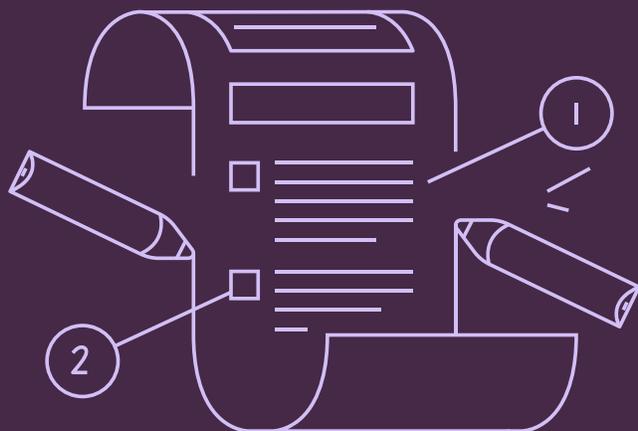


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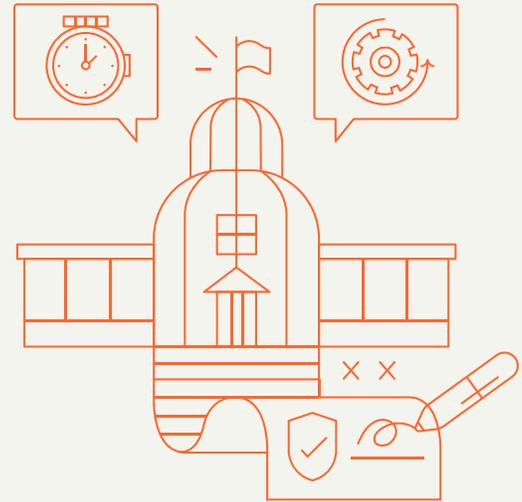
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EDITION



Election Policy Progress Reports

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



At the Institute for Responsive Government

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 once again releasing our annual 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:

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.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

Cost of Voting in the American States: 2024

The Cost of Voting Index (COVI) “examines election laws and policies and calculates a single measure of the relative difficulty of voting for each state. States with smaller values make voting more accessible than states with larger values. The 2024 index was updated “for the 2024 US presidential election by analyzing recent legislation that affects voting accessibility across the 50 states.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

We take 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 put together our annual Election Policy Progress Reports. These state-specific progress reports evaluate each state’s progress within its tier (i.e. relative to a set of peer states with similar policies) rather than compared against every single state. A state’s grade is based on how it moved relative to other states with similar election policies, looking primarily at legislative action to expand or hinder voter access and 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 2025.

As a first step, we began by placing each state into one of three tiers: top, bottom, and middle states. These tiers are an attempt to place each state in a group with its peer states on pre-existing election policy. The tiers were based on the voting landscape in 2025 and strongly based off of the latest Cost of Voting Index scores. 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, executive, and implementation actions taken over the last year. We also considered the state's actions within the context of whether it moved up or down a tier from last year's scorecard.

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 relative to its peer states?

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? In some cases, states have changed tiers from previous years on new rankings from the Cost of Voting Index.

Ultimately, this is a measure of state legislative action, or lack thereof, and a state's work to protect the right to vote while improving election administration and security. The grades are not intended to reflect an overall scoring of a state's election laws. 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. Rather, they represent a measure of how the state either improved (or failed to improve) election policy compared to states starting the year at a similar place.

Methodology

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

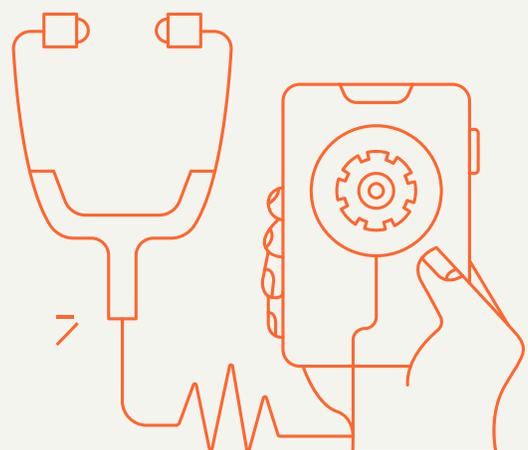
However, there are a few exceptions to the general rule. For example:

If a state passed very few election-related laws 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 pass

Finally, because each state is graded based on its own unique election law landscape, this means that similar legislation passed in multiple states (and across multiple tiers) 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?

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 pass new pro-voter policies, including a state voting rights act, and implementing its first in the nation pre-registration for 15-year-olds. However, other top tier states like Illinois failed to make any improvements, and earned a C+ for remaining static while their peer states continued to improve. And another top tier state, Utah, received a “D” because it passed legislation to roll back several important policies, including eliminating its universal vote by mail system.

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

So a state like Mississippi, received a “B+” for making minor improvements to election administration along with meaningful progress on early voting. Conversely, a state like Wyoming, received a “D” for further weakening voter access and election administration, by enacting a rigid, burdensome voter registration law that requires voters themselves to affirmatively provide documentary proof of citizenship and residency.

With middle tier states that already had a 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, Montana received a “D” because it passed additional constraints, including tightening voter ID restrictions and requiring voters to include their birth year on their mail ballot envelope. And New Jersey received an “A+” for passing Secure Automatic Voter Registration System (SAVR) and extended the early voting period for primary elections as well as provided funding for it.

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

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

Election Policy Progress Report

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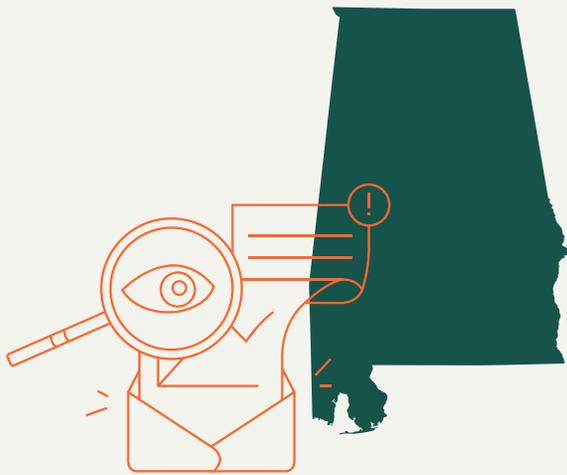
Grade

D

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Alabama



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Alabama continued to erect barriers to the ballot box, this time by codifying flawed list maintenance practices. By adopting data matching protocols known to erroneously flag citizens as non-citizens, the Legislature increased the risk of wrongful disenfranchisement for eligible voters. This restrictive focus resulted in a D rating.

Looking Back

Where Alabama Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

44th

COVI (2024)

38th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the Alabama Legislature passed legislation to officially end the state's use of voter data from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) in favor of a less reliable system.



SB 142 requires the secretary of state to conduct regular list maintenance with the "Alabama Voter Integrity Database" (AVID), which codifies the state's existing practices including those that have proven inaccurate in other states. The bill requires the use of several state and federal databases to find potential ineligible voters on the rolls. The bill also updates list maintenance laws to remove references to ERIC since the state left the list maintenance organization in 2023.



SB 158 clarifies that registered voters may not prove their identity with a foreign national driver's license at the polling place.

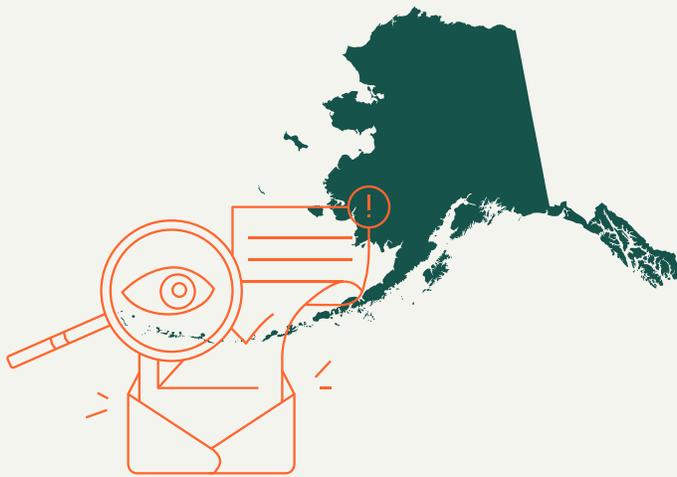
Grade

B-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Alaska



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

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

Looking Back

Where Alaska Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

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

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

Online Voter Registration: **only with Alaska DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

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

Same-Day Registration: **Yes (presidential race only)**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

21st

COVI (2024)

24th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Alaska Legislature did not pass any election-related bills during the 2025 session.

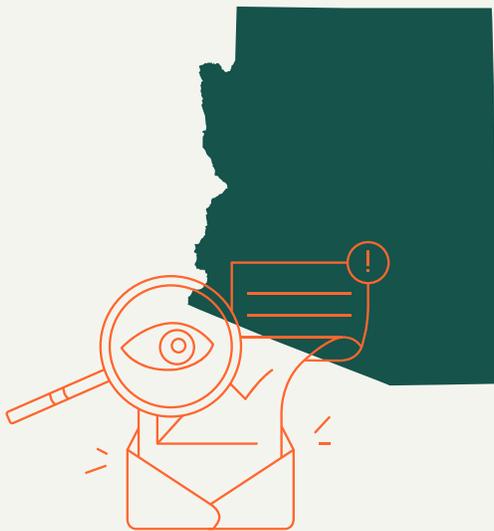
Grade

B+

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Arizona



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Arizona's election landscape was defined by executive resilience and administrative problem solving this year. Governor Hobbs served as a firewall, neutralizing a barrage of restrictive legislation passed by the Arizona State Legislature and ensuring only minor technical adjustments were enacted. Meanwhile, the secretary of state and local officials demonstrated crisis management excellence, collaborating effectively to rectify a longstanding MVD data error that had compromised registration records. This combination of legislative defense and operational competence earned Arizona a B+.

Looking Back

Where Arizona Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

29th

COVI (2025)

24th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the Arizona Legislature introduced more than 100 bills that would have made changes to Arizona elections. In the end, the Legislature made technical changes to the process of certifying election administrators and made some minor changes related to voters on the active early voting list.



SB 1319 clarifies when election officer certifications expire and establishes new certification deadlines based on the date the officer was originally certified.



HB 2129 directs county recorders to send election notices to only active voters on the active early voting list, requires inactive voters that are removed from the list to either confirm or update their voter registration information to receive early ballots again, and clarifies that county election offices do not have to remain open the weekends before and after the election for voters to cure ballots if there are no outstanding ballots to be cured at that point.



Executive Action

Governor Hobbs vetoed more than a dozen bills this session that would have made it more difficult for eligible Arizonans to vote and tasked election workers with enacting unnecessary and complicated practices around election administration. These restrictions included the following:



SB 1097 would have restricted counties from replacing precinct-based polling places with countywide voting centers, though it still allowed centers as a supplement.



SB 1098 would have required anyone returning a mail ballot in person to present a valid voter ID (in addition to the existing signature-based identification procedures), which would have ended the ability to drop off ballots for household and immediate family members.



SB 1375 would have required the county recorder to provide broad public access to the voter registration rolls through an internet portal.



SB 1536 would have required that election contests be fully resolved before declaring a winner in races where the office is currently held by an appointee. This could invite frivolous challenges and delay certification of legitimate election results.



HB 2017 would have eliminated early in-person voting and the use of vote centers on Election Day.



HB 2060 sought to assert that Arizona has sovereign authority over federal voter qualifications within the state. However, it conflicts with federal law and could expose Arizona to significant litigation risk.



HB 2153 would have allowed political parties to have challengers present at early voting and emergency voting locations.

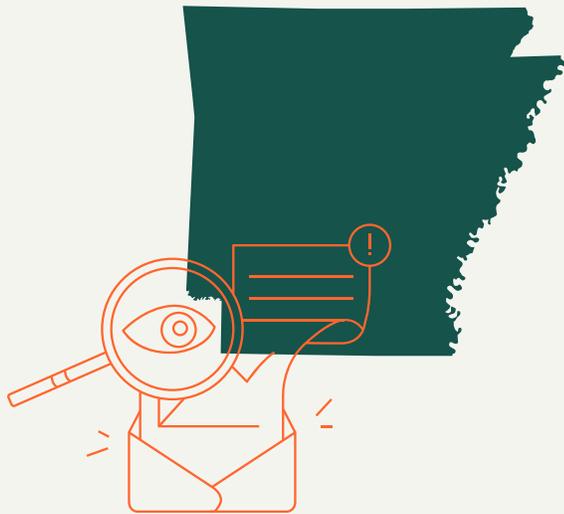
-  **HB 2205** would have authorized the secretary of state to adopt a new elections procedure manual. Still, it would have limited its “force of law” to only those sections that the Legislature specifically authorized the secretary to include.
-  **HB 2206** would have prohibited the state from joining any multistate list maintenance organization that requires the state to provide information from voter registration records, thereby requiring the state to leave the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).
-  **HB 2440** would have prohibited the attorney general from prosecuting, bringing criminal charges, or filing a civil action against a county supervisor based on their vote against certifying a vote canvass if the vote was based on evidence that suggested potential irregularities in the election process or a “good faith belief” that there are outstanding issues that could affect the integrity or accuracy of results.
-  **HB 2651** would have required all voting machine parts to be 100% sourced and assembled in the United States, despite evidence that this is technically impossible.
-  **HB 2703** proposed several administrative changes, including shifting the deadline for dropping off early ballots from Election Day to the preceding Friday.



Implementation Action

-  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 being registered without proof of citizenship. The secretary’s office worked quickly to cure 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 complete ballots in the November 2024 general election.

Since the error was discovered, the MVD and secretary’s team have worked closely and quickly to clear the list and communicate to voters. Both agencies have made process improvements to prevent future issues. Election officials throughout the state have also responded quickly and efficiently to various legal developments that have changed — and continue to change — operational plans on a dime. Quick and effective action by the secretary's team and the MVD will continue to help ensure that disruptions to the Arizona electorate are as minimal as possible moving forward into the midterms.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Arkansas broke its legislative silence this session with a suite of reforms that offered both concessions and constraints. The State Legislature expanded the franchise by increasing early voting opportunities in key cities, yet significantly countered this progress with a burdensome witness requirement for mail-in voters. This ambivalent record resulted in a C+ rating.

Looking Back

Where Arkansas Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

49th

COVI (2024)

50th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Arkansas Legislature made several significant changes to election laws during the 2025 session.



HB 1878 requires county election boards to hold early voting at a polling site in every city with a population of more than 15,000 people where the county clerk is not conducting early voting.



SB 304 allows an existing voter from one county to update their registration to their new county through Election Day.



SB 296 allows a county board of election commissioners to increase the number of early voting sites beyond what was offered in the previous general election.



HB 1925 adds a witness signature requirement to absentee ballot envelopes.



SB 479 requires individuals assisting voters to provide acceptable ID at the polls before they will be allowed to assist a voter in casting their ballot. The assistant must also have their info documented by a poll worker on site.



HB 1870 requires federal courts to provide info on disqualified jurors to the secretary of state to use for list maintenance purposes.



SB 299 requires a staff member of a long-term or residential care facility to witness the facility administrator provide voting assistance to any residents of the facility to ensure the assistance is provided “without comment or interpretation.”



SB 272 prohibits voter registration applications from having the party affiliation field pre-filled before they are provided to applicants.



SB 294 requires that if the State Board of Election Commissioners finds that a randomly selected county audit of a preferential primary or general election found less than 100% accuracy in the results, the county must undergo another audit for the next preferential primary or general election.



HB 1693 authorizes the State Election Board to establish rules for the duplication of damaged or defective ballots.



SB 578 allows county election boards to authorize the emergency closure of early voting sites because of inclement weather, as is currently allowed with Election Day polling sites. However, the law also requires at least one early voting site in the county seat remain open regardless of the weather.



SB 293 requires polling sites to post various notices to voters including signage warning that “CROSSOVER VOTING IS A CRIME.” Crossover voting occurs when someone casts a vote in the primary for one political party and then casts a vote in the runoff election for another political party’s primary.



SB 295 provides state funding for the compensation of certified election monitors of the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Grade

B+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

California



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

This past session, the California State Legislature made additional pro-voter improvements to its elections laws. It passed legislation to expedite processing of election results and ensure all timely mailed ballots are counted. However, the Assembly failed to pass legislation to upgrade its existing online voter registration system to allow eligible individuals that lack a California DMV-issued ID the opportunity to register online. Therefore, California received a B+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where California Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

7th

COVI (2024)

45th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

For yet another session, the California Legislature approved several bills that made positive changes to a wide range of election-related processes.



AB 16 allows elections officials to begin processing vote by mail ballots as soon as they are received. Prior law only allowed processing to begin 29 days before the election.



AB 5 requires election officials to count and publicly report vote tallies within 13 days after an election.



AB 287 requires public agencies that provide public building space for vote centers or polling locations to also provide accessible and curbside parking, as well as storage space for election supplies.



AB 827 aims to speed up the vote count by shortening the deadline for election officials to notify voters of signature defect issues with ballots to no later than 14 days after a statewide election. It also shortens the deadline for voters to cure defects to 22 days after a statewide election.



AB 930 extends the mail ballot receipt deadline in vote-by-mail elections to 7 days after the election. Prior law required ballots to be returned within 3 days after the election.



AB 1072 requires the secretary of state, in consultation with county election officials, to develop uniform standards and guidelines for how a voter can cure their ballot.



SB 3 revises the mail ballot cure process to ensure uniformity and fairness in the process. It requires the secretary of state to provide uniform signature cure forms that counties must utilize. The bill also prohibits election officials from considering a voter's unique characteristics (such as their party preference, race, or name) when making a determination about the voter's signature.



SB 398 makes it a crime to knowingly or willfully offer money or something else of value to someone to get them to register to vote or cast a ballot.

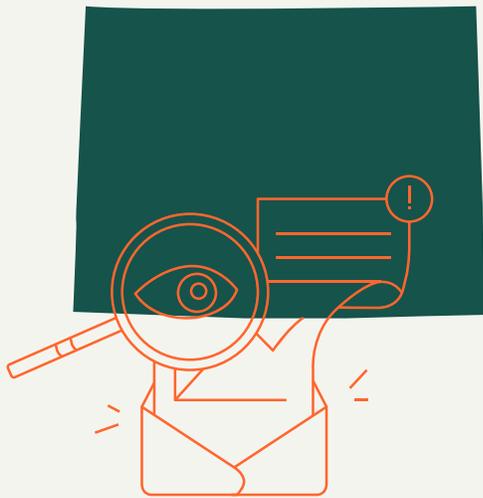


AB 1249 requires counties to allow any voter using a vote-by-mail ballot to vote their ballot in person at their local election office or a satellite location, starting no later than 29 days before an election. At these early vote locations, voters may return a mail ballot; register to vote or update a registration; or vote a regular, provisional or replacement ballot.



AB 1411 requires counties that do not conduct an all-mail election to create a voter education and outreach plan to identify and register qualified voters who are not registered to vote. Prior law imposed this requirement on all counties, but it has become redundant. Vote-by-mail counties are already required to formulate such plans under existing all-mail election regulations.

However, the Senate failed to move forward AB 1116 after it passed in the Assembly, which would allow individuals that lack a California DMV-issued ID to be able register to vote online using the last 4 digits of their social security number as their identity verification. Under current California law, individuals without a California DMV-issued ID must register to vote through a paper form. In the 2024 election cycle, more than a 1.5 million paper registrations were filed in California, creating significant work and costs for county registrars of voters and significant inconvenience for more than a million California voters, many of whom would prefer to register to vote online if they could.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Colorado continued its trajectory of robust pro-voter reform in 2025. The General Assembly prioritized safeguarding the electorate by passing the Colorado Voting Rights Act and the Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act. Simultaneously, the state broke new ground in voter access, completing the rollout of a pioneering 15-year-old pre-registration program that has already yielded a ~270% increase in youth enrollments. These comprehensive improvements earned Colorado an A.

Looking Back

Where Colorado Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

8th

COVI (2024)

3rd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2025 session, the General Assembly established a state voting rights act and enacted reforms to strengthen protections against intimidation for voters and election workers.



SB 1 establishes the “Colorado Voting Rights Act,” which protects against discrimination in voting, prohibits jurisdictions from adopting policies that cause voter suppression or voter dilution, and expands language access requirements, among other things.



HB 1225 creates the “Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act,” which establishes civil penalties for intimidating, threatening, or coercing anyone who is voting, assisting voters, or administering an election.



HB 1195 allows first responders to request that their address in county and state voter records remain confidential.



HB 1155 clarifies that while candidates for office cannot themselves serve as an election “watcher,” candidates subject to a recount may select an eligible elector to serve as a watcher during the recount.



Implementation Action



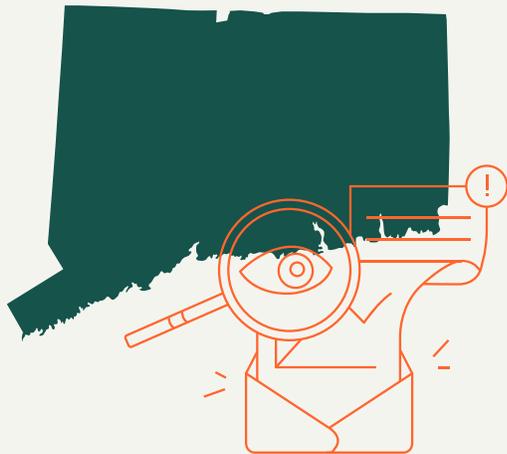
In January, Colorado’s DMV successfully implemented an expansion of the state’s automatic voter pre-registration program to include 15-year-olds. This expansion increased Colorado’s automatic voter pre-registration rate at the DMV by ~270%, and ensures that all eligible 15-17 year olds who apply for a permit, driver’s license, or ID card in Colorado will automatically receive a mail ballot for their first election after turning 18.



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.

Election Policy Progress Report

Connecticut



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

While the Connecticut General Assembly paused on new legislative reforms — most notably delaying the implementation of voter-approved no-excuse absentee voting — it delivered a critical fiscal victory. For the first time since its 2023 enactment, the Legislature fully capitalized the Connecticut Voting Rights Act, ensuring the law has the resources to be effective. This vital funding commitment secured Connecticut a B rating.

Looking Back

Where Connecticut Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 Participation: **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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

22nd

COVI (2024)

25th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The General Assembly passed legislation to simplify the process for acquiring election equipment and provided much-needed funding to implement the state's existing Voting Rights Act.



HB 7129 allows the secretary of state to purchase vote tabulator equipment and transfer ownership to municipalities.



HB 7287, the state's biennial budget bill for 2026-2027, includes full funding for the previously enacted Connecticut Voting Rights Act.



During the 2024 election, Connecticut voters ratified a constitutional amendment that would allow voters to cast an absentee ballot without providing an excuse. The Legislature failed to pass legislation that would enact this amendment.

Grade

B

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Delaware



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

While Delaware enacted no broad statutory reforms this session, it utilized the budget process to fine-tune its Secure AVR system. The State Legislature updated the protocol to ensure DMV customers can explicitly designate a party affiliation during their transaction. This modification earned the state a B rating.

Looking Back

Where Delaware Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

25th

COVI (2024)

26th

EPI Score (2020)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Delaware General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related bills during the 2025 session. However, in budget language, the General Assembly required the Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles to ask voters their political party affiliation during their motor vehicle transactions.



HB 226, the supplemental budget bill, included funding for the DMV to allow voters to register their chosen party affiliation during the Secure AVR process, as opposed to via a post-transaction mailer.

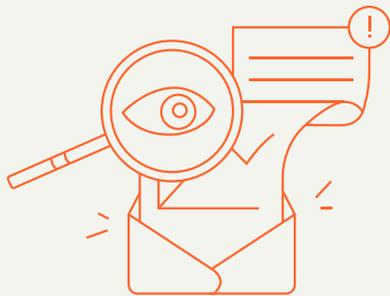
Grade

A

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

District of Columbia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The District of Columbia's 2025 session was defined by successful implementation. The District successfully upgraded its automatic voter registration system, streamlining the interface between the DMV and the Board of Elections. This proactive work to ensure an efficient registration process resulted in an A on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where District of Columbia Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **No Disenfranchisement**

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

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

ID Requirements: **No Document Required**

Same-Day Registration: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

Not Rated

COVI (2024)

36th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Council of the District of Columbia did not pass any election-related bills during 2025.



Implementation Action



The District of Columbia's DMV and Board of Elections effectively implemented upgrades to D.C.'s automatic voter registration system, which launched on October 1. In just the first few months, these improvements are already having a significant impact. Thanks to additional data from the Board of Elections, D.C. has already added thousands more eligible individuals to the rolls, and is updating thousands more addresses for existing registrants — further strengthening the accuracy and integrity of D.C.'s voter registration records.

Grade

B-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Florida



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

While the Florida Legislature refrained from major systemic overhauls during the regular session, it advanced some constructive administrative updates. The state invested \$2 million to modernize its voter registration infrastructure and made minor improvements for individuals with previous felony convictions to determine their voter eligibility status. Unfortunately, the state also passed a non-citizen voting ban that echoes federal requirements that was enacted during a special session this past winter. Consequently, Florida received a B- rating.

Looking Back

Where Florida Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

32nd

COVI (2024)

35th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

As part of the budget process, the Legislature appropriated significant funds to upgrade the state's voter registration system. During a special session this past winter, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation, which makes it a felony to willfully vote as a non-citizen.



SB 2500, the state budget bill, appropriated \$2 million dollars to upgrade the statewide voter registration system (SVRS). It also included significant funding for the office of investigating election crimes and security.



SB 2 makes it a felony to "willfully" vote as a non-citizen. The law aligns Florida's penalties with federal standards and clarifies that individuals cannot use a good-faith misunderstanding or lack of awareness of their citizenship status as a defense.



Executive Action



The Florida Department of State established a process for individuals that were formerly incarcerated due to felony convictions, to receive information from the state on their voter eligibility status. Although this is not the centralized database model that would have dramatically simplified the process and reduced the paperwork burden on individuals, it is a good step forward.

Grade

B

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Georgia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Following years of aggressive legislative restrictions, the Georgia General Assembly's 2025 session was comparatively muted, producing only a minor adjustment mandating physical identification cards for voting. However, the focus of restrictive policy has shifted to the regulatory arena: The State Board of Elections continues to advance sweeping rule changes that threaten to complicate administration and impede access. Balancing this legislative lull against regulatory risks, Georgia received a B.

Looking Back

Where Georgia Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

35th

COVI (2024)

11th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The General Assembly passed legislation to explicitly prohibit the use of mobile ID for voting purposes. The Senate also passed a resolution to set up a study committee to review the state's laws on felon disenfranchisement.



HB 296 requires driver's licenses that are used as voter identification to be presented in a physical format.



SR 429 creates the "Senate Addressing Felony Disenfranchisement" study committee to take a look at the felon disenfranchisement clause in the state's constitution and review "its ongoing relevance in today's society." The committee will consider potential reforms and make recommendations on suggested actions the Legislature could take.

At the end of the 2025 session, House Speaker Burns announced the creation of The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Election Procedures to study and evaluate Georgia's current laws, policies and procedures for administering Georgia elections over the interim and make a plan for 2026. The committee was also tasked with reviewing the system of statewide and local elected officials and boards that oversee election administration.



Executive Action



For yet another year, the State Election Board proposed sweeping rule changes to the state's election system. Most recently, the board voted to move forward with proposed rules to suggest the State Legislature eliminate the state's existing touchscreen voting systems and end no-excuse absentee voting in the state. This comes after the Georgia Supreme Court struck down four of the board's 2025 proposed rules earlier this year. At that time, the Court found that the board exceeded its authority and encroached on the Legislature's lawmaking authority under the state constitution.

Grade

B-

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Hawaii



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Hawaii's 2025 legislative session was characterized by administrative maintenance. While the state successfully joined the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) and resolved minor statutory inconsistencies regarding registration deadlines, it failed to advance broader reforms. By neglecting to modernize its automatic voter registration infrastructure, the Legislature squandered a key

Looking Back

Where Hawaii Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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: **Vote By Mail**

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

Same-Day Registration: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Participation: **Yes**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Hawaii as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

3rd

COVI (2024)

33rd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Hawaii State Legislature made a small technical correction to its election laws to ensure the previously extended voter registration deadline also applied to registrations by mail.



HB 408 makes conforming changes to align existing statutes with a prior change to state law that extended the voter registration by mail deadline to 10 days before the election.

However, the Legislature also failed to take action on HB 322, which would have transitioned the state to a substantially safer, more efficient, and more effective Secure AVR system.



Implementation Action



Earlier this year, Hawaii joined the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which will help keep the state's voter rolls accurate and up-to-date.

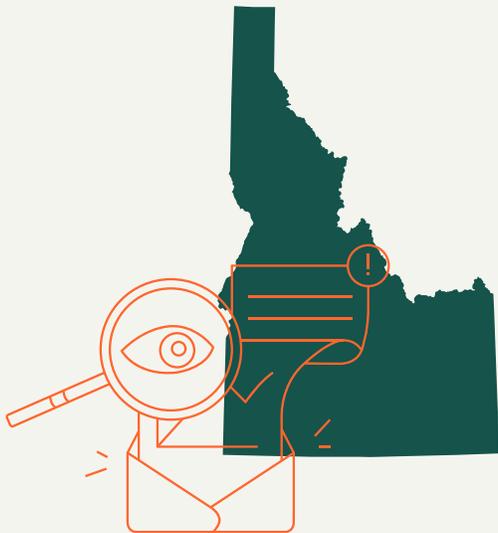
Grade

B+

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Idaho



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Over the past year, the Idaho Legislature passed election-related legislation to expand the mail and online voter registration deadline and enacted new routine voter list maintenance procedures. Therefore, Idaho received a B+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Idaho Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

27th

COVI (2024)

32nd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2025 session, the Idaho Legislature extended the voter registration deadline for mail and online registration by two weeks. The Legislature also passed legislation to require counties to conduct routine reviews of existing voter registrations to identify “anomalies.”



HB 278 extends the voter registration deadline to 11 days before the election from the current 24 day deadline for mail, online and other pre-election day registration. Additionally, voters may still continue to utilize same-day registration. The bill also adjusts the period for when early voting will start to “on or after the fourth Monday before the election” instead of the current requirement to start “on or before the third Monday,” to standardize the three week early voting period across jurisdictions.



HB 339 requires the secretary of state and county clerks to conduct new routine list maintenance procedures. It requires the secretary to compare the voter rolls to data from the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program at least 90 days before all statewide elections and flag any potential removals for county clerks. It also requires the secretary to periodically request data from various state and federal databases for list maintenance, and it allows the secretary to enter into agreements with other states and commercial data providers for list maintenance, among other things.



HB 310 requires counties that use vote machines to adopt at least one “anti-fraud measure” for ballots from a list that includes watermarks, holograms, barcodes, and security paper, among other options. Counties that hand count ballots would be required to print “Official Election Ballot” and the election date on each ballot.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Illinois General Assembly did not make any substantive changes to its election laws this past session. Therefore, Illinois received a C+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Illinois Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 Illinois as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

9th

COVI (2024)

39th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Illinois General Assembly did not pass any election-related bills during the 2025 session.



For yet another session, legislators failed to advance legislation that would have updated the existing automatic voter registration system to make it more secure, efficient, and effective at registering voters.

Grade

C

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Indiana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again, the Indiana General Assembly made several minor improvements to its election laws, including passing an important study bill to review the potential cost savings of consolidating elections and utilizing vote centers. However, it also enacted further voter ID restrictions. Therefore, Indiana received a C on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Indiana Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

34th

COVI (2024)

20th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past session, the Indiana Assembly further restricted acceptable voter ID types and established protocols for confirming citizenship status for voter registrants that used temporary credentials on their applications.



SB 10 bars the use of student IDs for voter ID. The bill also requires the state to invite all other states to join them in entering into data sharing agreements in an effort to establish an alternative to the Electronic Registration Information Center, the interstate voter list maintenance organization.



HB 1680 requires individuals that register to vote using an ID number from a temporary credential to provide documentary proof of citizenship to election officials within 30 days of receiving notice of the requirement.



SB 137 requires the bureau of motor vehicles commission to notify the election division if the voter registration form being transmitted is for an applicant who applied for or was issued a temporary credential based on temporary lawful presence in the country.



SB 199 allows 2 or more candidates from a political party to file a request for a poll watcher. Current law requires 26% of all party candidates to file the request.



SB 526 requires vote systems to be capable of retracting a vote.



HB 1679 requires circuit court clerk offices to close on election day so clerks can administer elections, requires county voter registration officials to identify and flag potential non-residential addresses used for voter registration, establishes a 48-hour deadline for counties to conduct list maintenance upon receiving relevant information, expands the list of sources that can be used to determine whether a voter has moved, and allows voters to request a replacement mail ballot by email.



HB 1633 requires the secretary of state to study the potential cost savings of requiring all counties to use vote centers, consolidating municipal elections to even-years, and requiring all local elections to be held in odd-years after presidential elections.

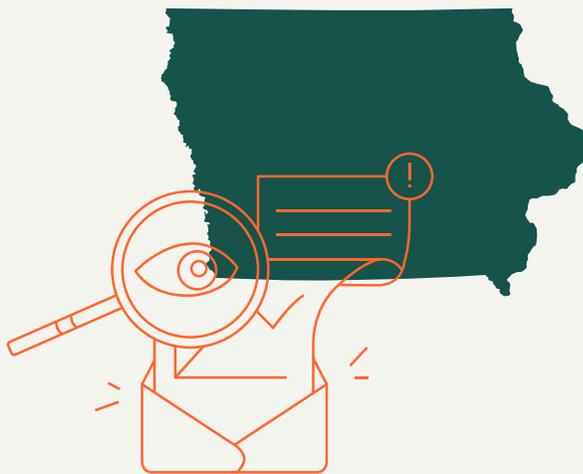
Grade

B-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Iowa



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

While Iowa improved technical processes like recount procedures, the Legislature also enacted inefficient verification mandates. The new laws create a complicated post-registration review system and authorize poll workers to question voters' citizenship status. Because these measures add significant complexity where streamlined solutions existed, the state earned a B-.

Looking Back

Where Iowa Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

24th

COVI (2024)

7th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

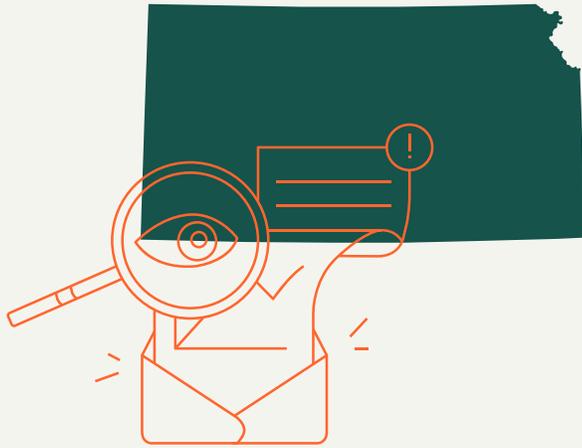
This year the Iowa General Assembly made several improvements to its election laws, including allowing the use of e-pollbooks and standardizing the recount process, but it also enacted changes that allow pollworkers to challenge voters' citizenship status at the polls and institute cumbersome voter list maintenance procedures.



HB 954 allows pollworkers to challenge voters on their citizenship status potentially leading to indiscriminate challenges. The bill also authorizes the use of state-approved e-pollbooks, clarifies that the secretary of state, as the state registrar of voters, can contract with state and federal government agencies as well as private entities to verify voter registration data and may adopt rules for the use of those sources, authorizes the state registrar and county commissioners to use those sources for voter list maintenance, and requires the department of transportation to send the state registrar lists of individuals that submitted documents indicating non-citizenship to ensure noncitizens are not registered to vote.



HB 928 changes the laws for election recounts to create uniformity in the process. It creates set thresholds for recounts and changes the makeup of election recount boards to require county auditors and staff to lead the board instead of individuals chosen by the candidates requesting the recounts.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again, the Kansas State Legislature continued to pass new restrictive election laws, overriding Governor Kelly's efforts to veto these measures. Therefore, Kansas received a C- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Kansas Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025, 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)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Kansas State Legislature passed two significant anti-voter anti-voter bills this past session.



SB 4 removes the current 3-day grace period for late-arriving mail ballots by rolling back the deadline for mail ballot returns to the close of polls. This change gives voters less certainty that a mail ballot returned before election day will be counted.



SB 5 prohibits government agencies, including election officials, from accepting or expending federal funds for election administration or "election-related activities," including voter registration and voter assistance, unless the expenditure is authorized in an appropriation act or other state law. Although the law does include an exception for funds spent on election security, passage of this legislation makes it harder for election officials to receive federal election funding under HAVA.



HB 2020 authorizes the secretary of state to use DMV data on licenses issued to noncitizens for list maintenance purposes and requires the secretary to flag any potential noncitizens on the voter rolls for removal by county election officers.



HB 2016 allows active duty military members and their spouses to serve as pollworkers regardless of where they are registered to vote. The bill also revised its existing pollworker qualifications to allow anyone that is a U.S. citizen and resident of Kansas to serve as an election judge or clerk anywhere in the state. As the state has faced a pollworker shortage in past elections, this could help alleviate shortages in areas that have had trouble recruiting local volunteers.



Executive Action



For yet another year, Governor Kelly unsuccessfully attempted to veto anti-voter legislation passed by the Legislature, SB 4 and SB 5. Unfortunately, for yet another session, the Legislature ignored her concerns and overrode her veto.

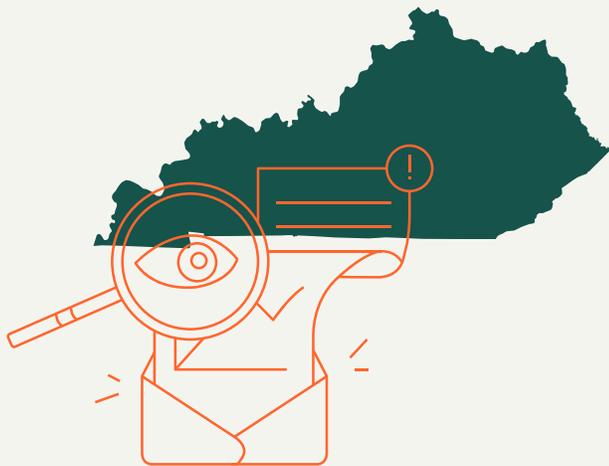
Grade

B-

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Kentucky



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Kentucky General Assembly imposed an additional restriction on voting rights this past year by removing several previously acceptable voter ID options. The Assembly also passed legislation to create a special unit to investigate potential election crimes within the Office of the Attorney General. In some states, these units have been used to target election officials that make mistakes. We are optimistic that won't be the case here. Therefore, Kentucky received a B- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Kentucky Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **No**

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

Same-Day Registration: **No**

Restoration of Rights: **Some permanent disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

Early Voting Opportunities: **Yes**

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

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kentucky as of 2024, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

37th

COVI (2024)

37th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Kentucky General Assembly enacted new restrictive election laws this past session.



HB 684 removed credit and debit cards from the list of acceptable alternative voter ID options. However, the bill also would have allowed certain caregivers of voters that qualify to vote excused in-person absentee to also themselves vote excused in-person absentee.



HB 455 creates the Unit of Election Investigations and Security within the attorney general's office to investigate potential election law violations. In other states, these units have been used to go after people who make honest mistakes rather than real bad actors. They have often been the source of misinformation and operated with a lack of transparency. We hope Kentucky's unit avoids those pitfalls to increase election integrity.



Executive Action



Governor Beshear attempted to veto HB 684, which removed several items from the accepted list of supporting voter ID documents. However, the Legislature overrode his veto.

Grade

B

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Louisiana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Louisiana State Legislature took significant steps toward modernizing election administration this session. Lawmakers authorized the consolidation of local contests and allocated essential funding to replace the state's antiquated voting equipment. Furthermore, Governor Landry exercised a strategic veto that preserved legal avenues for future election improvements. These structural and protective advances earned Louisiana a B.

Looking Back

Where Louisiana Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

33rd

COVI (2024)

48th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

In contrast to prior sessions, the Louisiana State Legislature made several positive changes to its election laws during the 2025 regular session.



HB 1, the state's budget bill, allocated \$10 million for the purchase of new voting machines.



HB 323 allows school boards and municipalities the option to align their election dates with fall gubernatorial elections starting in 2031.



HB 592 allows a voter (or an immediate family member) to get a new mail ballot certificate in person from the registrar to cure a previously flagged deficiency, expands the definition of "immediate family" to include grandparents and grandchildren, expands the list of documents an applicant can use to show a name change when registering to vote, and revises polling place consolidation rules in cases of emergencies.



HB 482 requires parishes to submit any proposed redrawing of precinct boundaries to their local election clerk to ensure the election can be conducted within the new boundaries.



HB 577 establishes a new bid process for purchasing vote machines.



HB 502 expands the reasons a registrar could be removed from office to include incompetence, under performance, and other misconduct and requires a hearing on any accusations. The bill also modifies the "merit system" for registrar performance to require that reviews result in a finding of "excellent," "successful," "unsuccessful," or "not assessed."



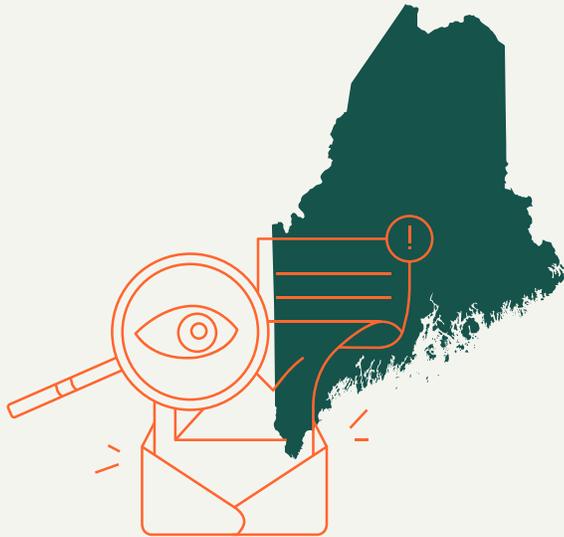
SCR 35 directs the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the Department of State's election policies, procedures, and practices and those of other election officials in the state.



Executive Action



Governor Landry vetoed HB 206 which would have required the Legislature to approve any election-related consent decrees.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Most of Maine's substantive changes to its election law occurred during its special session where it rolled back the online voter registration deadline by several hours. Therefore, Maine received a C+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Maine Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Partial AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **No Disenfranchisement**

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

Online Voter Registration: **Yes**

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 Maine as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

14th

COVI (2024)

31st

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Regular Session:



LD 1148 directs the secretary of state to conduct a feasibility study on providing local absentee ballots electronically to military and overseas voters for municipal elections that are held on the same date as a statewide election.

Special Session:



LD 1977 shortens the online voter registration deadline to 5pm on the day registration closes, instead of the current midnight deadline and sets specific timelines for when voter registrations must be transferred from various voter registration agencies to the secretary of state's office, among other things.



LD 158 sets a uniform 30-day period for when absentee voting in person may begin. Prior law allowed individuals to vote absentee in-person anytime the clerk's office was open starting 45 days before the election.



LD 1844 requires the Department of Corrections commissioner to provide information on voter registration for individuals that will be leaving incarceration. Although Maine citizens do not lose their ability to register to vote upon incarceration, voter registration is included in this bill as part of a broader re-entry service program that aims to help returning citizens prepare to enter the workforce and their community.

Grade

B

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Maryland



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Maryland enacted further pro-voter enhancements this year, but left a key structural improvement on the table. The Legislature failed to pass legislation that would update its automatic voter registration system to a more efficient model. This persistent gap in modernization resulted in a B rating.

Looking Back

Where Maryland Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

17th

COVI (2024)

18th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Maryland General Assembly passed a host of pro-voter reforms during the 2025 session.



HB 983 / SB 685 establishes the “Language Assistance Program” and requires counties to participate if the State Board of Elections determines that there is a “significant need” for language assistance for voters in the county.



HB 274 / SB 259 requires local election boards to submit an election plan to the State Board of Elections for approval at least 7 months before a statewide primary election. In establishing their plans, local boards must analyze how to maximize voter participation when siting polling places and selecting drop box locations.



HB 201 / SB 93 requires local election boards to send all voters, other than those already on the permanent absentee ballot list, information about voting by mail along with a sample ballot and other election mailings.



HB 426 / SB 313 requires the State Board of Elections, in cooperation with the local election boards, to conduct risk-limiting audits after every statewide election.



HB 586 / SB 534 allows high school students that serve as pollworkers to opt to receive payment or class credit and clarifies that pollworkers will be paid for completing training only after they have worked a day as a pollworker.



HB 199 / SB 257 makes minor improvements to the notification process for voters on the permanent absentee ballot list.

However, the Legislature also failed to make progress on a trio of pro-voter policies: HB 1113, would have upgraded the state’s existing automatic voter registration system to a more effective Secure AVR system, HB 1110 would have required the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to transmit the names of returning citizens to the State Board of Elections so their voter registration status could be automatically restored, and HB 153 would have expanded voter pre-registration.

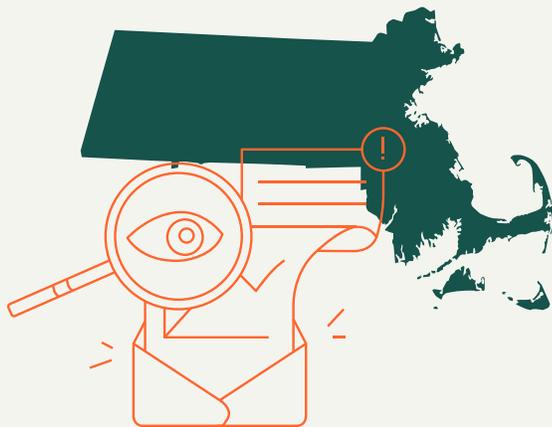
Grade

C+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Massachusetts



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The General Court refrained from any substantive improvements to its election code this year. By again declining to implement same-day registration, Massachusetts failed to modernize its voting process in line with other leading states. This lack of initiative resulted in a C+ rating on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Massachusetts Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

11th

COVI (2024)

9th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Massachusetts Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2025 session.



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

Grade

B-

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Michigan



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Michigan refrained from significant election reforms this year. While the session yielded new funding for future administrative needs, the friction surrounding the budget leaves some previously allocated funds in jeopardy. This mix of legislative stagnation and financial risk resulted in a B-.

Looking Back

Where Michigan Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

12th

COVI (2024)

2nd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Michigan Legislature continued to invest in election administration in its FY 2026 budget. However, some previously-allocated election funding remains in jeopardy.



HB 4576, the FY 2026 budget, includes \$28.6 million for election staff support and voter services, \$9.6 million for election security, and a \$5 million boost to the Election Equipment Reserve Fund.

In December, the House Appropriations Committee rescinded funding for several projects authorized during past budget cycles, including over \$7 million to update election equipment. An attorney general opinion has since reauthorized the spending, but the funding's future is uncertain as the House is challenging the attorney general's decision in court.



Implementation Action

The Michigan Department of State is working to implement secure automatic voter registration and an improved online voter registration system, available to Michiganders who lack state-issued ID (such as active duty military, recent transplants, or college students who grew up elsewhere).

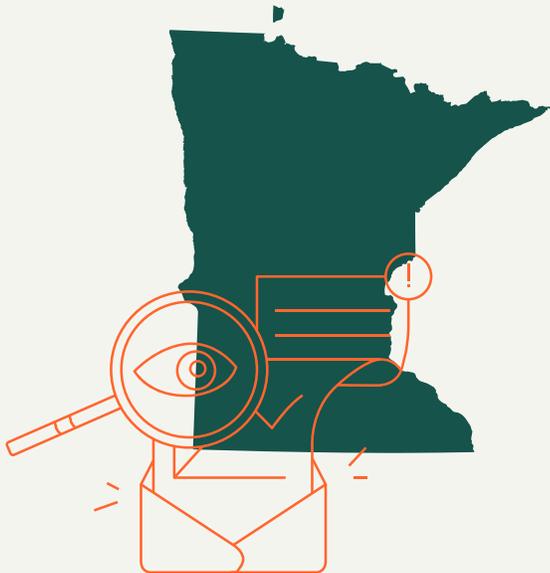
Grade

C

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Minnesota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After a period of historic progress, the Minnesota State Legislature's momentum stalled this session. Additionally, the Legislature took a step backward by enacting measures to increase friction in the mail voting process. Despite this setback, the state's election apparatus remains strong as officials work to implement the major reforms of the previous cycle. This mix of legislative stagnation and administrative maintenance resulted in a C rating.

Looking Back

Where Minnesota Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **Prison Disenfranchisement**

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

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

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 Minnesota as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other top tier states. Last year, Minnesota was considered a middle tier state.

How Our Tier Compares

10th

COVI (2024)

8th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Minnesota State Legislature passed only one significant piece of election-related legislation in 2025. However, it chipped away at various voter deadlines and instituted stricter ID requirements for mail ballot applications.



SF 3045 requires absentee voters to provide both a driver's license or state identification number and a partial social security number on their application, or provide one number and certify they do not have the other number; shortens the deadline to return mail ballots in person to 5pm on Election Day, instead of the close of polls; among other things.



Implementation Action



The secretary of state and Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services teams continue to closely monitor the Secure AVR system's launch and make valuable improvements to ensure its accuracy and effectiveness.

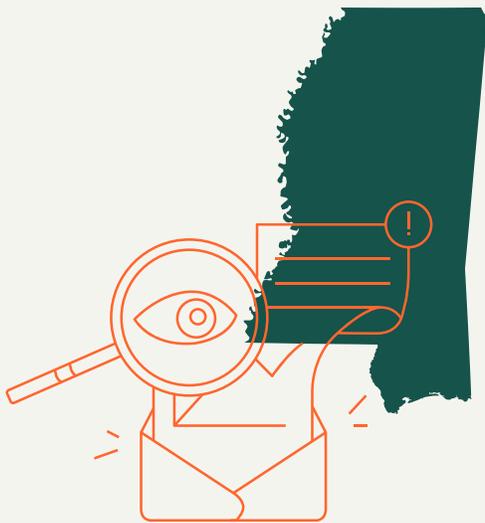
Grade

B+

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Mississippi



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Mississippi State Legislature made a few small, but positive changes to the state's election laws during the 2025 session. It gathered momentum toward several important improvements to voting — most importantly, early in-person voting — that were broadly popular in the Legislature, but failed when the governor voiced forceful opposition. Mississippi remains one of only three states that do not offer in-person early voting. Therefore, Mississippi received a B+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Mississippi Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

50th

COVI (2024)

51st

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Mississippi State Legislature passed a few small positive reforms this past session.



HB 1419 prohibits polling place locations from being changed within 60 days of an election unless special circumstances require it.



HB 724 makes it a crime for someone assisting a voter to “willfully” fail to submit the voter’s ballot with the intent that the ballot would not be cast and counted.



HB 289 shifts the terms for election commissioner elections to align them with existing even-year elections.

Unfortunately, despite legislative support for establishing in-person early voting, this year as SB 2564, it failed to become law due to the governor’s continued opposition to the commonsense pro-voter reform.



Executive Action



Secretary of State Watson launched the “TextMyGov” system that allows voters to access election information and report issues via text.



Earlier this year, Secretary Watson announced a new partnership with Experian, the credit reporting agency, for list maintenance purposes. We applaud Mississippi’s effort to update its voter rolls. Because registration is still manual and paper-based, the state lags behind the rest of the country and should adopt reforms like online registration and real-time address updates. This update is a small step toward modernization, but we’ll need to monitor its implementation closely to ensure that consumer data — often inaccurate — is handled with caution and not misused, which could make the rolls even less accurate.

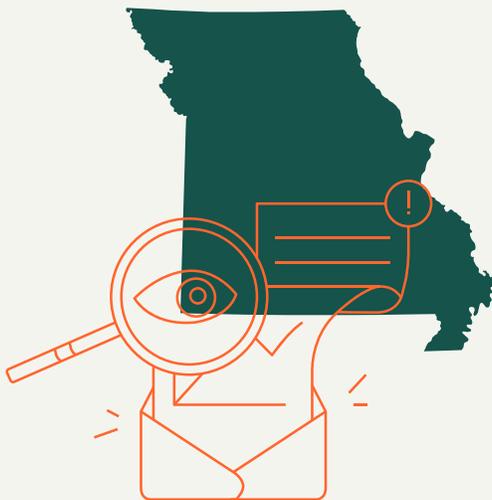
Grade

B

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Missouri



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Missouri General Assembly did not make any substantive changes to its election laws this past session. Because the state didn't pass any anti-voter measures, Missouri received a B on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Missouri Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **No**

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

Same-Day Registration: **No**

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **No**

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

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

41st
COVI (2024)

16th
EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Missouri General Assembly did not pass any election-related bills during the 2025 session.

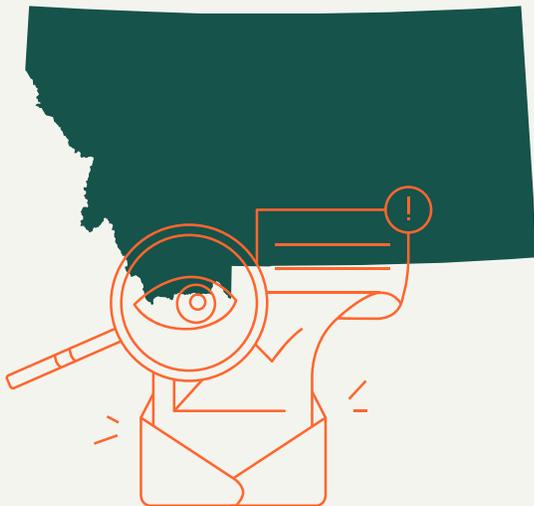
Grade

D-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Montana



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Montana ignored court precedent to pass a fresh wave of anti-voter legislation. By reviving invalidated statutes — including strict ID laws and shortened registration periods — the Legislature demonstrated a commitment to restriction over the rule of law. This earned the state a D- rating.

Looking Back

Where Montana Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

31st

COVI (2024)

40th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2025 session, the Montana State Legislature passed several pieces of election-related legislation that limit access of eligible voters and increase burdens on election administrators, without increasing protections for election security or integrity.



SB 490 shortens the deadline to register to vote on Election Day to noon, rather than the close of polls. It also eliminates the option to register to vote on the Monday before Election Day by pushing back the deadline to Saturday.



SB 276 tightens voter ID restrictions and narrows the list of acceptable voter IDs. It also removes the option for provisional voters to show an alternative ID document (such as a current utility bill, bank statement, or paycheck) to prove their identity.



HB 719 requires individuals to include their birthdate on their voter registration form, or they will be “provisionally registered.” Additionally, absentee voters must include their birth year on both their absentee application and their ballot envelope.



HB 423 modifies the list maintenance procedures applicable to “provisionally registered” voters. These voters will no longer be contacted as part of annual list maintenance. The bill also directs the secretary of state to create rules related to the removal of provisionally registered voters from the rolls.



HB 413 narrows the residency rules for voter registration purposes to clarify that if an individual moves to Montana for a temporary purpose, such as school or work, they must intend to make Montana their “permanent home” when that temporary purpose ends.



HB 179 expressly prohibits moving an inactive voter to the active voter list based on the voter signing a petition for a statewide ballot issue.



SB 57 revises county canvassing procedures to require counties to compare the number of votes cast with the number of electors and the number of persons who voted, and to investigate any discrepancies. It also authorizes county canvass boards to require a recount as part of their investigation.



SB 58 revises absentee ballot count procedures to authorize an election administrator to investigate any discrepancies not satisfactorily explained by the counting board in the absentee count report. As part of the investigation, the administrator may conduct a recount and review the record of accepted ballots.



HB 248 clarifies that an election administrator may cancel a voter registration based on an obituary, but removes the requirement that the obituary be posted in a newspaper.



HB 193 requires a voter’s written request to cancel their voter registration to be signed by the voter.



HB 527 removes the requirement that the secretary of state approve a jurisdiction’s plan to conduct a mail ballot election. Instead, election administrators must simply post their plans on the county website or in another public way at least 60 days before the election.

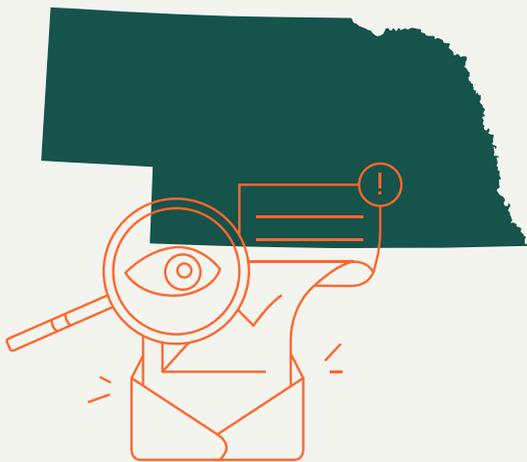
Grade

B

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Nebraska



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Nebraska utilized its annual technical legislation to enact constructive adjustments, including a key provision allowing the state's major cities to consolidate municipal elections with the general cycle. These practical steps toward administrative efficiency earned the state a B rating.

Looking Back

Where Nebraska Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

28th

COVI (2024)

5th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Nebraska Legislature made several positive improvements to the state's election laws in the election omnibus legislation it passed.



LB 521 allows Omaha and Lincoln to consolidate their local elections with statewide elections; expands watcher access, while setting firm boundaries on not getting in the way of election workers doing their job; requires multiple rounds of testing for vote count devices; and requires clerks to notify a voter when a registration has been canceled at the voter's request, among other things.

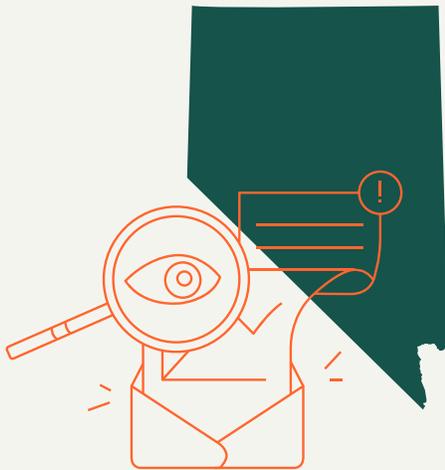
Grade

A-

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Nevada



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Nevada Legislature delivered tangible gains for voters this session, including securing critical funding to expand voter outreach and upgrade registration infrastructure. However, the state's potential progress was curtailed by Governor Lombardo, who vetoed a suite of additional reforms. Despite these executive roadblocks, Nevada's legislative achievements secured an A- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Nevada Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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: **Vote by Mail**

ID Requirements: **No Document Required**

Same-Day Registration: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

4th

COVI (2024)

15th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2025 session, the Nevada Legislature continued to make pro-voter improvements to the state's election laws.



AB 148 requires sample ballots to be mailed to voters before their official mail ballots to avoid confusion.



AB 367 establishes a language access coordinator within the secretary of state's office and requires the office to make sure voting materials and other election information are available in at least seven of the most commonly spoken languages in Nevada.



SB 421 requires local clerks to recruit election workers for polling places on tribal reservations and provide training on the reservation, unless a tribe opts out.



SB 488 appropriated \$1.5 million to the secretary of state's office for voter education and outreach.



AB 562 appropriated \$3.5 million for AVR agency connectivity.

Special Session:



SJR 1 takes the first step towards enshrining protections for universal vote by mail in the Nevada Constitution. It would require polling places that are used for early voting to accept mail ballots returns while in person voting occurs, and it requires county clerks to establish a certain number of sites for voters to return mail ballots in the 3 days before a primary or general election, among other things. The bill will still need to pass again during the upcoming legislative session and then go before the voters for final approval.



Executive Action

Governor Lombardo vetoed several pro-voter election reforms.



AB 499, a bipartisan compromise bill, would have expanded voter access to drop boxes while also implementing common-sense voter ID measures.



AB 597 would have allowed voters that are not affiliated with a political party to participate in the partisan primary elections.



AB 534 would have moved up the deadline for those registering to vote that want to automatically receive a mail ballot to 18 days before the election. The current cutoff point is 14 days before the election.



AB 496 would have allowed mail voters to include a contact number on their envelope to be contacted about any signature verification issues. The bill also would have required election administrators to post daily updates of data on mail and provisional ballots during the early voting period and would have required monthly posting of the county voter registration lists, among other things.



SB 100 would have subjected election workers to felony charges for failing to perform their duties in a timely manner.



SB 422 would have expanded the list of acceptable ID that may be used for same-day registration, required extended DMV hours for two weeks before an election in large jurisdictions to provide citizens with additional opportunities to get acceptable photo IDs, and allowed voters that lacked acceptable ID to vote provisionally in certain circumstances.



AB 306 would have established minimum drop box requirements based on county population size.



Implementation Action

Nevada's secretary of state and Department of Motor Vehicles teams implemented two critical reforms in 2025:



Nevada implemented important automatic voter registration reforms in January, streamlining the process for eligible Nevadans. These reforms bring Nevada in line with national best practices for automatic voter registration, while reducing unnecessary bureaucratic processes for customers and staff.



The secretary of state completed the implementation of its new Voter Registration and Election Management Solution (VREMS), integrating Clark County into a system that successfully incorporated Nevada's 16 other counties in 2024. This centralized system will increase the security, accuracy, transparency, and customer experience of the state's elections systems.

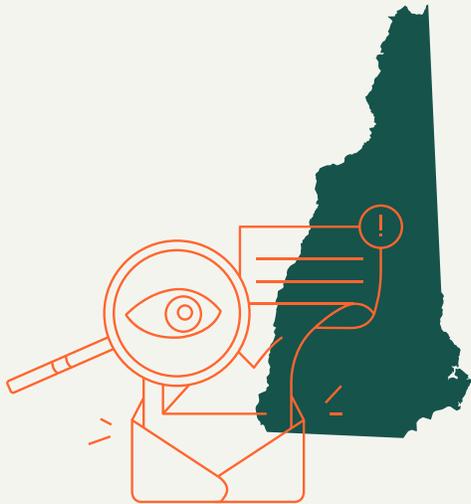
Grade

D-

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

New Hampshire



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For yet another session, New Hampshire doubled down on an anti-voter agenda. Lawmakers enacted punitive measures that tighten the already burdensome proof-of-citizenship requirements and authorize individual hand-count requests — a move poised to paralyze election administration with unnecessary delays. Compounding this regression, the Legislature killed bipartisan efforts to modernize via online voter registration, leaving the state’s registration infrastructure woefully antiquated. This cumulative failure earned New Hampshire a D-.

Looking Back

Where New Hampshire Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

47th

COVI (2024)

46th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

For yet another session, the General Court of New Hampshire enacted legislation that implements drastic changes to the state's voter registration and voter ID laws.



SB 218 expands the state's existing and extremely burdensome proof of citizenship requirement for in-person voter registration to voter registrations sent by mail. This type of proof-of-citizenship law puts the maximum administrative burden on the individual voter.



SB 287 requires voters submitting mail ballot applications to include a copy of their photo ID with their application, have their application notarized, or present their photo ID to their local clerk in person, in order for the application to be accepted. Again, this system puts the maximum administrative burden on the individual voter.



HB 154 allows any voter to request their ballot be hand-counted.



HB 288 requires mail ballot applications to be received within 6 months of an election to be valid.



SB 221 requires voter list maintenance processes to occur on a yearly basis rather than every 10 years.



HB 464 allows the department of state to verify voter records based on out-of-state driver's license information if a voter's record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license and allows proof that a voter registration applicant was previously or is currently registered to vote in a different town or ward in the state to satisfy the proof of citizenship requirement.



HB 294 removes the option for a group of challengers to delay the processing of absentee ballots until after the close of polls.



HB 67 expands an existing pilot project to require the secretary of state to provide cities with accessible vote machines for city elections.

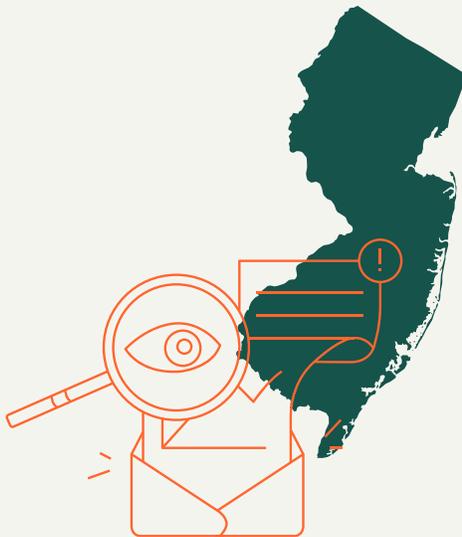
Grade

A+

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

New Jersey



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

New Jersey solidified its place as a national leader by enacting a suite of high-impact reforms, including a transition to a more secure, streamlined AVR system. With the expansion of funded early voting and improved ballot-curing protocols, New Jersey's proactive approach to administration stands out. Consequently, it is the only state to receive an A+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where New Jersey Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Partial AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **Felon Disenfranchisement**

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

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

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 New Jersey as of 2024, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 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)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year the New Jersey State Legislature passed several extremely important pieces of legislation to make elections both more accessible to voters and more secure.



SB 1636 improves the efficiency and security of New Jersey's automatic voter registration (AVR) system by upgrading to a Secure AVR system, the gold-standard policy to register eligible voters, update registration, and filter out ineligible individuals.



SB 3990 extends the early voting period for primary elections to 7 days before the primary. The bill also appropriated \$6 million to fund the extension of early voting.



SB 4835 expands the notice and cure process for mail ballots by requiring clerks to notify voters of defects besides a missing or mismatched signature that can be cured and allowing voters the opportunity to correct those defects. The bill also allows voters that receive a cure notice the option to instead cast a provisional ballot in-person during early voting or on Election Day.

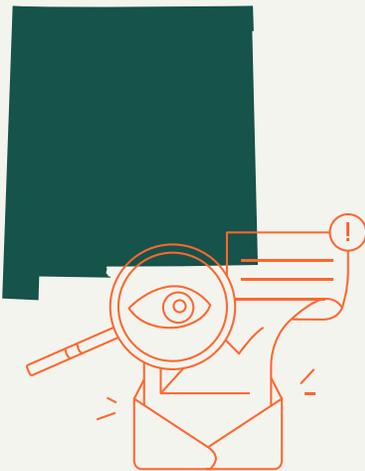
Grade

A-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

New Mexico



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

New Mexico solidified its pro-voter reputation by broadening primary access and successfully launching Secure AVR. While legislative changes in election policy in 2025 were minimal, the session was marred by a troubling reduction in election funding, which is cause for significant concern given New Mexico's comparatively low election spending and risks undermining the state's strong record on elections management. For these reasons, New Mexico received an A- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where New Mexico Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

19th

COVI (2024)

1st

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This year the New Mexico Legislature increased voter access by allowing independents a chance to vote in state primaries.



SB 16 allows unaffiliated voters to participate in party primaries without having to change their nonpartisan status.



HB 2, the state appropriation act, included a reduction of election funding. This is troubling because New Mexico already spends less on elections than most states and the cuts could hurt its strong record of running elections well.



Implementation Action



New Mexico's Secure AVR system went live in July of 2025, after months of dedicated effort by the Motor Vehicle Division and secretary of state. In just its first month, SAVR led to an almost 300% increase in newly registered voters at the MVD, and more than 16,500 updates for existing voters — increasing access for eligible New Mexicans, while simultaneously strengthening the accuracy and integrity of New Mexico's voter rolls.



New Mexico's Motor Vehicle Division and Corrections Department also partnered to provide state-issued IDs to all individuals being released from state correctional facilities. This is a proven strategy to support individuals during the re-entry process and remove barriers to housing, employment, and civic participation.

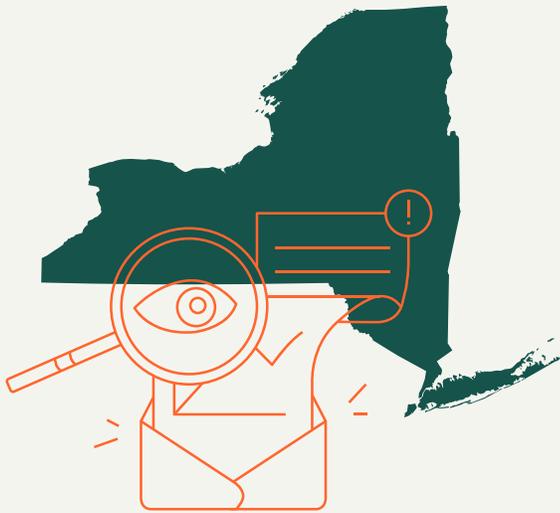
Grade

B+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

New York



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The New York State Legislature continued to pass important election law reforms this past year including enacting legislation to require the state to join ERIC, which will help ensure the state's voter rolls remain current and up-to-date. But, it once again 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.

Looking Back

Where New York Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

12th
COVI (2024)

47th
EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The New York State Legislature continued to make pro-voter improvements this past session, but it yet again missed an opportunity to implement an even more effective and secure automatic voter registration system.



SB 1356A requires the State Board of Elections to join a "multistate voter list maintenance org," such as ERIC, and share registration data.



SB 752 clarifies that an early mail ballot deposited into a dropbox before the close of polls can be counted.



SB 1842 allows pollworkers to work half-day shifts on Election Day.



SB 4274C requires the New York City Board of Elections, within 5 days of learning about the need to change a polling location, to notify the chairs of the state party committees by mail about the change.

Once again, the Legislature failed to take action on SB 88/AB 6772A, which would have incorporated upgrades to create a safer, more efficient, and more effective Secure AVR system. The legislation passed the Senate, but failed to advance in the Assembly.



Implementation Action



For another year, New York failed to implement AVR at the DMV, which had an initial deadline of January 2023. Implementation of AVR at the DMV is now delayed until early 2026 as the NY DMV works to address several key administrative issues prior to its launch.

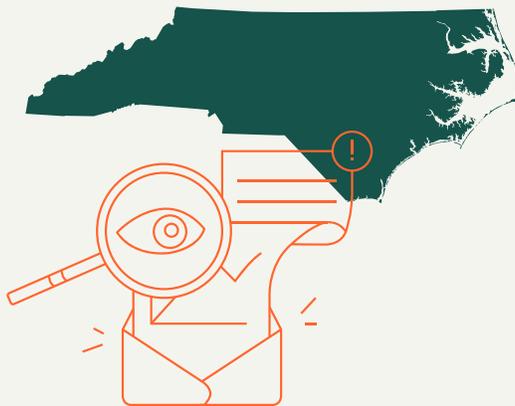
Grade

C-

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

North Carolina



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The North Carolina General Assembly made no substantive changes to the election code this year, but the state's progress was undercut by the State Board of Elections. Following its reconfiguration, the Board took active steps to limit ballot access, creating new unnecessary hurdles for North Carolina voters. This administrative pivot toward restriction resulted in a C- rating.

Looking Back

Where North Carolina Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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: **Photo ID 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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

30th

COVI (2024)

27th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The North Carolina General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2025 session.



Executive Action



In 2024 the General Assembly moved the State Board of Elections (NCSBE) away from gubernatorial control to the state auditor's office, which has not historically had any connection to elections. This past fall, the Board adopted a rule that requires voters whose voter registration record lacks either a driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number to cast a provisional ballot. The Board also allowed counties to eliminate Sunday early voting.

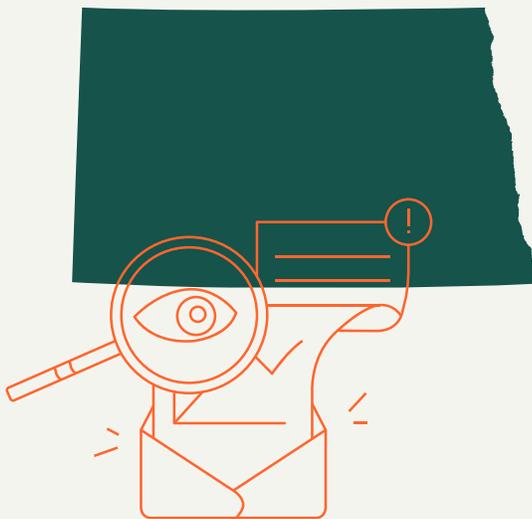
Grade

C+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

North Dakota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Despite passing small pro-voter reforms, North Dakota restricted mail voting by eliminating the postmark deadline. The new requirement that ballots be received — not just mailed — by Election Day creates logistical hurdles and reduces voter confidence. Reflecting this step backward, the state earned a C+.

Looking Back

Where North Dakota Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

16th

COVI (2024)

12th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The North Dakota Legislature enacted several new restrictions to its election laws during the 2025 session.



HB 1165 shortens the receipt deadline for mail ballots to close of polls. Previously, ballots postmarked the day before the election and received within 13 days post-election would be counted.



HB 1178 requires school districts to adopt a policy to allow high school students that are qualified voters to take a break to vote during the school day.



SB 2175 requires each county to randomly select one polling location within its jurisdiction to undergo a post-election audit. The bill also authorizes the secretary of state to call for additional audits if discrepancies are found. The reliability of an audit depends heavily on its quality and implementation details; the bill simply allows the secretary to “further define the procedure” so it’s unclear how reliable the audits will be in practice.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Ohio continued its trend of late-session restrictions by eliminating the post-election grace period for mail ballots. This change, alongside new mandates for boards of elections to conduct citizenship checks during registration, creates new hurdles for both voters and administrators. Reflecting this increasingly restrictive environment, Ohio received a C- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Ohio Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

45th

COVI (2024)

22nd

EPI Score (2024)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Late in the 2025 session, the General Assembly passed legislation to require proof of citizenship and shorten the deadline to return mail ballots.



SB 293 removes the 3-day grace period for late arriving mail ballots, which gives voters less certainty that a mail ballot returned before Election Day will be counted. The bill also requires local boards of election to confirm voters have provided documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration, among other things.



HB 54 clarifies that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) may only offer voter registration or voter registration updates to individuals that present proof of citizenship or have previously presented proof of citizenship at the BMV.



Executive Action



In early 2025, the secretary of state launched an online portal that allows the public to view daily updates of voter registration changes across the state, including updates, new registrations and removals.

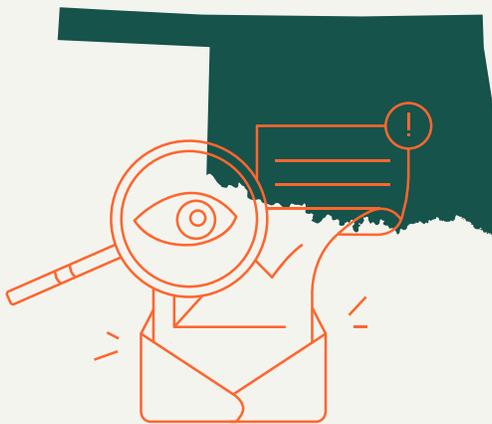
Grade

C-

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Oklahoma



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Oklahoma State Legislature doubled down on anti-voter measures this session, most damagingly by outlawing vote centers — a move that directly constricts voter access. While the state offered marginal improvements by expediting military ballots and mandating audits, these modest administrative tweaks fail to outweigh the new barriers erected against the general electorate. Consequently, Oklahoma received a C-.

Looking Back

Where Oklahoma Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

36th

COVI (2024)

41st

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Oklahoma Legislature enacted both positive and negative election reforms during the 2025 session, although the negative reforms were more impactful.



SB 147 requires the secretary of the State Election Board to direct county election boards to conduct post-election audits for primaries and generals. Currently the secretary has the authority to direct an individual county to conduct an individual audit.



SB 814 allows uniform service voters to request an emergency absentee ballot after the standard deadline has passed. Currently only first responders and emergency workers qualify for emergency ballots.



SB 652 consolidates potential election dates to five set dates each year, which will provide voters with a more predictable election calendar.



SB 1086 gives the State Election Board free rein to compare the voter rolls with any federal, state, or local database that maintains citizenship info on Oklahoma citizens to find potential non-citizens on the voter rolls. Any potential non-citizens flagged will be notified and given 30 days to present proof of citizenship to the county election board, and if they fail to respond will be removed from the rolls and reported to the appropriate district attorney and U.S. attorney for potential prosecution.



HB 1865 bans the use of countywide vote centers on Election Day. The bill also requires all ballots to be printed prior to Election Day, with an exception for shortages and emergency situations.

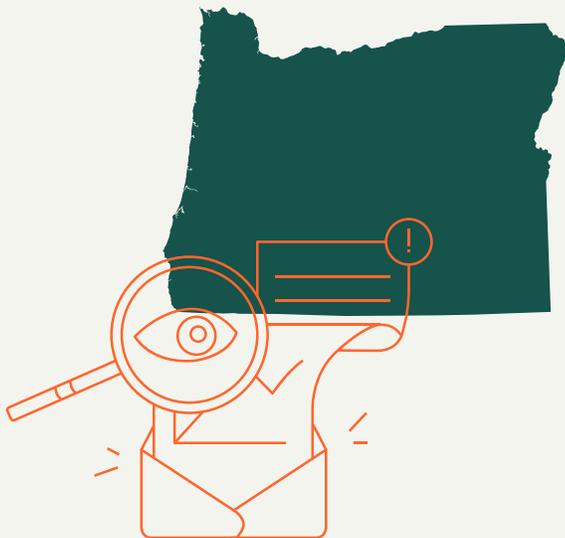
Grade

B+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Oregon



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Oregon prioritized operational excellence in 2025, with the DMV and secretary of state successfully resolving previous data accuracy challenges to strengthen the Motor Voter system. Lawmakers also improved election continuity by allowing the governor to fill U.S. Senate vacancies by appointment. This focus on systemic integrity and representation resulted in a B+ rating.

Looking Back

Where Oregon Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **Prison Disenfranchisement**

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

Online Voter Registration: **OVR+**

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

ID Requirements: **No Document Required**

Same-Day Registration: **No**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

2nd

COVI (2024)

21st

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Oregon Legislature made one small change to election laws this year to change vacancy laws.



SB 952 requires the governor to fill a U.S. Senate vacancy by appointment.



Implementation Action



Following the discovery of data accuracy issues in 2024, Oregon's DMV and secretary of state committed to fully addressing the problem. Following a series of third-party audits and consultation with a working group of national experts and peers, the DMV implemented a comprehensive set of reforms and increased cooperation with the secretary of state's office and local elections officials. These efforts resulted in zero new errors being discovered in 2025, and renewed confidence in Oregon's automatic voter registration program.

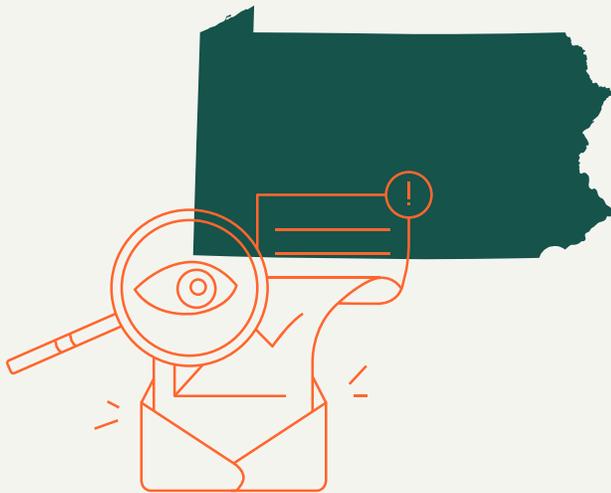
Grade

B

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Pennsylvania



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Pennsylvania's 2025 legislative cycle was notably quiet, with lawmakers refraining from any transformative changes to the state's election code. The session's only substantive action was a minor budgetary increase intended to bolster election administration. Due to this focus on routine maintenance rather than policy growth, the state received a B.

Looking Back

Where Pennsylvania Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

26th

COVI (2024)

29th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Pennsylvania General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2025 session. However, the state budget did include an increase in funding for voter registration.



HB 1332, the state budget, included an increase in funding for voter registration at both the Department of State, and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), with a notable 39.5% increase of \$300k at PennDOT.

Grade

B+

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Rhode Island



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Rhode Island State Legislature made significant strides this session, broadening access to mail voting and codifying protections to shield election workers from harassment. Yet, the state once again missed a critical opportunity to modernize its infrastructure by failing to upgrade its automatic voter registration to a more secure and efficient model. Consequently, Rhode Island earned a B+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Rhode Island Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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: **ID Requested, but not Required**

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

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

20th

COVI (2024)

6th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature continued to pass legislation to improve voter access:



SB 729 / HB 5300 makes it a crime to threaten election officials, and members of their immediate family, because of the election official's public duty.



SB 520 / HB 5709 allows any voter to join the permanent mail ballot application list and automatically receive a mail ballot application for every election.



SB 513 / HB 5517 increases the maximum number of voters per polling location to accommodate mid-census population growth.

Unfortunately, once again, the Legislature failed to take action on HB 6423, which would have transitioned the state to a substantially more efficient and more effective Secure AVR system.

Grade

B

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

South Carolina



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The South Carolina Legislature did not make any substantive changes to its election laws this past session. Therefore, South Carolina received a B on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where South Carolina Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

43rd

COVI (2024)

17th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The South Carolina Legislature did not pass any election-related bills during the 2025 session.

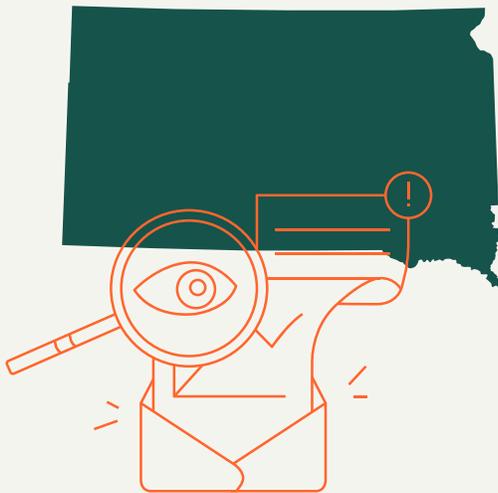
Grade

C+

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

South Dakota



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The South Dakota Legislature delivered a mixed verdict on election administration this session. While lawmakers enacted several restrictive measures, they simultaneously advanced constructive reforms to consolidate local election schedules and enhance the transparency of county procedures. Due to these conflicting developments, the state earned a C+ rating.

Looking Back

Where South Dakota Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

39th

COVI (2024)

44th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The South Dakota Legislature made changes to the state's election laws on a wide variety of issues from voter registration and list maintenance to election consolidation.



HB 1066 revises voter residency requirements to clarify that a voter must live in the state for 30 consecutive days to be eligible to vote, the longest amount of time permitted under federal law.



SB 185 allows registered voters in a county to challenge another voter in the county as unqualified based on evidence that the voter registered or voted in another state. However, it is not uncommon for new registrants to often still be registered in their prior home state, due to no fault of their own. This could lead to false challenges based on nothing more than outdated voter records rather than indicating bad intentions by the voter.



SB 73 prohibits new residents from utilizing voter registration at the DMV until they have resided in the state for at least 30 consecutive days.



SB 68 revises voter qualifications to make it clear that U.S. citizenship is required and raises the criminal penalties for voting when unqualified or making false statements about one's voter qualifications.



HB 1062 requires counties to include absentee ballot application information in their master voter files. It requires the secretary of state to post weekly updates to the statewide voter file, while also maintaining a 5-year archive of the statewide voter file that is publicly accessible.



HB 1127 requires the secretary of state to publicly post on its website information on county canvasses, post-election audits, and voting equipment testing.



HB 1130 standardizes the dates for municipal and school district elections and consolidates these elections with state primary and general elections in even-numbered years.



HB 1208 prohibits the use of certain commercial addresses and P.O. boxes for state voter registration. Anyone who uses such addresses for registration or absentee ballot requests will be designated a "federal only" voter.

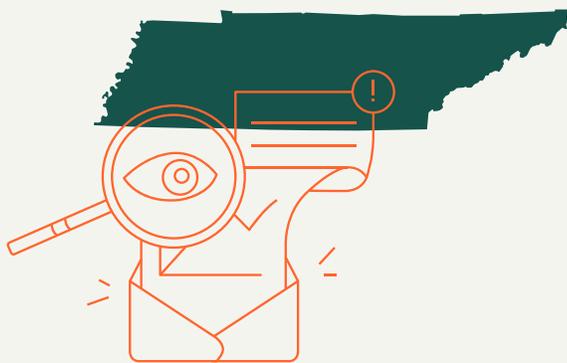
Grade

C-

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Tennessee



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Continuing a trajectory of restrictive policymaking, the Tennessee General Assembly largely focused on narrowing voter access this session. Notably, the Legislature tightened identification mandates by expressly disqualifying digital driver's licenses as valid forms of ID. Conversely, while the state's rights restoration process for formerly incarcerated individuals remains among the most burdensome in the nation, lawmakers did take incremental steps to clarify the process. Balancing these factors, Tennessee earned a C- on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Tennessee Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **No**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **No**

Restoration of Rights: **Some Permanent 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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

42nd

COVI (2024)

43rd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

While the Tennessee General Assembly slightly simplified the administrative burden on individuals aiming to restore their voting rights, it also tightened voter ID laws to further restrict the types of IDs that may be used.



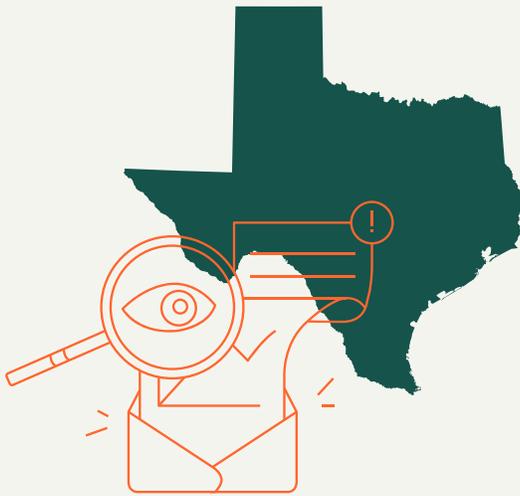
HB 1316 / SB 1297 explicitly prohibits digital driver's licenses from being accepted as voter ID.



SB 407 / HB 445 revises the process for restoration of voting rights to allow individuals that have lost their voting right due to a criminal conviction to have it restored without having to have their "full rights of citizenship" restored.



HB 69 / SB 133 requires the state to establish two secure electronic portals for county election officials to verify voter citizenship status and felony conviction status by January 2028. And starting in January 2028, it requires election officials to access those portals to view voter applicant records to ensure applicants are qualified US citizens without putting the onus on voters to proactively produce documents. The bill also requires individuals seeking to renew their driver's licenses after January 1, 2026 to provide proof of citizenship.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Texas Legislature advanced some meaningful reforms during the regular session, including adopting voter-centric cure procedures, extending early voting to encompass the weekend before Election Day, and insulating election workers from harassment. However, these gains were undercut during a subsequent special session, where lawmakers preemptively rescinded pending registration improvements and substantially broadened the attorney general's prosecutorial authority over election offenses. Consequently, Texas earned a C+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Texas Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

48th

COVI (2024)

34th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the regular session, the Texas Legislature passed several pieces of legislation to improve voter access, while also enacting reforms that could penalize election workers for making mistakes and enacted additional paperwork requirements for voters that need to utilize curbside voting. During the special session, the Legislature gave the attorney general the power to independently prosecute election crimes and it repealed legislation that would have allowed existing Texas voters to update their address at the polls.



SB 2753 shifts the early voting period so that it will end the day before an election rather than four days out and requires standardized weekend early voting hours, among other things.



SB 2964 revises ballot cure procedures to require clerks to notify voters sooner of any defects and expands cure options to allow voters to cure by mail or via the online ballot tracking system.



SB 510 allows the secretary of state to withhold funds from a registrar for failing to perform one of their required duties within the state's specified timeline. Although dereliction of duty should be taken very seriously, the appropriate mechanism is to punish individual wrongdoing and not withhold funds (and further compromise services) from the entire jurisdiction.



HB 5115 revised the definition of voter fraud to include counting votes the person knows are invalid or refusing to count votes the person knows are valid. The bill also raises the offense level from a misdemeanor to a felony for several voter fraud crimes.



HB 521 requires curbside voters to complete a form affirming their need to vote curbside and expands the list of election crimes related to providing voter assistance.



HB 493 expands the reasons an individual may not be allowed to serve as a pollworker to include certain felony convictions, including those related to committing an election offense.



SB 1470 requires the Department of Public Safety to share driver's license data with the secretary of state to facilitate the search for voters that have moved, voters that are registered in multiple states, and voters that are disqualified to vote due to felony convictions.



SB 1540 shields election office employees and volunteers from having their personal information disclosed in public records.



SB 1454 allows certain local political subdivisions to shift their general election date to November in odd-numbered years so long as they make the change by the end of 2025.

Special Sessions:



SB 12 gives the attorney general the authority to independently prosecute election crimes. The bill also requires local law enforcement to submit reports to the attorney general on potential election law violations. Although election-related crimes should be investigated and prosecuted to the full extent of the law, changing longstanding jurisdictional authority creates overlapping duties and redundancies, which result in lane confusion, procedural red tape, and delays.



SB 54 repeals SB 2217, passed during the 2025 regular session, which would have allowed an existing Texas voter who has moved within their county to update their address and vote in their new precinct on Election Day.

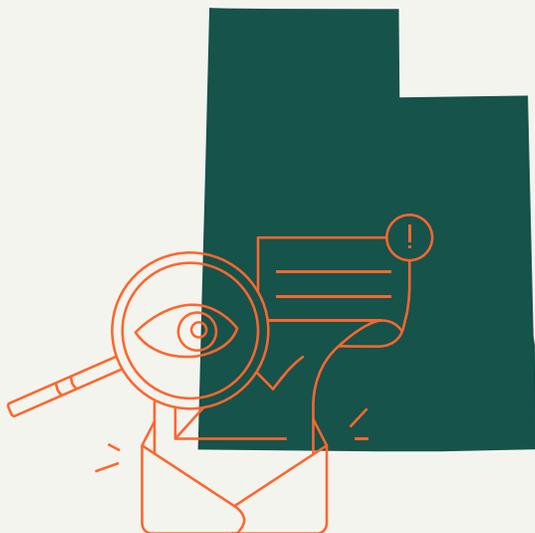
Grade

D

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Utah



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Despite a legacy of leadership in pro-voter policy, the Utah Legislature reversed course in 2025. In a historic first, the state passed legislation to repeal its universal vote-by-mail infrastructure. This move was accompanied by measures that curtailed ballot receipt deadlines, mandated new identification for mail voting, and overhauled list maintenance procedures. Consequently, Utah received a D grade for its performance this year.

Looking Back

Where Utah Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

6th

COVI (2024)

30th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Utah State Legislature passed significant anti-voter legislation during the most recent session.



HB 300 phases out universal vote-by-mail in the state as of 2029, requires mail voters to include ID numbers on the ballot for verification rather than relying on signature matching, and shortens the ballot receipt deadline to the close of polls. Separately, the bill also requires the lieutenant governor to conduct voter list maintenance at least 90 days before each primary and general election. This maintenance includes evaluating registrations of eight or more voters at a single-family home address, which could potentially target large families, investigating registrations when ballots are returned undeliverable, and registering with the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to identify non-citizens on the rolls.



HB 69 protects voting records from being accessed by government officials for reasons unrelated to their job and enacts criminal penalties for violations.



HB 263 revises the requirements for retaining election records and alters the processes for documenting the chain of custody for election-related documents.

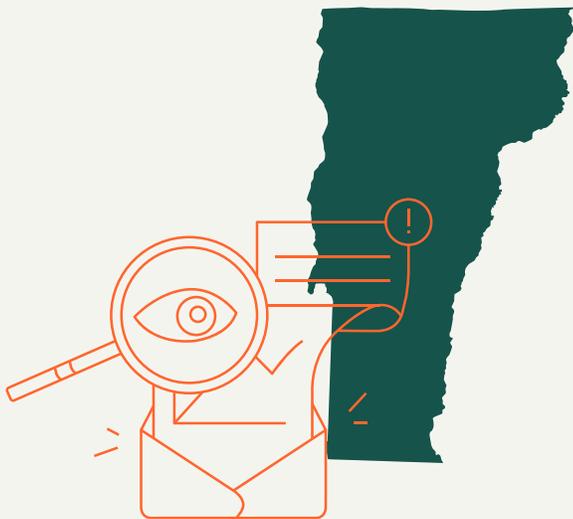
Grade

B

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Vermont



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The Vermont General Assembly made only minor changes to its election laws this past year. It passed legislation to allow additional time for election administrators to process absentee ballots and to clarify the existing automatic voter registration process. Therefore, Vermont received a B on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Vermont Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Partial AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **No Disenfranchisement**

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

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

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

ID Requirements: **No Document Required**

Same-Day Registration: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **Yes**

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

5th

COVI (2024)

4th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

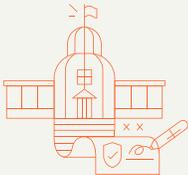
This Past Year



Legislative Action



HB 474 affirms existing practice that the current automatic voter registration process at the DMV registers individuals only if the applicant attests to U.S. citizenship or if the DMV has evidence that the applicant is a citizen. The bill also allows absentee ballot processing to begin 45 days before the election instead of 30 days out.



Executive Action



Secretary of State Copeland Hanzas oversaw a major upgrade to the state's online Election Management System including the creation of a new "Vermont Voter Portal."

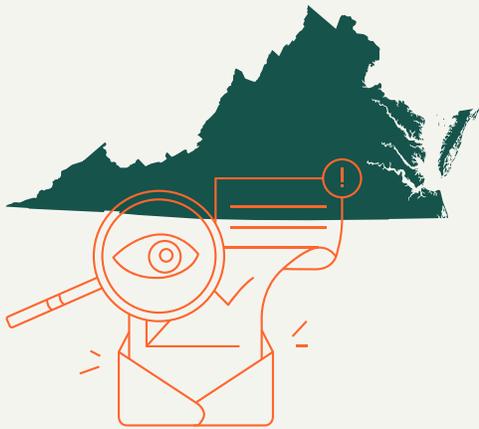
Grade

B+

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Virginia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again, the Virginia General Assembly passed several pro-voter changes to the state's election laws, including extending the voter registration deadline for mail and online applications and taking steps to reform Virginia's felon disenfranchisement laws. However, once again, Governor Youngkin stepped in to veto other significant changes passed by the Assembly. Therefore, Virginia received a B+ on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where Virginia Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Partial AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **Some Permanent Disenfranchisement**

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

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

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

Same-Day Registration: **Yes**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **No**

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 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

15th

COVI (2024)

10th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2025 session, the Virginia General Assembly continued to pass legislation to remove barriers to voting.



SB 991 / HB 1735 extends the general voter registration deadline for mail and online applications to 10 days before an election from the existing 21 days. Additionally, voters may still continue to utilize same-day registration.



SJ 248 / HJ 2 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would automatically restore an individual's voting rights upon release from incarceration on a felony conviction. The legislation will need to pass again next session before it would go to the ballot for voters to approve in November 2026.



SJ 253 / HJ 443 establishes a joint subcommittee to study aligning the state and federal elections on-cycle.



SB 1044 requires local clerks to report mail ballot results “promptly” and no later than 10 days post-election. Clerks must also report information on the number of provisional ballots cast and counted by precinct.



Executive Action

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



HB 2668 would have changed the criteria and process for removing a local election official for failure to do their job.



HB 2277 would have made it a mandatory duty for members of an election board to certify an election.



HB 2276 would have set strict data matching criteria to be met for potential voter registration cancellations, among other things.



HB 2056 would have allowed local governing bodies of counties and cities to set the dates and hours for any early voting satellite offices so long as they met the minimum requirements set by state law.



HB 1794 / SB 1119 would have required all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years to be held on the date of the presidential primary.



HB 1657 / SB 813 would have required any systematic voter purges to be completed no less than 90 days before an election.



SB 775 / HB 2479 regulates the use of AI in elections.



SB 760 would have extended the deadline to return mail ballots, to cure ballots, and to provide ID for a provisional ballot to 5pm on the third day after the election.

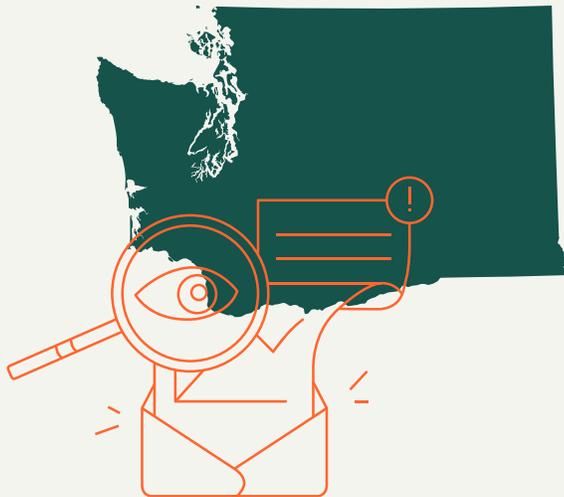
Grade

A-

Top Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Washington



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

Once again, the Washington State Legislature enacted new pro-voter election reforms. This year's reforms focused on expanding the reach of the state's secure automatic voter registration system and implementing additional safety measures to guard against both physical and electronic threats to the state's election infrastructure. However, the Legislature once again failed to advance a bill to consolidate election days that would save election officials significant time and money and improve convenience for voters. Nevertheless, because of their continued expansion of both voting rights and election security, Washington received an A- on their progress report.

Looking Back

Where Washington Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Secure AVR**

Restoration of Rights: **Felony 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 Washington as of 2024, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2025 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

1st

COVI (2024)

14th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Washington State Legislature enacted additional pro-voter reforms during the past session.



SB 5077 expands the state's existing Secure AVR system to the health benefit exchange and additional state agencies the governor deems appropriate. It also allows tribal nation agencies to participate in AVR if they wish.



SB 5014 institutes additional security measures to ensure the state's election and voting infrastructure remain protected against both physical and electronic threats. The bill requires the secretary of state to approve all vote systems used prior to primary and general elections, requires counties to implement additional cybersecurity measures, and requires manufacturers and distributors of voter registration database systems to immediately disclose any security breaches that are discovered.

Both chambers made advancements with important legislation to consolidate election days by allowing cities to move their elections to the state and federal calendar. This bill would have saved election officials significant funds and improved convenience for voters. However, the bill failed to pass out of either chamber.



Implementation Action



Washington continued to strengthen its Secure AVR program launched in July 2024, implementing a number of key data integrity best practices.

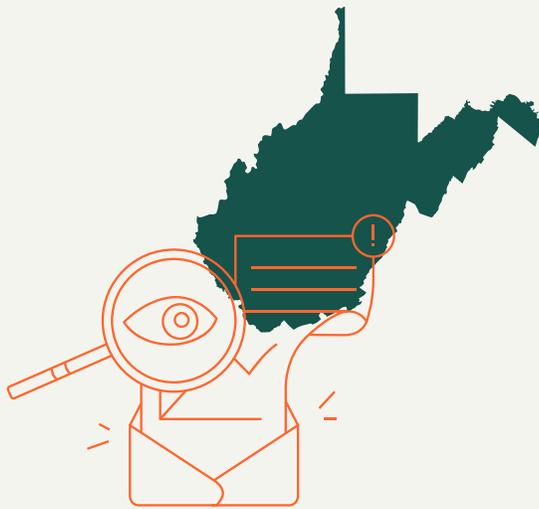
Grade

C

Middle Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

West Virginia



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

The West Virginia Legislature enacted significant pro-voter and anti-voter reforms during the 2025 session. The Legislature established new laws to consolidate local elections with existing federal and state election dates and made it easier for voters to vote when they move within a county. However, the Legislature also passed new laws that update the state's existing voter ID policies to remove all non-photo ID options and revised list maintenance procedures to require voters to respond to address updates if they fail to vote within only a two-year period. West Virginia received a C on this year's progress report.

Looking Back

Where West Virginia Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

Automatic Voter Registration: **Hard Stop**

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

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

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

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

Same-Day Registration: **No**

Electronic Registration Information Center Member: **No**

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 2025 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

23rd

COVI (2024)

23rd

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The West Virginia Legislature passed several significant pieces of legislation during the 2025 session.



SB 50 requires local election offices to consolidate their municipal election dates to align with statewide and federal election dates.



HB 2709 allows voters that change their address within their existing county during the early voting period to cast a regular ballot at their new voting location, rather than a provisional ballot as was previously required.



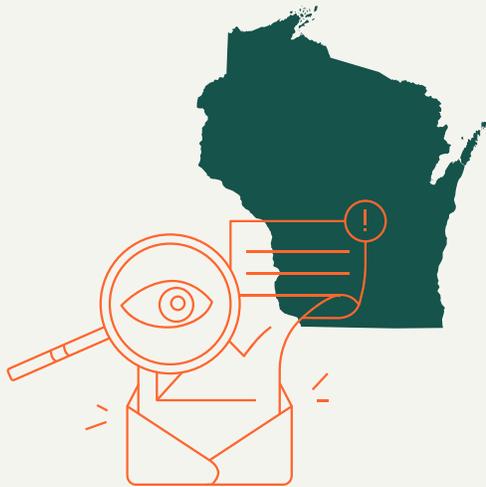
SB 486 revises voter eligibility requirements to expressly require US citizenship and further clarify other already existing requirements.



HB 3016 requires voters to show a photo ID when voting and revises the list of acceptable voter ID to remove all non-photo documents and IDs that were previously allowed.



SB 487 requires counties to send address confirmation notices to any voter that has not voted in the last two years.



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

For another consecutive session, Wisconsin's voting rights were preserved via executive veto rather than legislative cooperation. Governor Evers blocked a fresh wave of restrictive statutes, yet the Legislature failed to deliver even on commonsense priorities. Most notably, lawmakers again failed to authorize ballot pre-processing — a failure that ignores administrative reality and bipartisan consensus. Reflecting this persistent dysfunction, Wisconsin received a C on this year's report.

Looking Back

Where Wisconsin Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

46th

COVI (2024)

13th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Wisconsin State Legislature passed a number of restrictive measures this past legislative session. The following two were not vetoed by the governor:



SB 126 expands confidentiality protections for election officials to apply to both current and former election officials. However, the law no longer offers these protections automatically, but instead, requires a written request to keep one's information confidential.



SJR 2 is a constitutional amendment that enshrines the state's existing statutory voter photo ID requirement in the state constitution. Voters approved the change during the April 2025 election. Enshrining this strict photo ID requirement into the state constitution reduces flexibility to add forms of ID in the future that are equally secure to existing options.

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



Executive Action

Once again, Governor Evers vetoed anti-voter legislation that passed the Legislature.



AB 87/SB 95 would have required individuals seeking to have their voting rights restored to fulfill all court-ordered obligations, including payments of all fines and fees before they could regain their right to register to vote.



SB 270 would have opened the door to frivolous lawsuits against election officials by allowing individuals with no injury to sue to appeal Wisconsin Election Commission decisions in court.

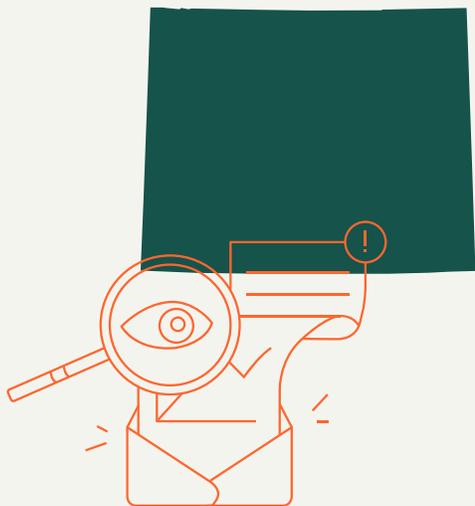
Grade

D

Bottom Tier

Election Policy Progress Report

Wyoming



Institute for Responsive Government's Grade TL;DR

After a quiet 2024, Wyoming enacted significant anti-voter measures this past session. New laws include strict citizenship verification mandates, a prohibition on private funding for election administration, and restrictions on who can distribute ballot request forms. The addition of unnecessary barriers to the ballot box resulted in a D rating.

Looking Back

Where Wyoming Started At The Beginning Of 2025:

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 2025 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

40th

COVI (2024)

49th

EPI Score (2022)

2025

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Wyoming Legislature passed several restrictive election-related laws during the 2025 session.



HB 156 requires voter registration applicants to submit documentary proof of citizenship and documentary proof of residency when registering. Unlike other proof of citizenship models that rely on database checks, this model puts the onus fully on the registrant to provide documents proving citizenship and state residency. The bill also imposes a 30-day residency requirement on all voters, the maximum requirement permitted by federal law.



HB 228 prohibits state and local election officials from accepting private funds for election administration, including for voter education, outreach, or registration efforts.



SF 78 prohibits anyone other than county clerks and the secretary of state from distributing unsolicited absentee ballot request forms to voters.



HB 318 authorizes the secretary of state to use the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) data to verify voters' citizenship status. It requires the Department of Transportation to share any information with the secretary of state that could indicate non-citizenship.



SF 165 allows county clerks to send voter registration cancellation notices to individuals by email, in addition to mailing the notice.