is an amendment to the state constitution that explicitly requires U.S. citizenship to vote in the state. Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.



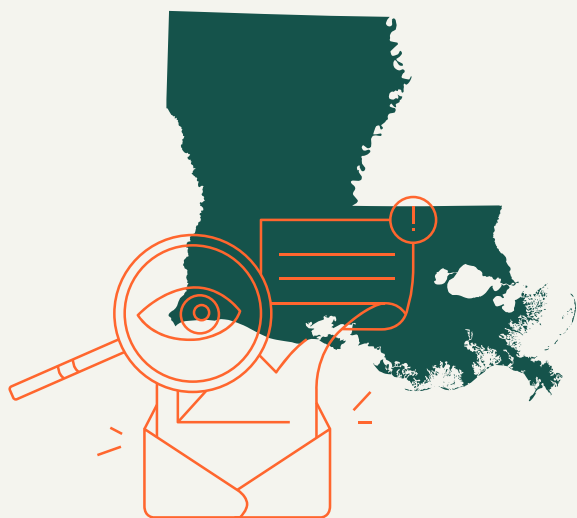
Executive Action



Although Governor Beshear attempted to veto HB 44, unfortunately, it was overridden by the Legislature.

Election Policy Progress Report

Louisiana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Louisiana Legislature passed more than a dozen new anti-voter laws in 2024. In recent years, the governor helped serve as an important back stop to anti-voter legislation by vetoing several restrictions passed by the Legislature. Unfortunately, this past year the new governor reversed course and supported all of the Legislature's new voter restrictions while vetoing legislation that would have enabled voters to receive help with completing their voter registration forms at their local parish election office. There were a few positive measures passed, but in combination with the overwhelming anti-voter initiatives signed into law, Louisiana received a D on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Louisiana Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states. Last year, Louisiana was considered a middle tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

34th

COVI (2024)

48th

EPI Score (2022)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed a slew of new anti-voter restrictions during the 2024 regular session.

- 

HB 763 prohibits election officials from implementing any federal directive on elections or accepting new election funding without an explicit state or federal legal requirement to do so or prior approval of the Legislature. If any official accepts federal funds without proper approval, the attorney general can seek legal means to recover the funds. This bill requires time-consuming legislative review of new federal election guidance and funding and could lead to critical delays in the state's response to new election threats.
- 

SB 436 requires new registrants to provide proof of citizenship when they register to vote.
- 

HB 476 bars individuals from returning more than a single ballot for a voter unless they are returning ballots for immediate family members.
- 

SB 155 criminalizes providing assistance to more than one voter unless the voter is an immediate family member.
- 

SB 218 bars individuals from returning more than a single mail ballot application for a voter unless they are returning an application for an immediate family member, prohibits distributing unsolicited mail ballot applications and requires poll workers to track anyone providing assistance to a voter at the polls.
- 

HB 581 makes it illegal to serve as a witness on more than one absentee ballot for any non-immediate family members and requires that all ballot witnesses be at least 18 years old and include their mailing address on the mail ballot certificate.
- 

HB 677 no longer requires registrars to confirm a voter's death with the office of vital records before removing the voter from the rolls. Instead, the obituary notice can be sufficient to remove a voter's name from the rolls. The bill also requires the Department of State, and not a parish registrar, to remove inactive voters from the rolls.
- 

SB 261 allows political parties to appoint watchers and "super watchers" in their local parish so long as at least 25% of the state's voters are affiliated with the party and the party has at least 1 of their nominees on the ballot.
- 

HB 506 requires all organizations and individuals that register voters in the state to register with the secretary of state before they can begin conducting voter registration drives.
- 

HB 319 requires parishes to also include the reason for a polling place change when they provide notice of the change.
- 

HB 570 extends the deadline for a voter to change their party affiliation to 20 days before the election to line up with the voter registration deadline.
- 

SB 258 ensures that if a voter casts an absentee ballot by mail or early voting ballot and then dies before Election Day their ballot will be counted.
- 

SB 384 requires registrars to track why a voter's mail or early vote ballot was rejected in the statewide voter registration system.



SB 226 allows mail ballots to be automatically challenged if a mail ballot certificate is missing information that is not cured by the voter.



SB 420 makes it illegal to commit election fraud and includes actions such as voting or attempting to vote more than once; voting or attempting to vote when unqualified to do so; and registering or voting under a false identity.



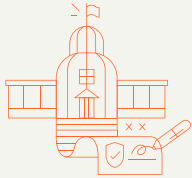
HB 114 requires the Department of State to conduct an additional annual voter list canvass, in addition to the existing yearly canvass conducted jointly by local registrars and the department. The department must send address confirmation notices to all registered voters that have not voted, updated their address, or taken other election-related actions in the past 10 years. Voters that fail to respond are moved to the inactive voter list.

Special Session

During the state's special session in early 2024, the Legislature passed legislation to close the state's primaries.



HB 17 closes Louisiana's primaries starting in January of 2026.



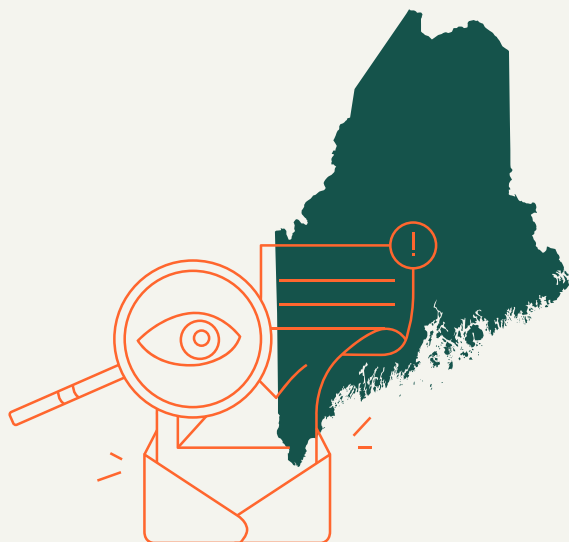
Executive Action



Governor Landry vetoed SB 96, which would have allowed individuals that needed internet access or additional assistance to complete their voter registration online to turn to their local parish election office to complete their application in person.

Election Policy Progress Report

Maine



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Maine Legislature did not make any substantial changes to its election laws during the 2024 session. Due to its lack of action, Maine received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Maine Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Maine was considered a top tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

17th
COVI (2024)

31st
EPI Score (2022)

8/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

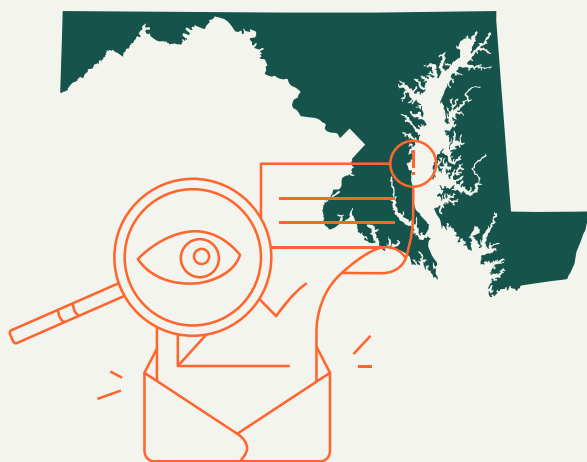


Legislative Action

The Maine Legislature did not pass any election-related bills during the 2024 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

Maryland



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the Maryland State Legislature failed to pass legislation to update its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system. However, the Legislature did pass legislation to establish new protections for election workers. Therefore, Maryland received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Maryland Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Partial AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Maryland as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

16th

COVI (2024)

18th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed important legislation to protect election workers from threats and harassment while on the job.



SB 480 / HB 585 makes it a crime to knowingly threaten election officials, election workers, or their immediate family members because of the work in administering elections.



HB 471 changes canvass procedures for both local boards and the state board, requires local boards to track "statements of dissents" from local canvass board members to be reviewed by the state board, and moves the deadlines for the statewide canvass.



SB 271 directs the State Board of Elections to set an appeals process for designating public buildings as voter centers. It also makes minor changes to how court clerks report felonies to the state.



SB 417 requires the State Board of Elections to conduct a performance evaluation for the state election administrator annually and requires the state election administrator to review local election board directors annually. The bill also directs the election director to manage the storage, security, and maintenance of vote system equipment and promptly notify the local board and state of any issues that arise.



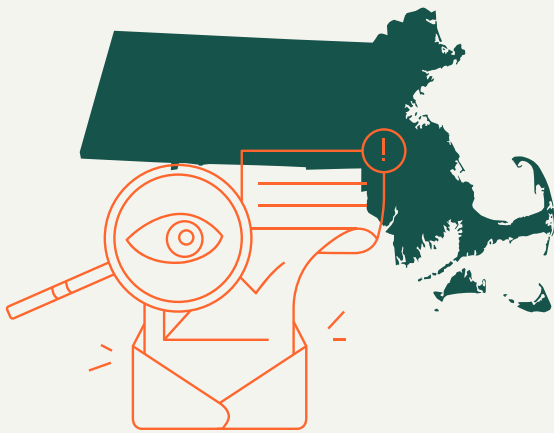
The Legislature failed to pass SB 605/ HB 1088, which would have upgraded the state's existing automatic voter registration system to a more effective Secure AVR system.



It also failed to pass HB 463/SB 515 to expand voter preregistration and HB 627, which would have expanded automatic voter registration to returning citizens.

Election Policy Progress Report

Massachusetts



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Massachusetts General Court did not make any substantial changes to its election laws during the 2024 session. And for yet another session, the Legislature failed to pass legislation to enact same-day registration in the state. Due to its lack of action as a top tier state, Massachusetts received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Massachusetts Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Massachusetts as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

12th

COVI (2024)

9th

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Massachusetts Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session.



This session legislators were again unable to come together to pass legislation to adopt same-day voter registration in Massachusetts.

Election Policy Progress Report

Michigan



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

In 2023, the Michigan Legislature passed a historic package of pro-voter legislation to implement the policies from the "Promote the Vote" ballot initiatives. In 2024, the state focused on careful implementation of those changes. The Legislature also passed an important piece of legislation to correct an issue with the state's recount laws. Michigan, once again, received an A+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Michigan Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Michigan as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

11th

COVI (2024)

2nd

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

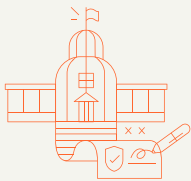


Legislative Action

This past session, the Legislature passed legislation to revise the state's election recount law.



SB 603 updates Michigan's election recount laws to allow recounts when there is a discrepancy between the number of ballots counted and the number of ballots issued.



Executive Action



This past fall, Secretary of State Benson announced the launch of a host of new pro-initiatives including a new texting tool "my vote info," an expanded ballot tracking system, and a new voter information campaign.



Secretary Benson also touted an additional \$5 million in grant funding that would be available to local clerks to implement new election security measures.



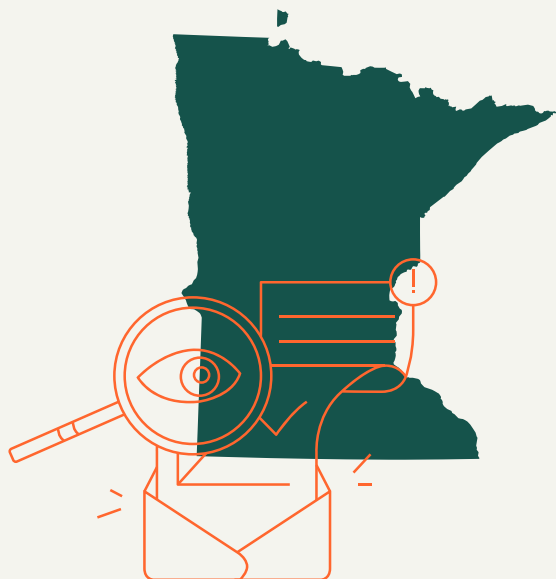
Implementation Action



The Michigan Department of State implemented a number of critical pro-voter and secure election reforms in 2024, including: in-person early voting, an online ballot tracking system, a permanent mail ballot option, an online vote by mail request system, and pre-registration of 16-year-olds to vote. Michigan also began implementation of upgrades to its online voter registration and automatic voter registration systems that will go into effect in 2025.

Election Policy Progress Report

Minnesota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature stepped up once again and continued to remove barriers to voting and improve voter accessibility. Because of careful planning and coordination by the secretary of state's office, the state was able to successfully implement a host of pro-voter initiatives passed in 2023 all while continuing efforts to increase access to the ballot box. Once again, Minnesota received an A+, our highest grade possible, on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Minnesota Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

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

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: **No Document Required**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Minnesota as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states. Last year, Minnesota was considered a middle tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

13th
COVI (2024)

8th
EPI Score (2022)

6/10
CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Rating (2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Minnesota Legislature continued to come up with new ways to expand voter protections in the state by passing the Minnesota Voting Rights Act (MNVRA), becoming the seventh state to enact a statewide voting rights act.



HF 4772 establishes the MNVRA, which enshrines protections against racial discrimination in voting in state law and gives voters a legal path to fight back against discriminatory voting practices. The bill also allows counties and cities to site an additional polling place on a college or university campus in their jurisdiction, provides additional funds for election administration and makes it easier for unhoused individuals to register to vote, among other things.



Implementation Action

Implementation of the pro-voter policies passed in 2023 played a critical role this year, as Minnesota carefully and thoughtfully put numerous policies into place ahead of the 2024 elections. A few highlights of the state's excellent work on implementation include:



Minnesota completed its implementation of an automatic voter registration system ahead of schedule, launching the program in April 2024. Their successful implementation of AVR registered more than 63,000 new voters.



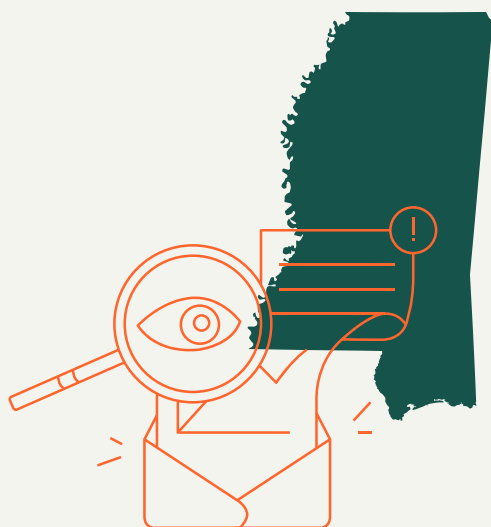
The state also successfully implemented voter pre-registration. During the first four months it was coupled with AVR, the system pre-registered more than 25,000 16- and 17-year-olds.



The secretary of state and Motor Vehicle Division teams closely monitored the AVR system's launch and made valuable improvements to ensure its accuracy and effectiveness.

Election Policy Progress Report

Mississippi



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Mississippi State Legislature passed a few commonsense, pro-voter reforms this year. However, it packaged those positive changes with an anti-voter provision, barring voters from returning their mail ballot in person to the clerk's office and prohibiting drop boxes. Therefore, Mississippi received a C on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Mississippi Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

50th

COVI (2024)

51st

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This session, the Legislature continued to pass bills designed to make it more difficult for voters to return mail ballots while also slightly improving access to mail ballots.



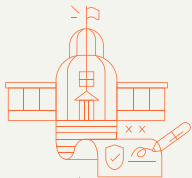
SB 2576 removes the requirement that a voter's ID must be "current" to be accepted as valid voter ID.



SB 2425 clarifies definitions around who is allowed to transmit voter's ballots as the result of issues raised by voting rights advocates in a lawsuit over SB 2358 that was enacted last year.



HB 1406 allows qualified incarcerated individuals to vote by mail and clarifies that mail ballot voters who choose to cast their ballot in person at their local registrar's office and who present ID will no longer be subject to signature match requirements. The bill also revises the mail ballot application to make it easier to notify voters of any issues. However, the bill also includes anti-voter measures, requiring mail ballots to be returned by mail only and prohibiting drop boxes or in-person return to the clerk's office.



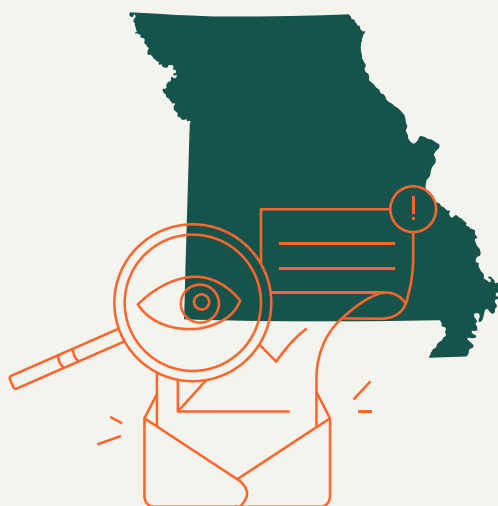
Executive Action



Governor Reeves vetoed HB 922, which would have made election commissioners nonpartisan positions.

Election Policy Progress Report

Missouri



Institute for Responsive
Government's Grade TL;DR

The Missouri General Assembly passed a minor improvement to poll worker laws to allow active duty military and their family members to qualify to serve at the polls. Because the Assembly made a small positive change to the state's election laws while not passing further major anti-voter legislation, Missouri received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Missouri Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

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

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

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **NO**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Missouri as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

42nd

COVI (2024)

16th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating (2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Missouri Legislature passed just a few election-related bills this past session, one to increase poll worker opportunities, and a proposed constitutional amendment that asks voters to further clarify the state's ban on non-citizen voting in the state.



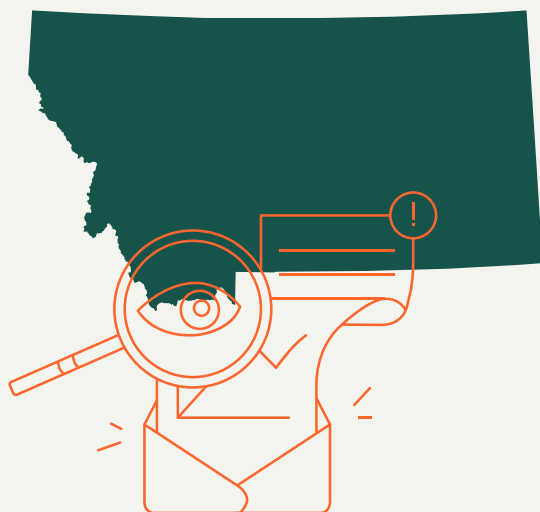
SB 912 allows active duty military and their non-resident military spouses to serve as poll workers in the state.



SJR 78 is a constitutional amendment that clarifies the state's existing ban on non-citizen voting and prohibits ranked choice voting in the state. Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.

Election Policy Progress Report

Montana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Montana Legislature was not in session during 2024. Therefore, Montana did not receive a grade on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Montana Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, Montana was considered a bottom tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

32nd

COVI (2024)

40th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

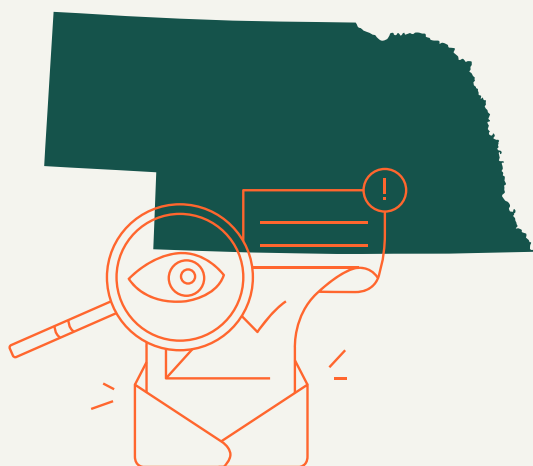


Legislative Action

The Montana Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years – there was no active legislative session in 2024.

Election Policy Progress Report

Nebraska



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past session, the Nebraska Legislature made a significant change to the state's process for restoring voting rights by removing the unnecessary two-year waiting period that qualified individuals had to endure before regaining their rights. Therefore, Nebraska received an A- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Nebraska Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

26th

COVI (2024)

5th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

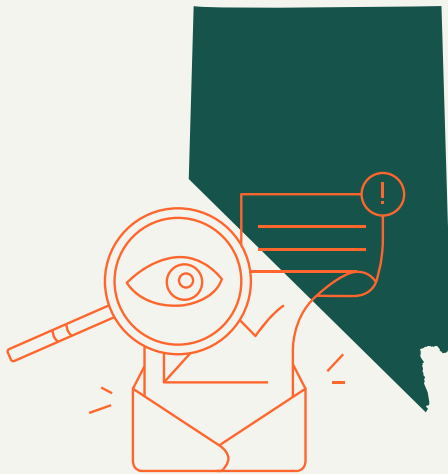
This past year, the Nebraska Legislature passed important pro-voter legislation aimed at ensuring eligible returning citizens have their voting rights restored without unnecessary delay.



LB 20 removes the two-year waiting period to restore voting rights once an individual completes their sentence for a felony conviction. This past summer the attorney general and secretary of state argued that the law was unconstitutional and halted any new voter registrations under the law while a lawsuit proceeded. However, just before the voter registration deadline for the 2024 election was set to close, the Nebraska Supreme Court issued a ruling blocking the secretary's directive and ordering the state to comply with LB 20.

Election Policy Progress Report

Nevada



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Nevada Legislature was not in session during 2024. However, the state made significant progress towards implementing its new Secure AVR system and launching its new centralized statewide voter registration system. Therefore, Nevada received an A on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Nevada Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

6th

COVI (2024)

15th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Nevada Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years – there was no active legislative session in 2024.



Implementation Action

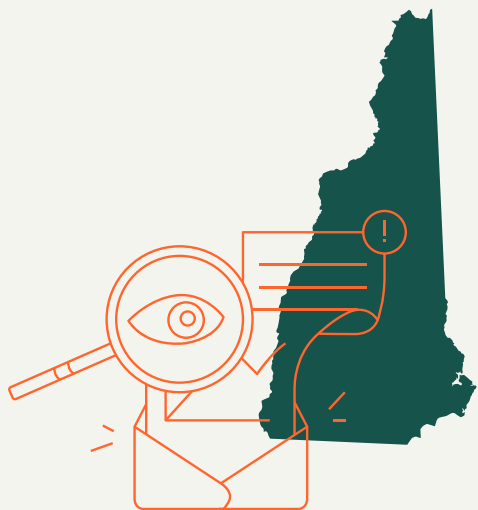


Nevada's secretary of state and Department of Motor Vehicles teams implemented two critical reforms in 2024:

- First, the secretary of state launched a new Voter Registration and Election Management Solution (VREMS) in September, bringing at least 16 Nevada counties under a centralized system and increasing the security, accuracy, transparency, and customer experience of the state's elections systems. All counties are expected to be integrated into this system in 2025.
- Second, Nevada implemented important automatic voter registration reforms to incorporate national best practices and streamline the process for state citizens.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Hampshire



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After passing pro-voter improvements in 2023, the General Court of New Hampshire unfortunately went back to passing new anti-voter legislation this year. While there were a few minor positive bills passed, the Legislature enacted legislation that requires more frequent purges of voters from the rolls, as well as one of the most burdensome voter registration laws in the country alongside strict photo ID laws at the polls. Because of the lasting negative impact of the new anti-voter changes, New Hampshire received a D- on this year's scorecard.

2024

Looking Back

Where New Hampshire Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

49th

COVI (2024)

46th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year the General Court of New Hampshire passed legislation that implements drastic changes to the state's voter registration and voter ID laws.



HB 1569 enacts one of the most burdensome voter registration laws in the country, requiring new registrants to provide physical proof of age, citizenship, residency, and identity. It also enacts strict photo ID laws at the polls that remove all options for voters to provide an alternative to a photo ID. Voters would no longer be able to sign an affidavit affirming their identity in lieu of ID or other documentary proof.



HB 1310 requires the supervisors of checklists in cities and towns to conduct voter checklist maintenance, which can include removing voters from the rolls, every 90 days.



HB 1264 ensures that every polling place will have at least one accessible vote machine available for voters during every election, not just federal elections.



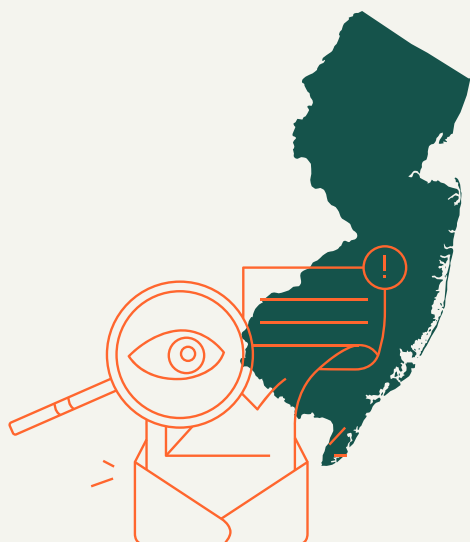
HB 1098 allows ballot clerks to deliver absentee ballots to nursing homes and elder care facilities to make voting more accessible for residents of these facilities.



HB 243 requires all polling place vote tabulation to occur in public. Election officials must also publicly post the printed results from vote machines at each polling place within one hour of when the last ballot is run through the machine.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Jersey



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another year, the New Jersey State Legislature failed to take action on significant pro-voter reforms, including a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration. However, the Legislature did make some progress towards upgrading its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system. Because of these ongoing steps forward on an important issue, New Jersey received a B on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where New Jersey Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states. Last year, New Jersey was a top tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

18th
COVI (2024)

42nd
EPI Score (2022)

8/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The New Jersey State Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session.

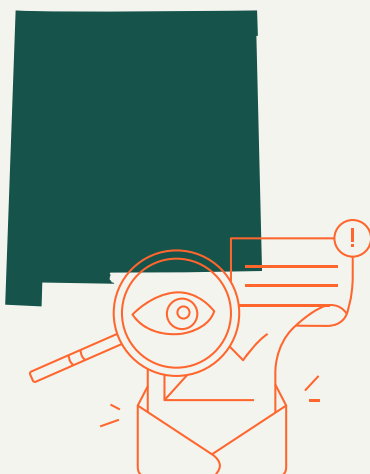


Unfortunately, the Legislature did not take action on a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration.

However, legislators continued to move forward a bill (S1636/A4206), that would improve the efficiency and security of New Jersey's automatic voter registration system and expand AVR beyond motor vehicle offices.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Mexico



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After passing substantial election legislation during the 2023 session, this past year, the New Mexico Legislature focused its attention on providing much-needed funding for election administration. The state also began implementation of the pro-voter reforms passed in 2023, and while some reforms were implemented successfully, the state took a burdensome approach to implementation of rights restoration. Considering New Mexico's action on legislation and implementation this past year, the state received an A- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where New Mexico Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Secure 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 New Mexico as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

21st

COVI (2024)

1st

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This year the New Mexico Legislature came together to pass legislation to provide additional funds for state elections.



SB 108 allocates \$15 million for conducting and administering statewide elections.



Implementation Action



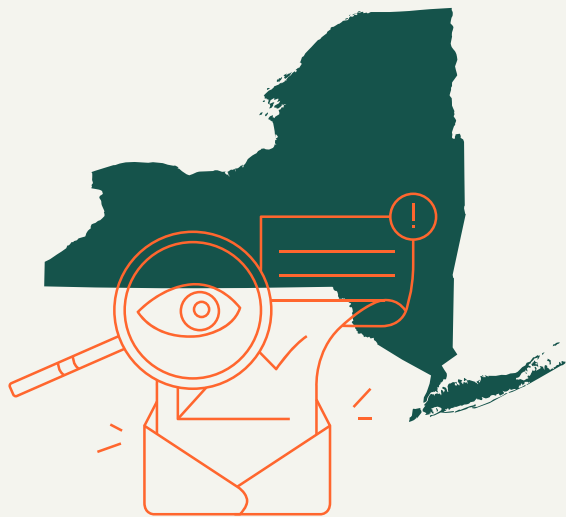
New Mexico's secretary of state and Motor Vehicle Division teams worked diligently to prepare for the launch of an automatic voter registration system by July 2025. The state also implemented other critical pro-voter reforms, including a voluntary permanent absentee voter list, expanded early voting opportunities, and ensuring voting access for tribal communities.



However, the state did experience some issues with implementation of rights restoration. In 2023 the state passed HB 4, which automatically restored the right to vote for returning citizens upon release from felony incarceration. Unfortunately, the state implemented the legislation in a way that created additional unnecessary burdens on individuals seeking to regain those rights, requiring them to register to vote only in-person and preventing them from registering to vote by mail, online, or through a registration drive. As part of an agreement with nonprofits that raised the issue, the state agreed to revise its guidance and reprocess wrongly rejected voter registrations, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

New York



Institute for Responsive
Government's Grade TL;DR

After the New York State Legislature passed a historic package of election reforms in 2023, they continued to make additional pro-voter changes this past year. The Legislature expanded ballot cure options, extended the option to vote by mail to certain new first-time voters, and revised the state's Voting Rights Act. However, it also failed to pass legislation to remove barriers to voter registration by implementing a more secure and efficient automatic voter registration system. Therefore, New York received a B on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where New York Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration:
Partial AVR

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **NO**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New York as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states. Last year, New York was considered a middle tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

10th

COVI (2024)

47th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The New York State Legislature, once again, focused on making pro-voter improvements to state election laws, but missed an opportunity to implement an even more effective and secure automatic voter registration system.



SB 9837 makes changes to the state's ballot cure laws to allow voters to cure their ballot by mail, email, in person, or by uploading it to the board of elections online.



AB 10357 makes changes to the state's newly enacted Voting Rights Act to expand protections to additional groups of voters, among other changes.



AB 3250A allows anyone that is preregistered to vote and will turn 18 by election day to vote by mail.



SB 6130 allows registered voters that have a law license in the state to serve as poll workers anywhere in the state.



SB 610 authorizes boards of elections to establish drop boxes for absentee ballot returns based on guidelines to be established by the State Board of Elections. The governor has requested an amendment to ensure this also covers early mail ballots.



The 2024 state budget legislation package also provided additional funding for elections, including \$7.7 million for grants to local election boards to implement absentee and mail voting and \$14.7 million for the purchase of e-pollbooks.



Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to take action on SB 8752/AB 9732, which would have incorporated upgrades to create a safer, more efficient, and more effective Secure AVR system.



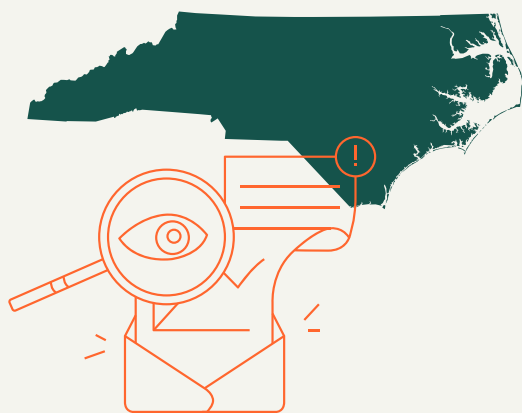
Implementation Action



Due to contracting and vendor delays, New York did not meet the January 2023 implementation deadline for AVR at the DMV. These delays also caused the state to miss the January 2024 deadline for non-DMV agencies, which are intended to occur after DMV implementation is complete. Implementation of AVR at the DMV is delayed until early 2025.

Election Policy Progress Report

North Carolina



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After several sessions of enacting anti-voter legislation, the North Carolina State Legislature continued to pass additional anti-voter reforms. At the very end of the year, the Legislature passed a bill that included power-grab provisions to restructure the state and county election boards by taking appointment power away from the governor and placing it instead under the separately-elected office of the state auditor, which has no connection to elections. The legislation also shortens various election-related deadlines. Because the state continued to pass significant anti-voter actions this past session, North Carolina, again, received an F on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where North Carolina Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

30th

COVI (2024)

27th

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the lame duck session, the North Carolina Legislature passed purported hurricane relief legislation that also included several significant anti-voter provisions.



SB 382 is a so-called Hurricane Helene Relief Bill that also included provisions to:

- Move the State Election Board under the control of the newly-elected state auditor's office, which has no connection to elections;
- Removes the governor's longstanding ability to appoint state and county election board members and give it to the state auditor;
- Shortens the deadlines for voters to cure their ballots;
- Shortens the time for county boards to complete counting of provisional ballots, among other things.

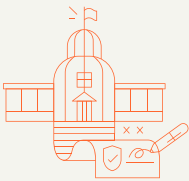
The changes surrounding the state auditor appear to have been made purely for partisan reasons, as this office recently changed from Democratic to Republican control, while the governor's office continued to be held by Democrats.



SB 921 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would align the constitution's photo ID provision with the state's statutory photo ID requirement to make it clear that voters must provide ID whether voting in-person or by mail. Voters will decide on the change during a future general election.



HB 1074 is a constitutional amendment that further clarifies the state's already existing constitutional requirement that only U.S. citizens may vote in North Carolina elections. Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.



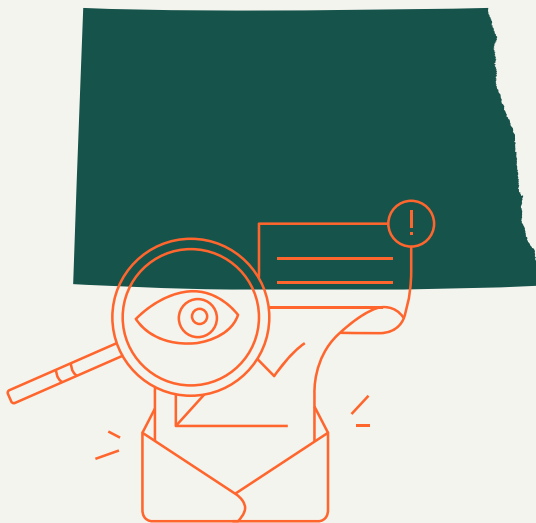
Executive Action



Although Governor Cooper attempted to veto SB 382, unfortunately, it was overridden by the Legislature.

Election Policy Progress Report

North Dakota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The North Dakota Legislative Assembly was not in session during 2024. Therefore, North Dakota did not receive a grade on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where North Dakota Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

15th
COVI (2024)

12th
EPI Score (2022)

7/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair
MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The North Dakota Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years – there was no active legislative session in 2024.

Election Policy Progress Report

Ohio



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Late in the 2024 session, the Ohio General Assembly passed one new piece of election legislation that will significantly streamline the accuracy of voter rolls and the efficiency of the voter registration process. While this law is a major step forward, the secretary of state also issued a directive limiting the use of drop boxes in the run up to the 2024 election. Recognizing a significant step forward by the Legislature and a moderate step backwards by the secretary of state, Ohio received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Ohio Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
Strict Non-Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Ohio as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

45th

COVI (2024)

22nd

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

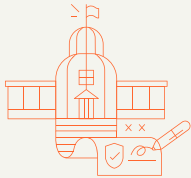


Legislative Action

The General Assembly passed one election-related piece of legislation during the 2024 session.



HB 74 requires the BMV to use secure electronic transfer to electronically transmit voter registration information from the BMV to the secretary of state. This will significantly improve the security, accuracy, and efficiency of the voter registration process at Ohio motor vehicle offices. Thanks to this change, Ohio's voter rolls will be more accurate and complete, and the BMV process will be more streamlined and efficient.



Executive Action



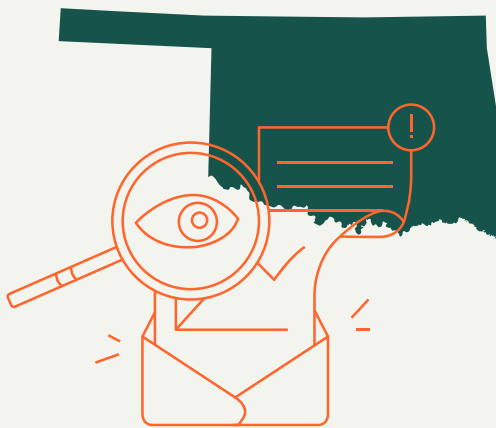
This past fall, Secretary of State LaRose issued Directive 2024-21 on drop boxes that severely restricted their use. Voters may only return their own personal ballot at a drop box. Anyone returning a ballot for another voter, regardless of whether that other ballot belongs to the voter's spouse or another close family member, must go inside the county election board office and complete a form before being allowed to drop off the ballot.



Secretary LaRose also launched a review of the voter registration process at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles after a local newspaper investigation indicated that non-citizens might have been mistakenly registered to vote. Just a few days after launching the investigation, the office announced that "there are no systemic issues that would lead to non-citizens being offered the chance to register to vote."

Election Policy Progress Report

Oklahoma



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past session, the Oklahoma Legislature passed a few small pro-voter pieces of legislation. Therefore, Oklahoma received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Oklahoma Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

35th

COVI (2024)

41st

EPI Score (2022)

3/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the Oklahoma Legislature made a few small changes aimed at clarifying the state's existing election laws — one to ensure eligible citizens can have their voting rights restored and one aimed at ensuring the state's existing ban on non-citizen voting is maintained. The Legislature also passed a minor bill to increase poll worker recruitment.



HB 1629 revised the existing restoration of voting rights law to clarify that individuals that receive pardons or have their sentence commuted, discharged, or reclassified down to a misdemeanor are eligible to vote.



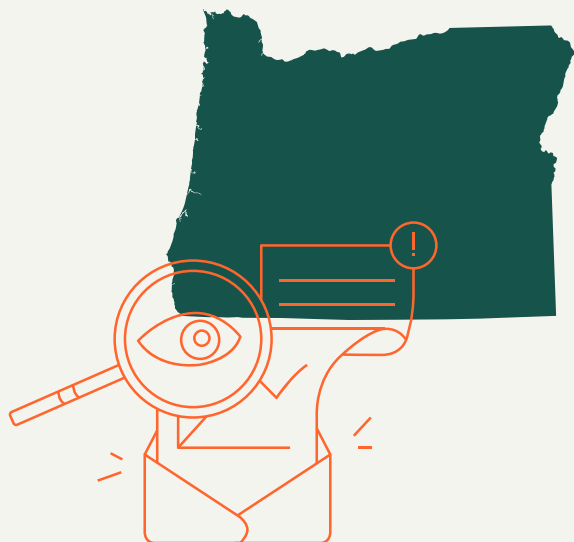
SB 1452 allows employees that receive paid leave while serving as poll workers to have their income exempted from income tax for up to \$100/day.



SJR 23 is a constitutional amendment that clarifies the state's existing constitutional requirement that only U.S. citizens may vote in Oklahoma elections by changing the voter qualification language from "all citizens of the United States" to "only citizens of the United States." Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.

Election Policy Progress Report

Oregon



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After successfully authorizing AVR at Medicaid offices in 2023, this past year the Oregon Legislature was able to pass smaller pro-voter reforms that increase voter language access laws. By increasing language access in voter pamphlets, the Legislature helped ensure a broader base of voters can more easily learn about the issues on their ballots. As a top tier state that enacted minor but important improvements, Oregon received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Oregon Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

1st

COVI (2024)

21st

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Oregon Legislature made two minor, but important, language accessibility improvements this past year.



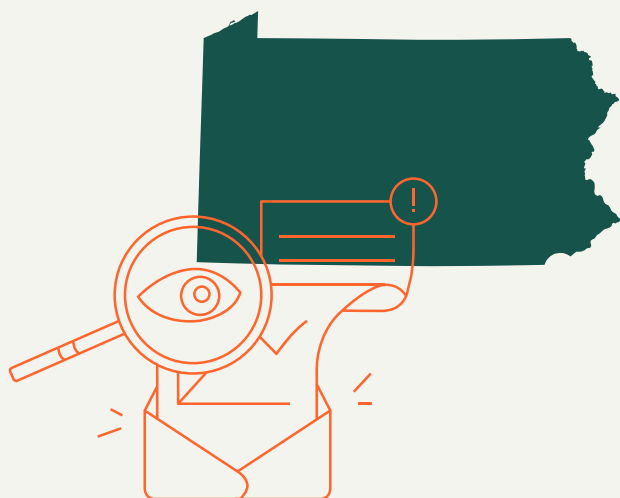
SB 1533 requires the secretary of state to translate voters' pamphlets into 10 of the most commonly spoken languages, up from the existing five languages.



SB 1538 allows candidate statements and arguments on measures to be translated into the most commonly spoken languages of each county where the statements will appear in voters' pamphlets, specifies what information must be included in county voters' pamphlets, and increases the number of blank voter registration cards that may be requested from the secretary of state to register voters, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

Pennsylvania



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Pennsylvania General Assembly did not make any substantial changes to its election laws during the 2024 session. Due to its lack of action, Pennsylvania received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Pennsylvania Started at the Beginning of 2024

Automatic Voter Registration: **Partial
AVR**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible Voters

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Member: **YES**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Pennsylvania as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

29th

COVI (2024)

29th

EPI Score (2022)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year

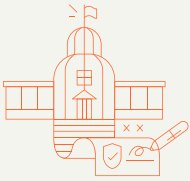


Legislative Action

The Pennsylvania General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session.



The General Assembly failed to pass HB 847, which would have allowed counties to begin pre-canvassing mail ballots prior to Election Day. Although the bill passed the House, the Senate failed to take it up.



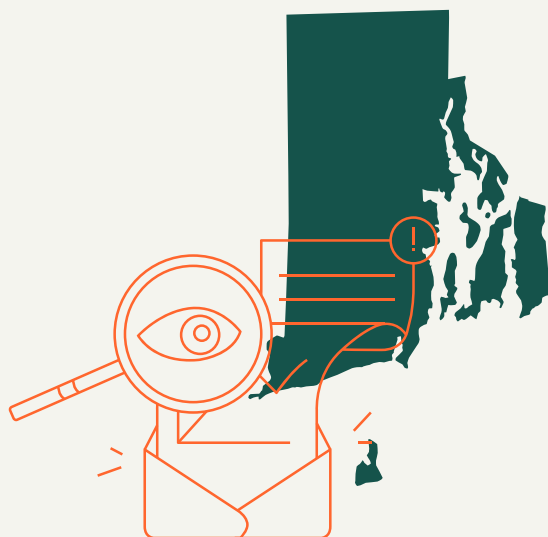
Executive Action



This past summer, the Department of State issued the “Directive Concerning the Form of Absentee and Mail-In Ballot Materials,” aimed at reducing voter errors on return ballot envelopes and eliminating the chance that ballots would be rejected.

Election Policy Progress Report

Rhode Island



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

During this past session, the Rhode Island State Legislature continued to make small changes to expand voter access – albeit, less impactful laws in comparison to last year. Unfortunately, it yet again missed an opportunity to remove barriers to voter registration by failing to pass legislation to upgrade its existing automatic voter registration system to a more secure and efficient system. It also failed to refer an initiative to voters to authorize same-day registration. Therefore, Rhode Island received a B on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Rhode Island Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

22nd

COVI (2024)

6th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed several bills aimed at improving voter access.



SB 2778/HB 7756 allows mail ballot applications to be accepted if they are postmarked by the deadline and arrive within 3 days.



SB 2780/HB 7849 gives voters earlier access to ballot drop boxes by making them available to voters starting 35 days before the election.



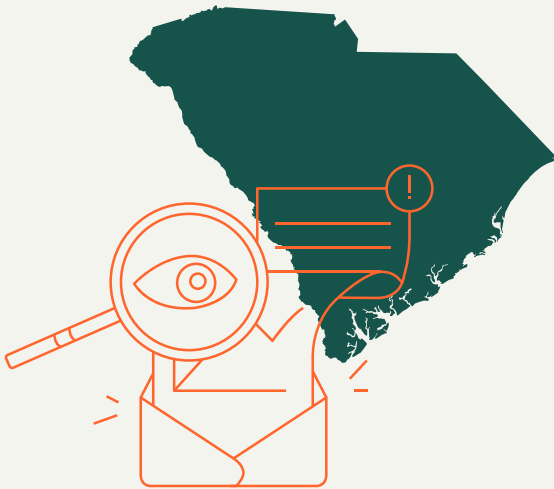
SB 2418/HB 7662 allows unaffiliated voters to participate in party primaries without joining a party.



Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to take action on SB 2654, which would have transitioned the state to a substantially safer, more efficient, and more effective Secure AVR system. Legislators also failed to take action on SJR 227, which would have referred an amendment to the state constitution authorizing same-day registration to voters.

Election Policy Progress Report

South Carolina



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, the South Carolina Legislature did not pass any significant pro-voter reforms. The only election-related legislation the Legislature did pass was a proposed constitutional amendment to clarify the state's already existing ban on non-citizen voting. Therefore, South Carolina received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where South Carolina Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

43rd

COVI (2024)

17th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

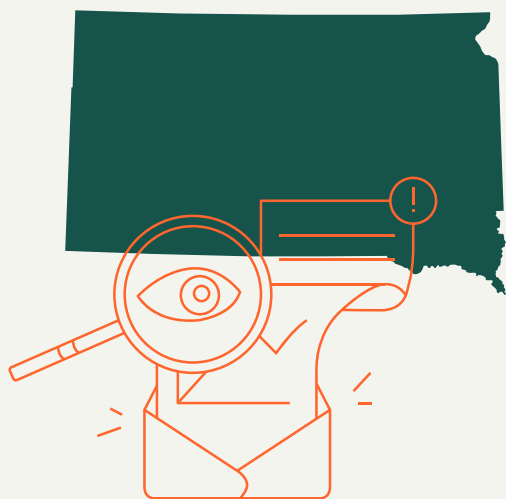
The Legislature passed only one election-related piece of legislation this past session.



S 1126 is a constitutional amendment that further clarifies the state's already existing constitutional requirement that voters must be U.S. citizens to vote in South Carolina elections. Voters approved the change during the 2024 general election.

Election Policy Progress Report

South Dakota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After enacting several pieces of anti-voter legislation in 2023, this past year, the South Dakota State Legislature made a few positive changes to the state's election laws. Because the state made some minor improvements and refrained from passing additional new voter restrictions this past year, South Dakota received a B on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where South Dakota Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

40th

COVI (2024)

44th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature made relatively minor changes to elections laws this past year.



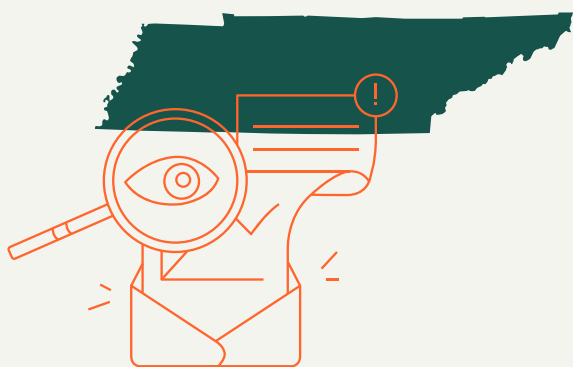
SB 18 authorizes the secretary of state to share info from the statewide voter registration file with other states and jurisdictions to find duplicate registrations.



HB 1182 reworks the rules around designated poll watcher and public access to the voting and counting process and creates criminal penalties for violating the rules.

Election Policy Progress Report

Tennessee



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the Tennessee Legislature passed a mix of pro-voter and anti-voter legislation. While legislators made changes to improve mail ballot access for voters with visual and print disabilities, they also instituted strict registration requirements for third party voter registration groups working in the state and made changes to curb election administration training. Therefore, Tennessee received a D+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Tennessee Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

39th

COVI (2024)

43rd

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)



Legislative Action

This past session, the Legislature made several changes aimed at curbing pro-voter groups from conducting voter registration drives and offering continuing education and resources for election administrators. The Legislature also made small improvements to expand voter access for individuals with certain types of disabilities.



SB 2586/ HB 1955 requires third-party voter registration groups to register with the state for every election cycle and provide names and addresses for everyone working to register voters for the group. The law also includes several fines for failure to comply.



SB 1706/HB 1799 requires any organization or person that wants to provide election administration training to county election commissioners to get pre approval by the secretary of state.



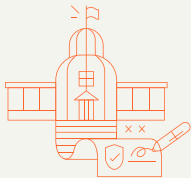
SB 1967/HB 2294 shortens the deadline for mail ballot requests to ten days before an election rather than the existing seven-day deadline.



SB 137/HB 835 requires the coordinator of elections to compare the statewide voter registration database with the department of safety database to ensure non-citizens are not registered. Current law already allows for this but does not make it mandatory.



SB 2118/HB 2293 expands voter access for voters with visual and print disabilities by creating a new process for these voters to request their ballot by mail or online.



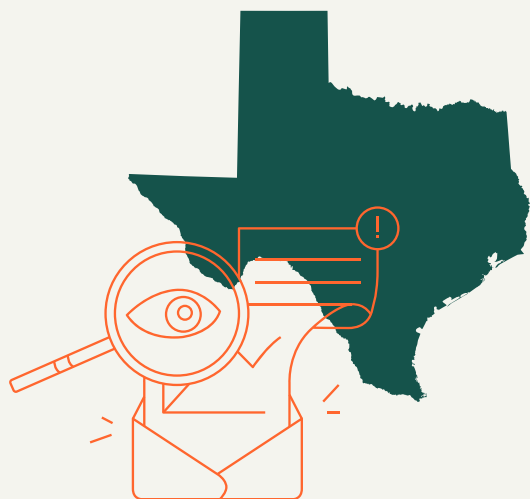
Executive Action



This past summer, the state coordinator of elections within the secretary of state's office sent letters to roughly 14,000 naturalized citizens that were registered voters asking them to verify their citizenship. Fortunately, after various voter advocacy groups intervened, the secretary of state's office clarified that none of the voters would be removed from the voter rolls for failing to provide the requested documentation. While none of the eligible voters were removed from the rolls, the initial letters were a result of partisan and wildly falsified rhetoric around non-citizen voting, causing confusion and costing taxpayer dollars.

Election Policy Progress Report

Texas



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Texas Legislature was not in session during 2024. Therefore, Texas did not receive a grade on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Texas Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **Photo ID Requested**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Texas as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

48th

COVI (2024)

34th

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating (2024)

2024

This Past Year

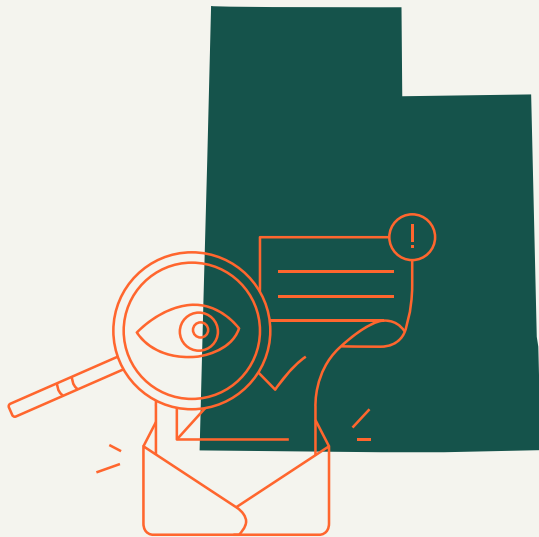


Legislative Action

The Texas Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years – there was no active legislative session in 2024.

Election Policy Progress Report

Utah



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This year Utah made small voter improvements, passing legislation to further protect vulnerable individuals from having information related to their voter record publicly disclosed. Because of this continued minor – yet positive – work this year, and in consideration of its status as a top tier state where positive improvements should be expected, Utah received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Utah Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

5th

COVI (2024)

30th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating (2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

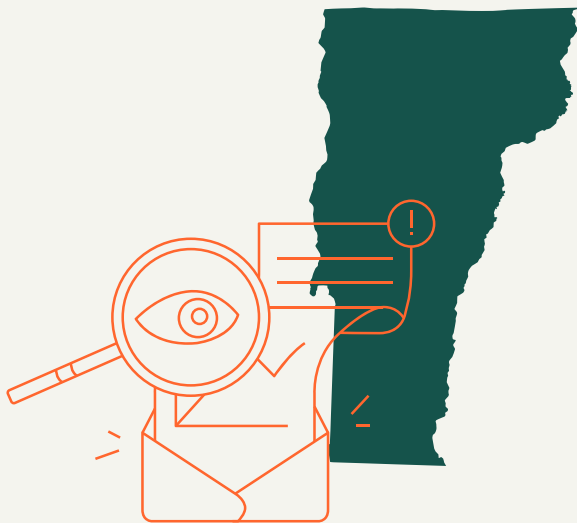
The Utah State Legislature made one small pro-voter change this past year to protect voter records.



SB 94 ensures that voters that have “protected individual” status, such as victims of domestic violence, will not have their name and address disclosed as part of any public list of voter ballots that have been rejected but not yet resolved.

Election Policy Progress Report

Vermont



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For the third year in a row, the Vermont General Assembly did not make any substantial changes to its election laws. As a top tier state, Vermont's continued lack of progress in passing pro-voter reforms is noticeable, especially compared to continued action to improve elections in peer states. Therefore, Vermont received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Vermont Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

7th

COVI (2024)

4th

EPI Score (2022)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

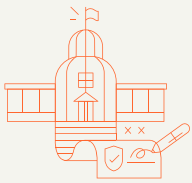
2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Vermont General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session.



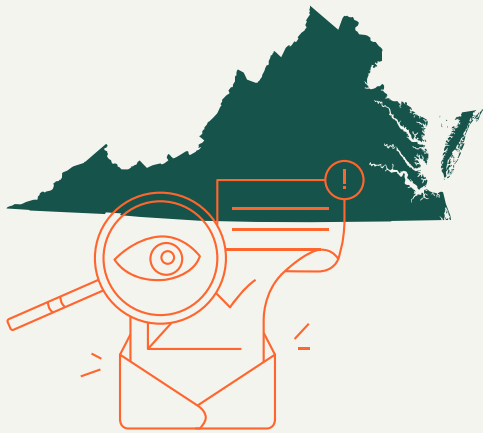
Executive Action



This past fall, Secretary of State Hanzas launched the state's first online voter guide. This 2024 voter guide allowed voters to access candidate information that was customized to the specific races on their ballots.

Election Policy Progress Report

Virginia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Virginia General Assembly passed a slew of pro-voter reforms this past session, from expanding protections for election workers, to increasing voter access in jails, to expanding access for voters with disabilities. Unfortunately, several of the biggest pro-voter reforms were vetoed by Governor Youngkin. Therefore, Virginia received a C on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Virginia Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Virginia as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

14th

COVI (2024)

10th

EPI Score (2022)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Virginia Legislature made a variety of improvements to the state's election laws this past year.



SB 364 expands protections for election workers by amending existing felony election-related crimes and increasing access for the voter confidentiality program to include election officials and presidential electors.



HB 943 also expands protections for election workers by allowing election board members, registrars, and employees of registrar offices to apply for protected voter status.



HB 1330 increases voting access in prisons and jails for eligible voters that are currently incarcerated for misdemeanor convictions or while awaiting trial. It also revises current civil penalties for interfering with voting to include refusing or failing to allow an eligible incarcerated voter to cast a ballot.



HB 1003 requires election officials to notify voters of any changes to their election district, precinct, or polling place at least 30 days before an election instead of the current 15 days.



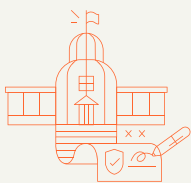
HB 989 requires the Department of Elections to add more useful voter information to its website including how and where to register, how and where to vote, and the ability for a voter to review their current voter registration information. The site must also be capable of displaying the information in any language spoken by a language minority group covered under state law.



HB 940 requires notices of polling place changes to be posted at the old polling location on the day of the first primary and general elections held at the new location along with information on how to find the new location.



SB 605/HB 441 will allow any voter with a disability to cast their vote outside the polling place.



Executive Action



Governor Youngkin vetoed a host of pro-voter reforms passed by the Assembly this past session.

- **SB 606/HB 1177** would have required the Commissioner of Elections to rejoin ERIC so that the state's voter rolls could remain accurate and up-to-date.
- **HB 26** would have expanded voter ID options to include valid photo IDs issued by several state departments.
- **HB 1408** would have required the Department of Elections to develop standards for election jurisdictions to follow in determining the number of vote centers needed in their location.

- **HB 1534** would have barred voter challenges within the last 60 days before an election.
- **SB 196** would have prohibited the use of questionable voter data from other states and required the Department of Elections to conduct an annual review of all data sources
- **SB 300/HB 904** would have prohibited the use of questionable voter data from other states, updated voter list maintenance procedures to require the exchange of information with neighboring states, and revised the confirmation notice process, among other things.



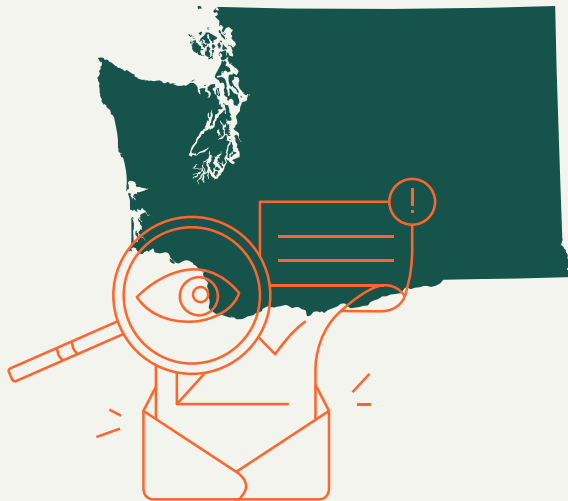
Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 31 on list maintenance, which establishes multi-agency data share protocols for voter list maintenance and a data review work group. The order also directed the Department of Elections to attempt to establish data sharing agreements with other states to promote list maintenance – a step that would have been unnecessary if Governor Youngkin had not withdrawn the state from ERIC, a data integrity collaborative run by state elections officials, in 2023.



Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 35 which required the Commissioner of the Department of Elections to certify that existing election security procedures were being followed.

Election Policy Progress Report

Washington



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Washington State Legislature enacted several pro-voter policies this past session. The initiatives touched on everything from protecting election workers from harassment to guarding elections against cybersecurity attacks, to ensuring voters receive adequate notice when there's an issue with their ballot. The state also implemented a new Secure AVR system that became law last year. Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to pass legislation that would allow for consolidation of election for local governments. Because of their continued expansion of voting rights, Washington once again received an A on their progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Washington Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 Washington as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

2nd

COVI (2024)

14th

EPI Score (2022)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the Legislature continued to pass legislation to make elections both more accessible to voters and more secure.



HB 1241 allows election workers and their families to join the address confidentiality program and creates new criminal penalties for harassing election officials or their staff.



HB 1962 allows voters that move counties within the state to have their voter information transferred easily between counties by having the county auditor in the old county notify the voter's new county auditor of the move.



SB 5890 requires county auditors to reach out to voters that need to cure mail ballots by phone, text, or email, in addition to just via mail. It also requires the secretary of state to create statewide standards for mail ballot signature review. The bill also encourages the secretary of state to create voter registration forms with multiple signature boxes to allow voters to provide a variety of signature samples for comparison purposes.



SB 6269 establishes a pilot project for counties to try out new ballot verification processes beyond the established signature match verification process.



SB 5843 authorizes the secretary of state to certify election results in any county if the canvassing board refuses to do so. The bill also includes several security measures to protect the state's elections from cyber attacks.



Both chambers made advancements with election consolidation legislation but failed to get either through the entire process.

- SB 5723 provided local governments the authority to move their elections to even years. The bill advanced out of the Senate State Government Committee but was not brought to the floor for a vote.
- HB 1932 was the House version of the election consolidation legislation, providing local governments the authorities to move their general elections to even years. The bill passed out of the House with Democrats generally supporting, but failed to move out of the Senate after it stalled in the budget committee.



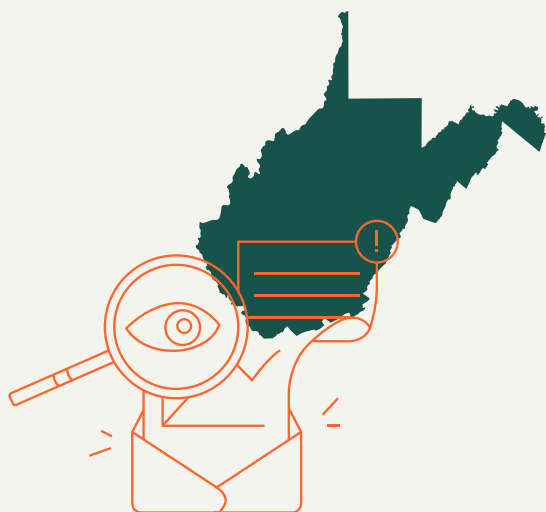
Implementation Action



Washington successfully launched its upgrade to Secure AVR in July 2024, bringing their system in line with national best practices and streamlining the process for individuals with an enhanced driver's license. The secretary of state also implemented reforms to their online voter registration system to allow individuals to register without a driver's license by using the last four digits of their SSN.

Election Policy Progress Report

West Virginia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The West Virginia Legislature made a few small changes to the state's election laws this past year. Meanwhile, Secretary Warner decided to reject voter registration forms submitted by federal agencies. Because of his aggressive anti-voter registration stance coupled with the mostly neutral changes passed by the Legislature, West Virginia received a C- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where West Virginia Started at the Beginning of 2024

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: **NO**

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 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

23rd

COVI (2024)

23rd

EPI Score (2022)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The West Virginia Legislature made just a few minor adjustments to election laws this past year.



SB 623 requires the DMV to obtain photographs of individuals during their DMV transaction so the info can be included in their voter file, and it instructs the DMV to submit all voter citizenship-related documents to the secretary of state to ensure non-citizens are not registered to vote.



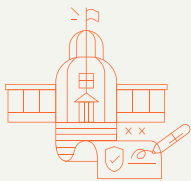
SB 624 clarifies that the voter registration deadline is midnight on the 21st day before the election if using the online registration system and close of business if done in person. The bill also requires a voter's registration to be canceled if the voter has obtained a driver's license in another state.



HJR 21 is a proposed constitutional amendment that makes it explicit that non-citizens may not vote in any election held in the state.



SR 61 encourages military veterans to volunteer as election workers in the 2024 statewide elections.



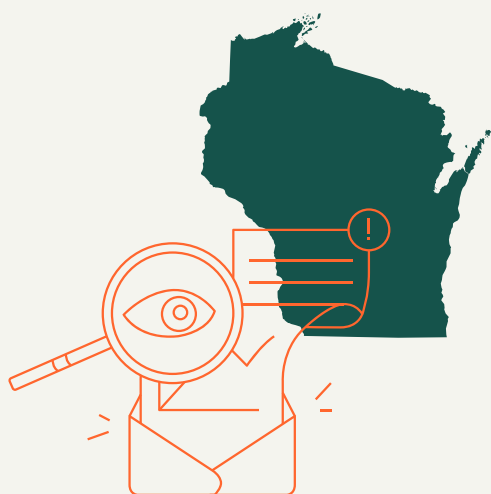
Executive Action



This past spring, Secretary of State Warner announced that the state would no longer accept federal voter registration forms from federal agencies. This goes against longstanding federal law requiring states to accept voter registration forms from Armed Forces Recruitment offices. The announcement appears to represent a misguided response to President Biden's 2021 issuance of Executive Order 14019, which merely directed federal agencies to work with interested states in designating federal offices in these states as voter registration locations. Other states have used this executive order to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow veterans to register to vote via the agency.

Election Policy Progress Report

Wisconsin



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Wisconsin State Legislature passed a host of anti-voter legislation this year. And once again, Governor Evers stepped in to veto the attempts to further restrict voting access in the state. Unfortunately, despite strong bipartisan support for legislation to allow ballot preprocessing, the Legislature failed to get it across the finish line. Therefore, Wisconsin received a C on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Wisconsin Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

46th

COVI (2024)

13th

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

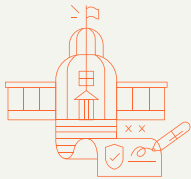
Among the positive and negative measures passed by the Wisconsin State Legislature this past session, one pro-voter measure ultimately became law. The restrictive measures passed by the Legislature were successfully vetoed by the governor.



AB 298 sets strict procedures for closing polling places within 30 days of an election including prohibiting closing locations unless the local governing body, by majority vote, decides an emergency exists, and prohibiting closing more than half of the polling places in a municipality.



Unfortunately, the Legislature was unable to pass legislation to allow preprocessing of absentee ballots despite widespread bipartisan support.



Executive Action

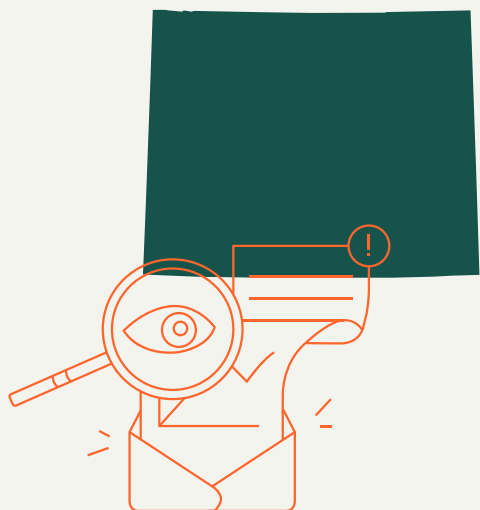


Governor Evers vetoed several anti-voter bills that passed the Legislature.

- **AB 543** would have required election observer access within 3 feet of voters and subjected election officials to harsh penalties for violating the laws including prison time, fines, and loss of their employment.
- **AB 570** attempted to expand the list of reasons that mail ballots could be rejected to include minor omissions by the voter or their witness, among other things.
- **AB 572** required retirement home and residential care facility administrators to notify the designated contact for all residents to inform them of when special voting deputies would be visiting the facilities to assist the residents in voting.
- **SB 736** would have subjected counties to additional random post-election audits by the Legislative Performance Bureau, despite the fact that Wisconsin already has robust post-election audit procedures.

Election Policy Progress Report

Wyoming



Institute for Responsive
Government's Grade TL;DR

This past year, the Wyoming Legislature did not make any substantial changes to its election laws. After passing several restrictive bills in 2022, the Legislature's inaction in 2024 is a welcome change. Unfortunately, Secretary of State Gray continues to push false narratives about voter fraud and called for the state to end the use of drop boxes. Therefore, Wyoming received a B- on this year's progress report.

2024

Looking Back

Where Wyoming Started at the Beginning of 2024

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 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2024 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

41st

COVI (2024)

49th

EPI Score (2022)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Rating
(2024)

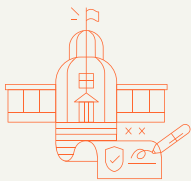
2024

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Wyoming Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2024 session.



Executive Action



This past summer, Secretary of State Gray issued a letter urging county clerks to reject the use of ballot drop boxes during the 2024 general election. Instead of encouraging clerks to maintain drop boxes as a safe and efficient way for voters to return their ballots, Secretary Gray relied on unsubstantiated claims about voter fraud to spread fear about their usage. This letter led Park County and Sheridan County to discontinue the use of drop boxes for the 2024 election.

**Institute *for*
Responsive
Government**