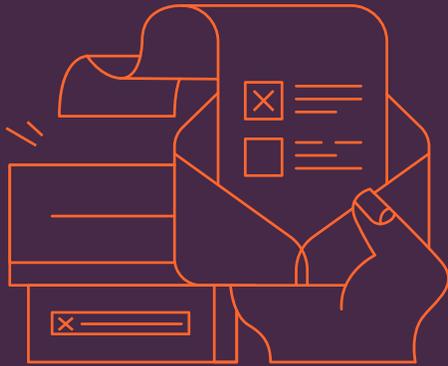


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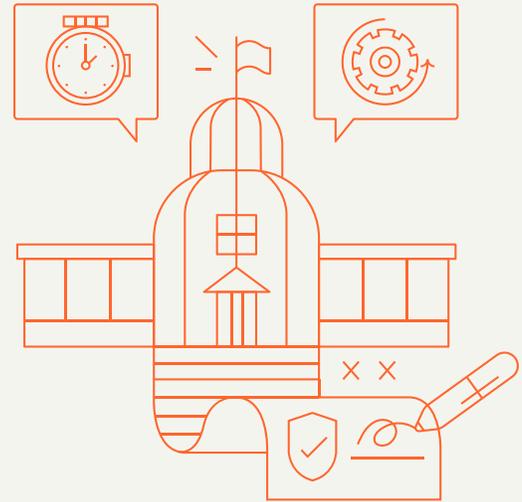
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EDITION



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 two years.



INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

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

Movement Advancement Project: Democracy Maps

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

MIT Election Data & Science Lab: Elections Performance Index

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

Cost of Voting in the American States: 2020

The Cost of Voting Index (COVI) “examines election laws and policies and calculates a single measure of the relative difficulty of voting for each state. States with smaller values make voting more accessible than states with larger values. The 2022 index “updates work that established the relative ‘cost of voting’ during presidential election cycles, in each of the 50 states, from 1996 to 2020. A 2022 iteration is necessary to consider the flurry of new legislative initiatives that passed state Legislatures after the 2020 election cycle.”

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

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

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

HERE’S HOW WE’RE DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

We consulted with our in-house experts, fellows, and advisory board to come up with something new in our annual Election Policy Progress Reports. These state-specific progress reports evaluate each state’s progress within its tier rather than compared against every single state. A state’s grade is based on its own unique existing election law landscape and, primarily, any legislative improvements it made or any setbacks it experienced in expanding voter access and improving election administration over the past two years. We chose a two-year review cycle to be able to consider the most recent state legislative changes while also allowing us to evaluate progress made by states that meet only biennially.

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 2020 elections.

**IN ASSIGNING EACH STATE'S GRADE,
OUR TEAM CONSIDERED A FEW CORE QUESTIONS:**

01

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

02

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

03

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



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

Methodology

We graded each state based on legislative actions. However, relevant executive and administrative actions were also considered. Although the progress reports are focused around legislation, IRG 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 temporarily extended 2020 pandemic-related election law changes were not considered.

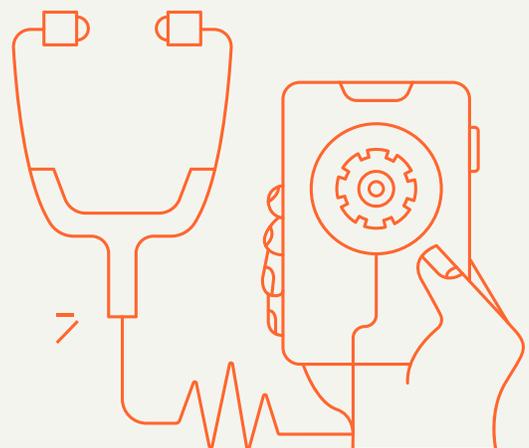
However, there are a few exceptions to the general rule. For example:

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

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

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

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



How Does This Work In Practice?

We reviewed each state's existing election law landscape and placed them into one of three tiers: top, bottom, or middle states.

These tiers were based on the voting landscape in 2020 and strongly based off of the Cost of Voting Index scores for that year. Top tier states already have a robust set of pro-voter policies. Bottom tier states have strong voting restrictions and anti-voter policies in place. Middle tier states have a mix of both. Within those tiers, each state was then evaluated individually based on legislative actions taken over the last two years.

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.

CONVERSELY, IN A BOTTOM TIER STATE, LEGISLATION WAS CONSIDERED AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE EXISTING HOST OF ANTI-VOTER POLICES THE STATE HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED.

WITH MIDDLE TIER STATES THAT ALREADY HAD A NUANCED MIX OF PRO- AND ANTI-VOTER POLICIES IN PLACE, CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO WHETHER A STATE MOVED MORE TOWARDS PRO-VOTER POLICIES OR IN THE ANTI-VOTER DIRECTION.

So a state like Colorado, received an "A" for continuing to innovate and pass new pro-voter policies, even though they were only small incremental changes. However, another top tier state with robust pro-voter policies, California, received a "B" because while it did pass legislation to make pandemic-related voting changes permanent, the Legislature also failed to fix its flawed automatic voter registration system.

So a state like Kentucky received an "A-" for making substantial bipartisan pro-democracy changes. And a state like Texas, received a "D-" for continuing to pass further restrictive measures. Yet another bottom tier state, Alaska, received a "B" for holding the line.

For example, Montana received an "F" because its Legislature attempted to roll back same-day registration and further tighten existing voter ID laws. And Nevada received an "A" for transitioning its existing automatic voter registration system to a more robust back-end system and implementing permanent vote by mail.

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

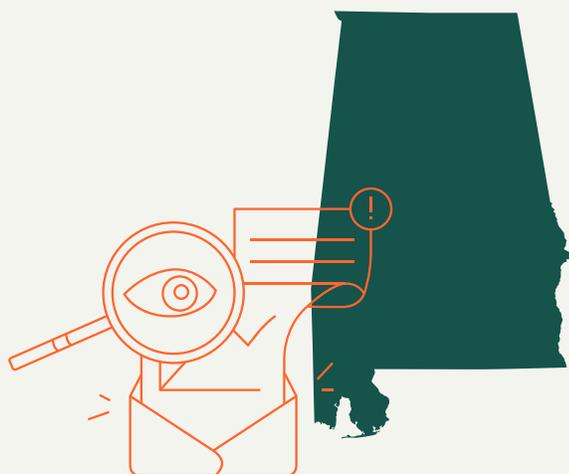
Election Policy Progress Report

Index

ALABAMA.....	8	MONTANA.....	73
ALASKA.....	11	NEBRASKA.....	75
ARIZONA.....	13	NEVADA.....	77
ARKANSAS.....	17	NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	79
CALIFORNIA.....	19	NEW JERSEY.....	82
COLORADO.....	22	NEW MEXICO.....	85
CONNECTICUT.....	25	NEW YORK.....	87
DELAWARE.....	27	NORTH CAROLINA.....	90
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	29	NORTHDAKOTA.....	92
FLORIDA.....	31	OHIO.....	94
GEORGIA.....	34	OKLAHOMA.....	96
HAWAII.....	37	OREGON.....	99
IDAHO.....	39	PENNSYLVANIA.....	101
ILLINOIS.....	41	RHODEISLAND.....	104
INDIANA.....	43	SOUTH CAROLINA.....	106
IOWA.....	45	SOUTHDAKOTA.....	108
KANSAS.....	47	TENNESSEE.....	110
KENTUCKY.....	50	TEXAS.....	112
LOUISIANA.....	53	UTAH.....	116
MAINE.....	56	VERMONT.....	118
MARYLAND.....	59	VIRGINIA.....	120
MASSACHUSETTS.....	61	WASHINGTON.....	123
MICHIGAN.....	63	WEST VIRGINIA.....	125
MINNESOTA.....	67	WISCONSIN.....	127
MISSISSIPPI.....	69	WYOMING.....	130
MISSOURI.....	71		

Election Policy Progress Report

Alabama



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Alabama Legislature passed a few pro-voter initiatives, particularly related to absentee voting. However, it also implemented new restrictions. The Legislature also implemented a strict ban on private funding for elections in 2022. Because Alabama made some small pro-voter progress, particularly in a state that has not been very friendly to voters in previous years, Alabama received a C- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Alabama Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Alabama as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

39th

COVI (2020)

41st

EPI Score (2020)

2/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Legislature passed several new election laws. Although Alabama already has some of the harshest anti-voter laws in the nation, the Legislature found a few more election-related areas to restrict.



H 285 prohibits outdoor and curbside voting.



H 116 allows the secretary of state to conduct a one-time audit of the 2022 election in 3 counties, but fails to include any standards or requirements for how the audit should be conducted.

However, the Legislature also managed to implement a few modest pro-voter reforms.



H 538 removes the requirement for absentee ballots to be postmarked the day before the election, allows absentee ballot processing to start at 7am on election day, and requires all mailed absentee ballot applications to be received 7 days before the election instead of 5 days.



H 314 revises voter list maintenance processes to require the board of registers to utilize the post office's national change of address program to update addresses for voters that have moved within a voting district and send notice to a voter's former address if the system flags the voter as having moved outside the voting district.



H 312 allows poll workers to serve at any precinct in their county instead of being restricted to their own voting precinct.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

This past year, the Legislature chose to pass yet another unnecessary restriction on elections during the 2022 legislative session.



H 194 prohibits election officials from accepting private funding for election-related expenses, including voter education, voter outreach, and voter registration programs and subjects violators to a misdemeanor charge. Several advocacy groups in the state have raised serious concerns that the language could restrict third-party organizations from conducting their normal voter registration and outreach programs in the state.



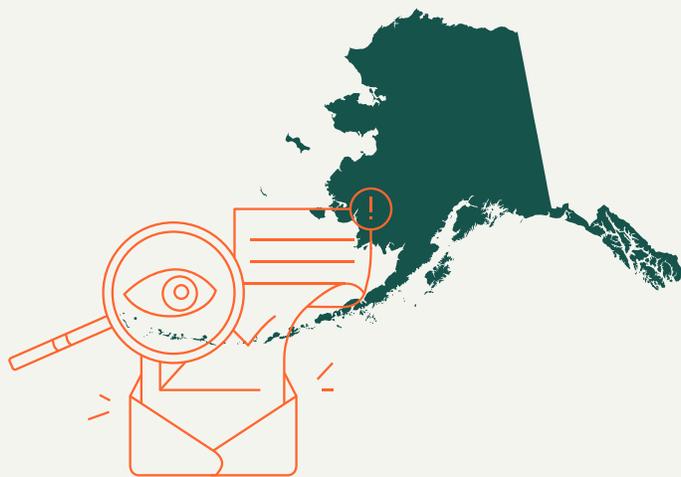
Executive Action



Since 2016, Alabama has been a member of ERIC, a membership organization made up of over thirty states that provides advanced voter list maintenance services. During that time, ERIC helped Alabama remove more than one million out of date voter registration records. While Secretary of State John Merrill repeatedly stood up against demands from some members of the Legislature to terminate Alabama's participation in ERIC, unfortunately, newly elected Secretary of State Allen has already informed ERIC that he intends to remove the state from the organization.

Election Policy Progress Report

Alaska



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Alaska has not passed any substantial election-related legislation over the past two years. Although the Legislature attempted to pass bipartisan-supported election reforms, time ran out before legislation could be passed. Due to the lack of movement, Alaska received a B on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Alaska Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Back-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

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

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

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

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Alaska as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

36th

COVI (2020)

14th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Alaska Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2021 session.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

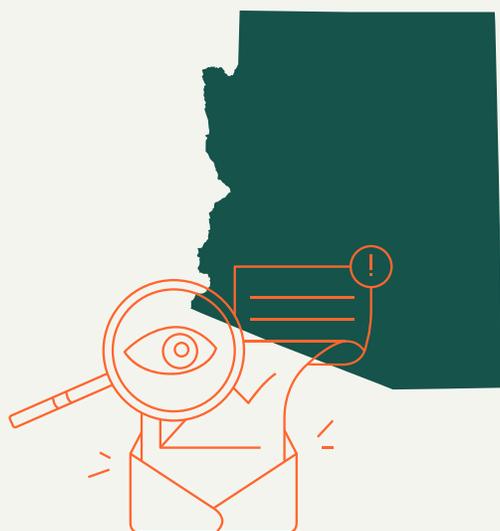


The Alaska Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2022 session. Lack of meaningful progress on election reforms in 2021, made it seem as though passage of a compromise omnibus election reform bill could have been possible in 2022. Though a compromise election bill was drafted, unfortunately, time ran out on the session before the legislation could be passed. Here's what the bill included:

- Improved list maintenance procedures
- Watermarks or other identifiers on ballots
- Expansion of same-day registration beyond presidential elections
- Chain of custody procedures for mail ballots
- Postage prepaid envelopes for mail ballots
- Ballot tracking and cure procedures for mail ballots
- Risk-limiting audit procedures for elections
- Use of open-source technology for elections

Election Policy Progress Report

Arizona



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, baseless election conspiracies and voter fraud claims took hold in the Arizona Legislature, which led to the passage of numerous anti-voter bills. Although the governor vetoed several of these bills, and the Legislature passed a few pro-voter initiatives in 2022, the overwhelmingly hostile anti-voter environment the Legislature unnecessarily created led to Arizona receiving a D- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Arizona Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

30th

COVI (2020)

16th

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

After the 2020 election, Arizona became ground zero for baseless election conspiracies and voter fraud claims.

Unfortunately, these lies took hold in the Arizona Legislature, where many anti-voter bills became law.



HB 2905 prohibits election officials from sending unsolicited mail ballots to voters.

HB 2794 prohibits government officials, at state or local levels, from changing any election-related deadlines set by state statute, including filing and submittal dates, unless a court specifically orders the change.

SB 1485 rebrands the existing “permanent early voting list” as the “active early voting list” and allows voters to be removed from the list if they fail to vote an early ballot in all elections for two consecutive election cycles. Voters will receive notice and have 90 days to respond or they will be removed.

SB 1003, adopted in response to court proceedings, requires election officials to make “reasonable efforts” to notify voters if they forgot to sign their early ballot and allows voters to cure these ballots up until the close of polls on Election Day. This creates a different deadline from mail ballots with a mismatched signature, where voters have until five days after the election to cure.

HB 2569 prohibits the state, and all other entities that administer elections in the state, from utilizing private funds to prepare for and conduct elections, including registering voters.

SB 1819, although primarily a budget appropriation bill, also contained several election-related provisions. It attempted to strip control of several areas of election law away from the secretary of state’s office and shift it to the attorney general’s authority. Fortunately, this law was later found to be unconstitutional by the Arizona Supreme Court.

In addition to passing anti-voter laws, a small but vocal minority of Senators used the baseless voter fraud claims to push for an audit of the 2020 presidential election. They chose Cyber Ninjas, an out-of-state security consultant group that had no experience auditing elections, to complete the task. After spending months on a secretive review, not only did Cyber Ninjas find no evidence that the results were incorrect, it actually found more votes for the winning candidate.



Executive Action

Governor Ducey successfully vetoed two bills, HB 2360 and HB 2792 from the 2021 session. HB 2360 attempted to shift control of the online voter registration system away from a joint venture between the Department of Transportation and the secretary of state to one that came solely under the purview of the secretary. HB 2792 prohibited election officials from sending unsolicited mail ballots to voters. However, it should be noted that Governor Ducey later allowed HB 2905 to become law which contained nearly identical provisions to HB 2792.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

More than 100 anti-voter bills were introduced during the 2022 session. Although most of these bills barely moved past the introduction stage, several anti-voter bills were able to become law.



HB 2492 unnecessarily complicates voter registration by requiring proof of residence and expanding existing proof of citizenship requirements. Anyone that does not provide proof of citizenship is expressly prohibited from voting in presidential elections and may not vote by mail. Furthermore, it empowers the attorney general and county recorders to investigate applicants' citizenship status.



HB 2243 requires county recorders to conduct monthly investigations into voters who a recorder "has reason to believe are not citizens" and to cancel those registrations if needed. Voters are then reported to the attorney general for potential investigation.



SB 1260 requires county recorders to cancel a voter's registration if the recorder receives confirmation the voter is registered in another Arizona county. The voter will not receive notice of the cancellation and the law does not specify what data qualifies for "confirmation" purposes.



SB 1013 requires the secretary of state to reach out to the Election Assistance Commission to formally request that Arizona's proof-of-citizenship requirement be added to the federal voter registration form.



HB 2236 expressly prohibits the state from instituting front-end opt-out automatic voter registration at state agencies.



HB 2237 expressly prohibits the state from offering same-day voter registration.

Despite the overwhelming anti-voter sentiment at the Legislature this session, lawmakers did manage to pass a few small pro-voter reforms.



SB 1411 requires all counties that use mail ballots to have an online ballot tracking system up and running by the end of 2023.



SB 1170 requires the Department of Fish and Game to offer individuals applying for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license the opportunity to register to vote.



SB 1460 makes it easier for voters that received a mail ballot to change their mind and cast a ballot in person. These voters will no longer be forced to cast a provisional ballot — instead these voters can vote a regular ballot by surrendering their mail ballot and showing voter ID.



SB 1638 requires the secretary of state to provide an accessible vote by mail option for blind and visually impaired voters.



Ballot Initiatives

The Legislature also referred a measure to the November 2022 ballot that would create additional identification requirements for voters.

SCR 1012 would require mail-in voters to include identifying information on the ballot envelope (date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number or unexpired state-issued ID, license number, or tribal ID number). A similar law passed in Texas in 2021 saw 23,000 ballots rejected in the following election for missing, indecipherable, or mismatched identification information. The proposal would also heighten ID requirements for in-person voters. It would eliminate an existing option to provide two forms of non-photo ID and instead require an unexpired state-issued photo ID.



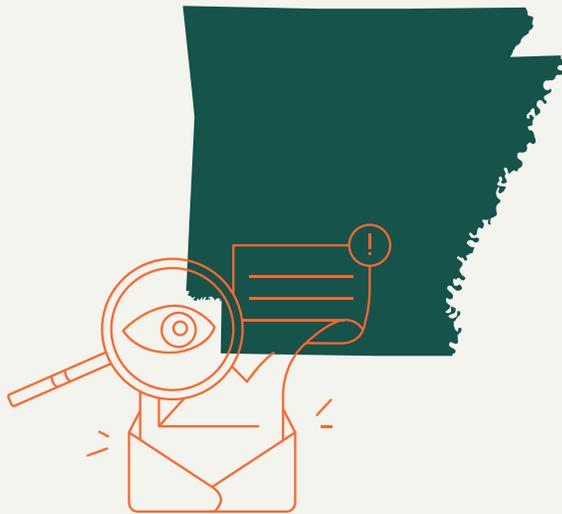
Executive Action



Governor Ducey successfully vetoed **HB 2627** which would have required county recorders to investigate and remove ineligible voters from the rolls. HB 2627 failed to include details on what matching criteria should be used to identify ineligible voters in state and federal databases and lacked a clear process for recorders to follow. Unfortunately, Governor Ducey later reversed course and signed HB 2243 into law which contained many similar provisions.

Election Policy Progress Report

Arkansas



IRG's Grade TL;DR

During the 2021 legislative session the Arkansas State Legislature passed additional restrictions on voting rights. In 2022, the Legislature failed to pass any meaningful election law changes, good or bad. Because of the numerous anti-voter bills passed in 2021, the failure to pass legislation to implement bipartisan-supported online voter registration, and the lack of pro-voter improvements in 2022, Arkansas received a D on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Arkansas Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

42nd

COVI (2020)

50th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Legislature managed to pass more restrictions to add to an already difficult voting environment in the state:



H 1112 removed safeguards for voters without ID. The bill strips away counties' ability to verify provisional ballots and requires voters without ID at the polls to appear at the county election board offices by the Monday after the election with ID/documentation in order to have their provisional ballot counted.



H 1866 prohibited the State Board of Election Commissioners and county election commissioner boards from accepting private funds for elections.



S 643 inconveniently shifted the deadline to return absentee ballots in person to the Friday before the election instead of the close of polls and indirectly banned dropboxes by requiring hand-delivered ballots be returned to the actual physical office of the county clerk.



S 644 required the AG to set up an "election fraud" hotline, established a process to punish election officials that violate election laws, and created new election crimes.



H 1803 increased the list of potential election law violations that counties could report to the State Board.



S 487 removed the county clerks' authority to use voter centers for Election Day voting by shifting the decision to the county boards of supervisors.



H 1715 barred election officials from sending unsolicited mail ballot applications or ballots to voters and reduced the number of ballots an individual could return down to 4 from 10, among other provisions.

Unfortunately, in addition to passing anti-voter reforms, the Legislature also failed to pass important pro-voter legislation to establish online voter registration in the state.



H 1517 would have allowed individuals the opportunity to register to vote online when they conducted business with the DMV. After the bill received overwhelming bipartisan support and practically passed unanimously through the House, the Senate failed to muster the necessary support and the bill died.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Arkansas Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2022 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

California



IRG's Grade TL;DR

California's Legislature passed a number of pro-voter initiatives during the past few years. However, the Legislature failed to upgrade its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system two years in a row, leaving millions of eligible voters unregistered to vote in the state. Consequently, California received a B on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where California Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for California as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

10th

COVI (2020)

46th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Legislature passed a series of pro-voter bills that extended pandemic-related election changes and made voting more accessible.



A 37 permanently extends the requirement to mail all active voters a ballot for statewide elections.



S 503 revises the state's signature matching process and notice and cure provisions for mail ballots.

- Signature review starts from a presumption that the ballot signature is the voter's signature.
- Removes a voter's party, race, or ethnicity from any consideration when reviewing the signature.
- Requires two election workers to agree that a signature does not match before sending the ballot through the cure process.
- Requires voters to be notified by mail within one day of the signature mismatch issue. Mailed notice must also include a form and return envelope for the voter to submit to cure.



S 35 strengthens existing laws against "electioneering" and voter intimidation near the polls and prohibits unauthorized dropboxes.



A 796 requires the DMV to transmit voter registration info to the secretary of state within 10 days or within five days of the registration closing deadline and to monitor the timeliness of its transmission of data.

Although the Legislature made great strides towards making the voting process easier, it did not adopt a bill that would have made significant improvements to the state's troubled automatic voter registration system.



S 583 would have transitioned the state to a substantially safer, more efficient, and more effective back-end automatic registration process used by states like Colorado, Oregon, and Nevada, helping to address the fact that more than 4 million eligible California citizens remain unregistered to vote and to improve the accuracy of California's voter rolls. While the bill successfully passed the Senate, it stalled in the Assembly Elections Committee.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After the significant changes made in 2021, the Legislature made additional minor changes to election laws in 2022.



A 1619 adds notices to the paper and online voter registration forms that let voters know that their signature on the paper form, or their signature on file with the DMV, in the case of online registration, would be used as a comparison signature to verify any future mail ballots the voter submits.



A 1631 requires counties to post polling locations with bilingual poll workers online.



S 1131 protects election workers from harassment by providing them with avenues to keep their personal information protected from public disclosure.



A 2815 requires counties to place a dropbox on certain California university system campuses within their jurisdiction for any election held while the campus is in session.



A 2841 improves existing voter list maintenance processes to require counties to provide advance notice to voters before canceling their registration for mental incapacity, incarceration, death, or an extended period of voter inactivity.



Yet again, the Assembly failed to pass **S 583** which would have shifted the existing front-end AVR system to a safer, more efficient, and more effective back-end system. The bill again stalled in the Assembly Elections Committee.



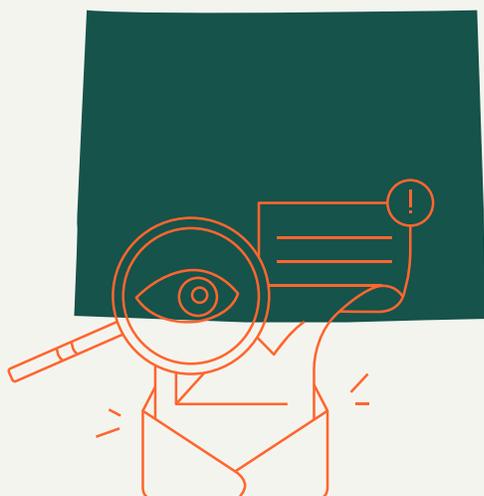
Executive Action



As part of the requirements of **A 796**, the secretary of state's office launched a Motor Voter Task Force to consult with the DMV and outside experts on the effective implementation of California's automatic voter registration system.

Election Policy Progress Report

Colorado



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

Colorado continues to be a leader across the nation in passing pro-voter policies — the past two years were no different in the Centennial State. Due to pro-voter action taken by both the Colorado State Legislature and the administration, Colorado was able to further strengthen its already healthy voting environment. Because of the additional robust improvements made over the last two years, Colorado received an A on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Colorado Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Back-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Colorado as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

7th

COVI (2020)

9th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

In 2021, the General Assembly passed significant pro-voter bills that make improvements to existing voter registration and vote by mail systems, as well as increased access for minority language voters and voters with certain sight-related disabilities.



S205, the Colorado Votes Act, improves the existing online voter registration system, clarifies that dropboxes must be available until the close of polls, requires county clerks to create plans to facilitate voting at county jails and detention centers, facilitates expansion of the state's automatic voter registration system, and makes important changes to the vote center siting process.



H1011 increases language accessibility options for voters starting with the 2022 general election. It requires the secretary of state to create a multilingual hotline that will provide ballot translation services for voters. It requires counties that meet certain thresholds to provide ballots and sample ballots in minority languages and to include notices in mail ballot packages informing voters of how they can request minority language ballots.



S188 allows voters that are blind or have certain visual impairments to return their ballot electronically.



Implementation/Administrative Action



Colorado published a transparent monthly report of their upgraded automatic voter registration. The data showed that the state's implementation had been a success, resulting in an unprecedented expansion of voter registration.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After some local election officials repeatedly ignored election protocols and procedures and tried to spread misinformation about the safety and accuracy of Colorado elections, the Assembly stepped up and passed important legislation to increase oversight and training requirements. The Assembly also passed critically important legislation to protect election workers from harassment and violence.



S153 increases the secretary of state's oversight over local election officials, expands training and certification requirements for local election officials, implements new security measures for voting machines, and expands existing election crimes for officials that willfully fail to complete their election duties.



H1273 establishes new election misdemeanors for threatening, coercing, or intimidating election officials in an attempt to keep the officials from doing their duties. It allows election workers and their family to shield their personal information from public disclosure. It also creates a related misdemeanor that prohibits individuals from doxing election workers by publishing their personal contact information online in a way that could subject the election worker to imminent and serious harm.



S152 allows voters that are the victim of wildfires and other natural disasters to maintain their existing voter registration so long as they intend to return to their home after it is rebuilt or deemed habitable once again.



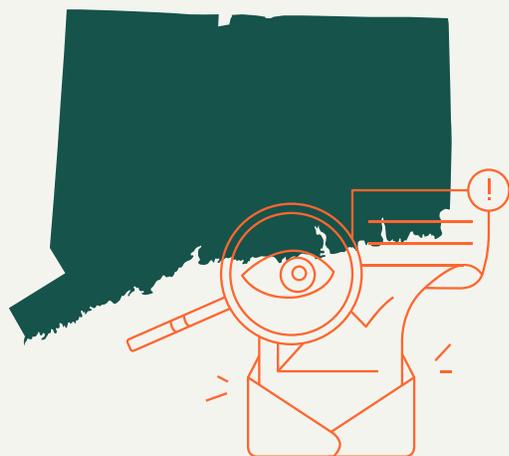
Implementation/Administrative Action



Over the past two years, Colorado implemented an expansion of its online voter registration system to allow eligible citizens without a driver's license or ID to use their Social Security number to register to vote.

Election Policy Progress Report

Connecticut



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

When many states opted to make it harder for its citizens to vote in 2021 and 2022, the Connecticut General Assembly took the opposite approach and passed a number of pro-voter initiatives including AVR, early voting and expanding absentee voting. In 2021, the state passed two pro-voter resolutions, one of which made it to the ballot in 2022 and was approved by voters. The other, which establishes no-excuse absentee voting, has to be voted on again by the Legislature in 2023 before it can make it to the ballot for voters to decide in 2024. Though this is seen as a crucial step forward for no-excuse absentee voting, it has yet to have an impact on voters, which is why Connecticut was given an A- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Connecticut Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Connecticut as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

20th

COVI (2020)

20th

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Assembly successfully passed a resolution to the constitutional right to early voting, as well as a resolution to put no-excuse absentee voting on the ballot in 2024 in the hopes of amending the state constitution.



HJR 59 is a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution that allows the Legislature to create in-person early voting during a future legislative session. It was passed by voters during the 2022 general election.



HJR 58 is a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution that allows the Legislature to establish no-excuse absentee voting in the future. This resolution has the potential to be voted on again by the Legislature in 2023 and then be placed on the ballot for voters to decide in 2024.

During the second special session, the Assembly passed several pro-voter provisions as part of the state budget bill.



S 1202 creates front-end automatic voter registration at state-designated voter registration agencies, automatically restores the right to vote for citizens immediately after they are released from incarceration, and expressly allows the use of dropboxes beyond the temporary 2020 allowance.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Assembly continued to pass pro-voter policies.



H 5262 expands the list of absentee voting excuses and broadens the definitions of existing excuses to more easily allow eligible voters to cast absentee ballots.



Implementation/ Administrative Action



Connecticut implemented automatic voter registration at the DMV. The secretary of state's office additionally reviewed other state agencies for viability to integrate streamlined voter registration processes in the future for customers.

Election Policy Progress Report

Delaware



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, Delaware made strides both legislatively and administratively to expand voting rights for its citizens. Due to its passage and implementation of gold-standard automatic voter registration, as well as its attempts to establish same-day voter registration and no-excuse vote-by-mail, Delaware has taken substantial steps towards making the state more voter-friendly. Because of the key voting rights progress the Legislature made from 2020, Delaware received an A on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Delaware Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Some Lifetime Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Delaware as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

33rd

COVI (2020)

27th

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Delaware General Assembly made critical progress towards making its election system more user-friendly and secure by passing automatic voter registration in the state.



S 5 establishes back-end automatic voter registration at the DMV. The new AVR system automatically registers qualified applicants to vote and automatically processes name and address updates for existing eligible voters that make those changes during their DMV transaction.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



During a surprising late session push, the Assembly passed two important pro-voter policies. Unfortunately, both bills were recently struck down by the Delaware Supreme Court. However, we do not account for this in our scorecard grading.

- **H 25** would have established same-day voter registration by shifting the deadline for voter registration to the close of polls on Election Day.
- **S 320** would have allowed any voter to cast their vote by mail by establishing a no-excuse vote-by-mail system that is separate and distinct from the existing excuse-required absentee voting process. It also expressly authorizes ballot returns by dropbox.



Implementation/Administrative Action



The Delaware Department of Elections is working to launch automatic voter registration at the DMV, with an implementation deadline of June 2023.

Election Policy Progress Report

District of Columbia



IRG's Grade TL;DR

The grade given to the District of Columbia is provisional as legislation has not yet completed the Congressional review process as required before becoming law. However, because of the additional pro-voter improvements made over the last two years, including expansion on their AVR system, D.C. received an A on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where D.C. Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
No Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **Yes**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Although the Cost of Voting Index did not include DC in its 2020 rankings, based on the number of pro-voter policies in place in 2020, we considered DC a top tier jurisdiction for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other high tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

Not Rated

COVI (2020)

11th

EPI Score (2020)

Not Rated

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Council did not pass any significant election-related laws during 2021.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



B 24-507 will establish a vote by mail system in the district whereby every eligible voter receives a mail ballot automatically. The Board of Elections will be required to establish at least 55 dropboxes throughout the district, adopt a vote center model for polling places, create a ballot tracking system, and establish signature verification rules. Although the legislation has been passed by the council and enacted, it has not yet undergone congressional review as required before it officially becomes law.



B24-0951 will expand the existing automatic voter registration system by creating a “pre-approved” voter registration list that includes eligible D.C. residents that have provided documentation establishing citizenship to the DMV or Medicaid. These individuals can appear at the polls and activate their registration simply by voting, without the need for same-day registration. This legislation has been passed by the council and is currently pending with the Mayor.

Election Policy Progress Report

Florida



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, Florida has passed a number of anti-voter bills that have made the voting process less inclusive and less accessible for eligible voters in the state. The Legislature has fought to add voter ID requirements to absentee ballot applications, restrict dropboxes, limit private election funding, and impose harsher penalties for election-related crimes. While these changes are without a doubt harmful for eligible voters in the state, many of the changes that were passed were significantly improved from their original versions. Because the Legislature ultimately scaled back many of their initially incredibly harsh proposals and also enacted a measure to provide certain registered voters with free ID cards, Florida received a D- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Florida Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, by not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Florida as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

40th

COVI (2020)

17th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Legislature passed an omnibus anti-voter law, S 90, that made broad changes to Florida's election laws, from voter ID to in-person and mail voting, to election administration. A Florida trial court struck down several provisions in the law earlier this year. However, that ruling is currently on appeal before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. At this time, all provisions of the law are currently in effect as the lawsuit proceeds.



S 90 requires voters to include a Florida ID or Social Security number on their absentee ballot application.



S 90 only allows voters to request mail ballots through a single general election, instead of two general elections, as previously allowed.



S 90 imposes several restrictions on dropboxes: boxes must have an election supervisor staffing the boxes during all hours they are in use, boxes at early voting sites can only be used during early voting hours, and mobile/moveable box sites are not allowed as all locations must be set 30 days before an election and cannot be changed.



S 90 prohibits the state, counties, and other election jurisdictions from accepting private funds for all aspects of elections, including voter education and voter registration programs.



S 90 makes it a crime to provide food and water to voters waiting in line at the polls.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After making substantial changes to election laws in 2021, the Legislature passed only two election-related laws during the 2022 session, a pro-voter bill, S 144, that allows registered voters experiencing financial hardship to receive a free state ID card, and an anti-voter bill, S 524, that established an “elections police force” in the state that creates a serious risk of voter intimidation and has already been used to conduct politically motivated investigations.



S 144 allows registered voters that are experiencing financial hardship to receive a free driver’s license or Id card from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles by presenting their voter registration card. Voters may not be required to “prove” their hardship to receive the free ID.



S 524 creates the “Office of Election Crime and Security”



S 524 increases criminal penalties for existing election-related crimes.



S 524 alters voter list maintenance procedures to increase the risk of erroneous removals.



S 524 significantly increases penalties for errors in third-party registration drives.



S 524 increases penalties for ballot collection by third-parties.



S 524 outlaws ranked choice voting in Florida.



Implementation/Administrative Action



The newly-created election police force issued its first criminal charges in 2022. Out of 11 million Florida voters who cast ballots in the 2020 election, the election police force identified 20 people with prior criminal convictions who registered to vote and voted without having their voting rights restored. Subsequent reporting indicated that many of these 20 people registered to vote with the assistance of government officials, and did not understand that they were ineligible to register or vote.

Election Policy Progress Report

Georgia



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Georgia Legislature passed S 202 which shepherded in a significant number of anti-voter initiatives along with a few minor pro-voter improvements. Although most of the reforms enacted by S 202 were harmful, the bill went through numerous amendments and the version that was implemented was significantly improved from the earlier versions. In 2022, the Legislature passed yet another detrimental election law, while the Department of Driver Services (DDS) fixed a critical issue in their voter registration system. Because the Legislature ultimately scaled back many of their incredibly harsh anti-voter proposals in S 202 and DDS was able to timely identify and correct issues with the state's voter registration system, Georgia received a C on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Georgia Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
Strict Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Georgia as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

49th

COVI (2020)

21st

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Assembly enacted sweeping changes to Georgia's election laws in S 202. While the omnibus bill included some positive changes, such as mandating county dropboxes and requiring weekend early voting, even those pro-voter policies came with strict limitations that didn't allow counties to expand options beyond certain narrow parameters. Additionally, the bill imposed stringent ID requirements on absentee ballot applications and ballots and severely limited election administrators' autonomy to decide what practices and procedures worked best for their counties.



S202 requires voters to include a GA ID number with their absentee ballot application and ballot as a shift away from voter signature matching.



S202 creates criminal penalties for anyone that handles absentee ballot applications or ballots outside of the limited authorized handlers, such as close relatives or household members.



S202 requires at least one dropbox per county, with the option for more depending on county size and number of early vote locations.



S202 allows preprocessing of absentee ballots starting two weeks before the election



S202 requires counties to offer weekend early voting on Saturdays starting three weeks before the election from 9am-5pm with the option to extend to Sundays and extend hours to 7am-7pm, but no additional extensions beyond those are allowed.



S202 makes it a crime to provide food and water to voters waiting in line at the polls.



S202 prohibits election superintendents and boards of supervisors from accepting private funds for elections.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After making substantial changes to election laws in 2021, the Assembly made only minor changes during the 2022 session.



S 441 gave the Georgia Bureau of Investigations the power to investigate and prosecute election law violations that could potentially change the outcome of an election.



Implementation/ Administrative Action



Georgia's Department of Driver Services (DDS) addressed an issue in their voter registration system to ensure eligible citizens were receiving the same secure and streamlined experience they had in previous years. While these issues can arise in states from time to time, DDS' response speaks well to their governance of their voter registration and voter list maintenance responsibilities.

Election Policy Progress Report

Hawaii



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021, Hawaii passed legislation enacting automatic voter registration as well as additional registration and election administration improvements. In 2022, the Legislature passed additional pro-voter legislation to make ballots more accessible to voters with limited English proficiency, and administratively, the state implemented its AVR policy. However, during implementation there were a few bumps in the road, where the state implemented a less streamlined version of a voter registration system than originally envisioned in the legislation. Due to this in combination with the numerous positive pro-voter efforts in the last two years, Hawaii received a B+ on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Hawaii Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, by not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Hawaii as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

6th

COVI (2020)

29th

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Hawaii Legislature passed two important pro-voter laws that make registration and voting more efficient and accessible for all.



S159 allows citizens to automatically register to vote or update existing registrations when they apply for new or renewal driver's license or state IDs at Hawaii DMV offices. Individuals that provide documentation establishing non-citizenship will not be offered the opportunity to register to vote.



S548 allows counties to expand voter service center options, allows ballot processing and tabulation to start 18 days before the election, and requires DPS to inform citizens on parole or probation of their voting rights, among other things.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Although the Hawaii Legislature passed only one new election law during session, it was an important pro-voter policy that will make ballots more accessible to voters with limited English proficiency.



H1883 requires mail ballot packages to include instructions on how to access ballot language translation services directly on the exterior of the envelopes. Instructions must be provided in Hawaiian and at least the five foreign languages that are most used by persons with limited English proficiency in the state.



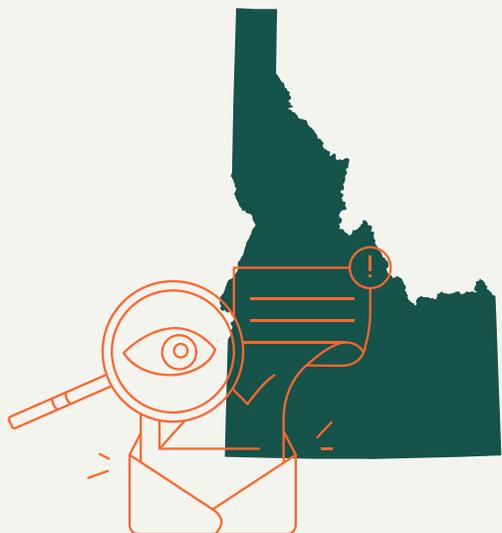
Executive Action



Hawaii went live with its **new AVR system** in January 2022, which implemented a less streamlined version of a voter registration system than originally envisioned in the legislation. They made additional administration improvements including incorporating voter registration through change of address applications, which had not been uniformly implemented previously.

Election Policy Progress Report

Idaho



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Although numerous anti-voter measures died in the Idaho Legislature in 2021, two of them managed to become law—a private donation restriction for election funding and an absentee signature verification law that failed to include important cure provisions. Election law changes were minimal in 2022. Taking into account that Idaho could have seen much harsher anti-voter laws passed in 2022 combined with the anti-voter measures that became law in 2021, Idaho received a C- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Idaho Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, by not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Idaho as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

18th

COVI (2020)

30th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Idaho Legislature introduced more than a dozen election-related bills during the 2021 session, most of which included anti-voter provisions. Although the Legislature was ultimately unable to implement some of its more radical anti-voter laws, it still managed to implement a few anti-voter provisions.



S 1168 prohibits local election officials from accepting any private donations of more than \$100.



H 290 requires the secretary of state to establish instructions and standards for ballot signature verification and requires all county clerks to conduct signature verification on absentee ballots. Unfortunately, the bill lacks any cure provisions for voters that have their ballot rejected during the signature verification process.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Idaho Legislature continued to push for harsher anti-voter laws. Proposed measures ranged from stricter voter ID laws and proof of citizenship requirements to the removal of same day registration, which would have lost the state its current exemption from the National Voter Registration Act. The Legislature was able to make a few small changes to election laws this year.



S 1351 requires the secretary of state, in conjunction with county clerks, to prepare an annual report for the Legislature on voter list maintenance.



S 1352 requires county clerks to investigate the voter registration record for any voter whose absentee ballot is returned as “undeliverable” to the clerk’s office.

Election Policy Progress Report

Illinois



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Illinois' Legislature passed a number of pro-voter initiatives in what is already a substantial pro-voter landscape. However, Illinois also failed to upgrade its automatic voter registration system to a more secure, efficient, and improved system, leaving millions of eligible voters unregistered to vote in the state. With that, Illinois received a B on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Illinois Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Illinois as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

4th

COVI (2020)

23rd

EPI Score (2020)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Illinois Assembly passed several bills to expand vote-by-mail access, as well as help facilitate the restoration of voting rights for individuals that were formerly incarcerated.



S825 establishes a permanent absentee mailing list, increases cybersecurity requirements for local election office website, and allows all county sheriffs to create temporary polling places in county jails, among other things.



H1871 authorizes dropboxes and allows jurisdictions to offer curbside voting.



H3235 designates the Department of Corrections as a voter registration agency and requires the Dept to provide voter registration information to individuals in custody 45 days before their release.



S2116 requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to expand its existing civics education program to include training from a non-profit that is specifically trained in voting rights education.



Implementation/Administrative Action



The secretary of state and State Board of Elections settled a lawsuit regarding shortcomings in the state's implementation of automatic voter registration through the driver licensing division. While the settlement eliminated some duplicative questions on the application, the automatic voter registration system remains less streamlined than comparable systems in other states.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Assembly passed legislation that will greatly improve ballot access for voters with print disabilities.



S829 requires the state to have a new certified remote accessible vote-by-mail system up and running by the 2022 general election that allows voters to receive their ballot electronically and mark and vote their ballot using assistive technology.



Unfortunately, the Legislature 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.

Election Policy Progress Report

Indiana



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Indiana saw a number of election improvements in 2021 including an expanded absentee ballot deadline, additional photo ID options, and early voting expansion, among other changes. However, the Legislature also made a few anti-voter changes over the past two years. Given the breadth of positive measures signed into law, along with the minor anti-voter measures passed, Indiana received a B- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Indiana Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
Strict Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Indiana as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

41st
COVI (2020)

31st
EPI Score (2020)

6/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

In 2021, the General Assembly focused mostly on improving Indiana's election laws and expanding voter access, but unfortunately, they also managed to pass legislation that included anti-voter provisions.



S 398 shifts the absentee ballot return deadline from noon on Election Day to close of polls, revises the signature verification process and establishes a cure process for missing or mismatched signatures, expands the list of allowable ballot returners as well as locations for ballot returns, and prohibits election officials from accepting private funding for "preparing, administering, or conducting elections, including registering voters."



H 1479 allows county election boards the option to expand early voting to the third Saturday before the election.



H 1485 adds photo IDs from federally-recognized Native American tribes or bands to the accepted voter ID list.



S 260 allows counties to begin scanning ballots seven days before the election and provides guidance on the specific pre-processing tasks allowed and the timeframe for those counties that opt in to early processing.



H 1365 removes the ability of precinct election boards to begin counting absentee ballots before the close of polls, allows county registrars to cancel a voter registration based solely on an obituary published on a funeral home's website, and requires counties to notify all absentee ballot applicants that have their application rejected of the reason for the rejection.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

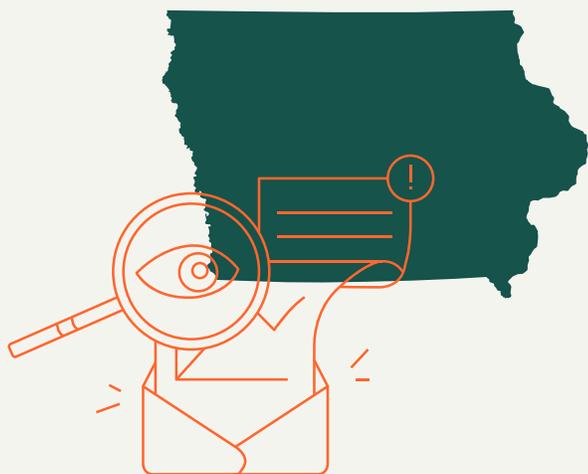
Although the Assembly was mostly focused on other issues during the 2022 session, it did find time to pass legislation to make one additional, and unnecessary, change to the state's existing private funding ban.



S 134 specifically prohibits private funds from being used to pay for temporary election workers. It also requires state agencies to submit yearly budget reports on any staff positions that are funded by private donations.

Election Policy Progress Report

Iowa



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

Unfortunately, Iowa regressed on a number of pro-voter measures in 2021 after the state saw record voter turnout in 2020. The Legislature rolled back the early voting period, shortened absentee ballot request timelines, shortened polling place hours, and limited third party ballot returns, among other anti-voter provisions. Due to these substantial anti-voter changes that will further decrease access to the polls in the Hawkeye State, Iowa received an F on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Iowa Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Iowa as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

24th

COVI (2020)

3rd

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

After Iowa saw record high voter turnout in 2020, the Iowa Legislature responded by passing anti-voter legislation that substantially decreased Iowans' access to the polls. They also passed legislation that included one small pro-voter change.



S 413 shortens the early voting period by nine days, shortens the absentee ballot request period, shortens the ballot receipt deadline to the close of polls — as opposed to the Monday after election day for ballots postmarked by election day — limits third-party ballot returns, requires polling places to close at 8 pm — one hour earlier than previously allowed — targets voters for removal based on failure to vote in one election, shortens the voter registration deadline for non-polling place registration by 5 days, removes county discretion to offer satellite voting centers, prohibits election officials from sending voters unsolicited absentee ballot applications, and allows dropboxes, but limits them to one per county. This law is currently the subject of ongoing litigation but remains in effect at this time.



S 568 expands the list of allowable family members that may return a voter's ballot, but it removes the option for caregivers to return ballots and needlessly complicates the process that allows disabled and blind voters to designate a ballot returner. The bill also includes a very small pro-voter improvement that requires the state election commission to establish an absentee ballot tracking website.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Fortunately, after the Legislature made substantial anti-voter changes in 2021, it did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2022 session.



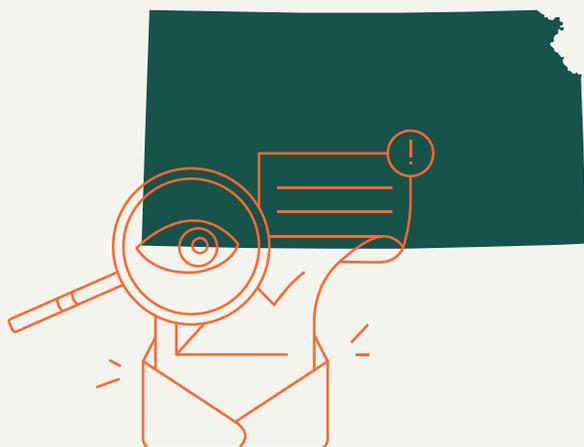
Executive Action



Recently Secretary Pate launched the "Election Security in Iowa" website to help combat the spread of election misinformation and disinformation in the state.

Election Policy Progress Report

Kansas



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In both 2021 and 2022, the Legislature and the governor were at odds with each other over voting rights. Both years followed the same pattern where the Legislature passed anti-voter legislation, the governor vetoed it, and then the Legislature overrode those vetoes to enact new voting restrictions. Taking into account the amount of anti-voter legislation that was passed while also recognizing the governor's hard-fought battle to protect voting rights, Kansas received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Kansas Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information

Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
Strict Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kansas as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

38th

COVI (2020)

44th

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Legislature introduced more than a dozen anti-voter bills during the 2021 session. By the close of session, many of these bills had been consolidated into two larger bills that became law.



H 2183 requires election officials to conduct signature review on all advance ballots without any cure provisions, prohibits election officials from accepting private funds for elections, and needlessly complicates the process for voters that choose to have their advance voting ballot returned by someone else. It also subjects election officials and ballot returners to potential felony and misdemeanor charges for violating these new rules.



H 2332 imposes new regulations on how third party groups can provide advance ballot applications to voters, bars the governor from making changes to election laws through executive orders, and bars the secretary of state and the courts from entering into legal agreements and consent decrees related to election laws without specific legislative approval. This bill is the subject of ongoing litigation and several provisions were permanently prohibited from being enacted.



Executive Action



Governor Kelly attempted to stand up for voters by vetoing both of the anti-voter bills passed through the Legislature, but unfortunately, the Legislature was able to successfully override both vetoes.



The state reached an important agreement with an alliance of advocacy groups to increase voter registration opportunities at the Department of Health and Environment and the Department for Children and Families, in compliance with federal law. These agencies committed to work to update outdated policies, incorporate voter registration information into benefit materials, and provide voter registration information and applications at agency offices and online.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Kansas Legislature yet again continued to introduce election-related bills that contained mostly anti-voter provisions. And yet again, luckily, only a very small number of those bills ultimately became law.



H 2252 prohibits the governor, the secretary of state, and the attorney general from entering into legal agreements and consent decrees related to election laws without legislative approval. Similar to H 2183 passed in 2021, this bill continues to add to the list of executive branch officers that are restricted from entering into election-law related agreements without legislative approval.



H 2138 creates a new biennial election audit process that will require four counties to be randomly audited every other year. Unfortunately, the rules for “randomly” selecting counties include population-based requirements that will ensure certain larger counties become targets for more frequent audits. Additionally, voters that do not cast a ballot or engage in other “election-related” activity for four years will also now become targets for potential removal from the voter rolls.



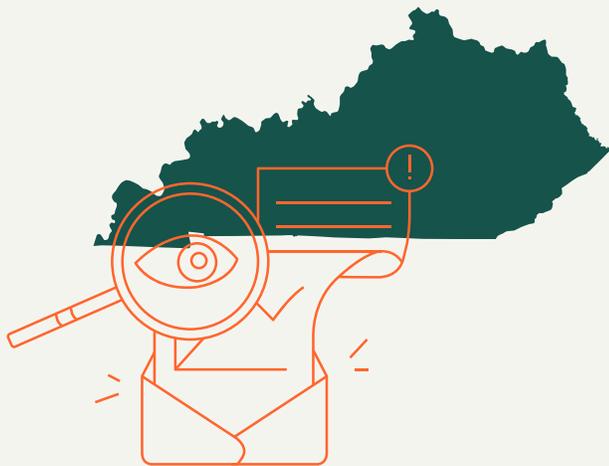
Executive Action



Similar to 2021, Governor Kelly again, unsuccessfully attempted to veto anti-voter legislation. And again, the Legislature was able to override her veto. As Governor Kelly noted at the time, H 2252 “prevents the executive branch from fulfilling its constitutional duties” and will “lead to costly litigation at the expense of Kansas taxpayers.”

Election Policy Progress Report

Kentucky



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Kentucky Legislature passed a landmark, bipartisan pro-voter bill that expanded voting access for eligible voters in the state. Last year saw mostly positive improvements as well, including expanded early voting and an increase in funding for new election equipment. Although the Legislature remained unable to pass legislation to automatically restore voting rights and instituted a ban on private funding for elections, the state made significant and notable progress towards expanding voting rights. Because of that, Kentucky received an A- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Kentucky Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Kentucky as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

43rd

COVI (2020)

32nd

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 legislative session, Kentucky passed **H 574**, a historic bipartisan-supported election law that strengthened voter access and increased security measures.



Under H 574, Kentucky codified many of the emergency election changes that were put in place during the 2020 election to ensure voters had safe and easy access to the polls.

- Establishes a no-excuse early voting period from Thursday through Saturday before election
- Streamlines online absentee ballot application portal
- Allows ballot returns by family, household members, and caregivers
- Establishes a notice and cure process for absentee ballots
- Allows for at least one dropbox in every county
- Allows for vote centers in counties
- Allows for early ballot processing to begin 14 days before election
- Establishes ballot tracking technology and printed barcodes to track ballots
- Creates additional list maintenance procedures to ensure current and accurate registration records

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The 2022 Legislature sought to make mostly minimal changes to elections, many of which were pro-voter bills.



H 564 expands the timeframe that the polls could be open for early voting. An eight-hour early voting period can now take place anytime between 6am and 8pm.



H 301 bars the use of private funds for elections — specifically private assistance for voter registration activities — without providing consistent ongoing public funding for election administration. Any violators are subject to felony convictions.



S 216 continues to strengthen the already robust election security measures in the state by increasing the number of counties randomly reviewed for election irregularities, keeping voting equipment and ballot boxes under video surveillance for 30 days post-election, does not allow for vote tabulating or aggregating equipment to be connected to the internet, and reconfigures the State Board of Elections.



H 1, the executive budget bill, will provide \$25 million dollars for grants to county clerks to purchase new election equipment in 2024 and 2025. This will provide some much-needed funds to election offices, particularly after the Legislature banned private funding sources.



Kentucky has one of the highest rates of disenfranchisement in the country, even after Governor Beshear's 2019 executive order that restored voting rights to tens of thousands of citizens. Unfortunately, for yet another session, the Legislature was unable to pass legislation that would provide a path to allow for automatic restoration of rights.

Election Policy Progress Report

Louisiana



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, the Louisiana Legislature has made numerous attempts to pass anti-voter restrictions. Despite those attempts, the governor has repeatedly stood up for Louisiana voters and vetoed anti-voter legislation. Additionally, the secretary of state has begun to withdraw the state from its participation in ERIC, which helped to keep the state's voting rolls more accurate and secure. Because of this, Louisiana received a C on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Louisiana Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

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 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

27th

COVI (2020)

2nd

EPI Score (2020)

6/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Louisiana Legislature attempted to pass several restrictive voting measures. Fortunately, Governor Edwards successfully vetoed them all. The remaining election-related changes that became law were uniformly positive.



H 388 allows parishes, with prior approval from the secretary of state, to begin pre-processing ballots three days before the election.



H 581 allows parish election officials to offer additional branch offices for early voting.



H 167 revises the procedures for removing deceased voters from the rolls.



H 286 expands the early voting period during presidential elections to run from 18 to 7 days before the election.



H 378 makes clarifying changes to Louisiana's existing law on the restoration of voting rights to ensure that individuals on probation for felony convictions will not lose their right to vote.



SR 22 establishes a study group to analyze the voting rights of individuals incarcerated before trial and the procedures available for those individuals to cast ballots.



Executive Action



Governor Edwards stood up for voters and vetoed several anti-voter bills during the 2021 session, including:

- **S 224**, which would have required absentee voters to include a state ID number and a partial social security number on their absentee ballot application and ballot.
- **S 63**, which would have required voters to return their absentee ballot directly to an election office employee.
- **H 704**, which would have expanded political parties' ability to appoint poll watchers, and created "super poll watchers" that could watch at any polling place in their appointed parish.
- **H 138**, which would have required registrars to conduct a supplemental yearly canvass of the voter rolls to identify voters that have potentially moved. These voters would be shifted to an "inactive" list until their address is confirmed.
- **H 20**, which would have prohibited election officials from accepting private funds for elections.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Although the Legislature attempted to pass additional anti-voter restrictions in 2022, Governor Edwards successfully used his veto power to stop them from becoming law.

The Legislature also passed several small pro-voter reforms into law, including:



H 423 requires public high schools and charter schools to provide high school seniors that are 17 years old the opportunity to register to vote.



H 1074 directs the secretary of state to establish rules for uniform processes for the review and curing or rejection of absentee ballots.



H 1082 gives the secretary of state the authority to unilaterally make changes to an election that will take place within 45 days of the declared state of emergency.



SR 151 establishes a “Task Force on Early Voting to study ways to increase early voting in Louisiana,” and provide recommendations for changes.

While almost all of the anti-voter bills were ultimately vetoed, one did manage to become law.



S 144 specifies that hand-delivered ballots can only be returned to an election office employee at a registrar’s principal or branch office or an early voting location.



Executive Action



Governor Edwards again vetoed several anti-voter bills passed by the Legislature during the 2022 session, including:

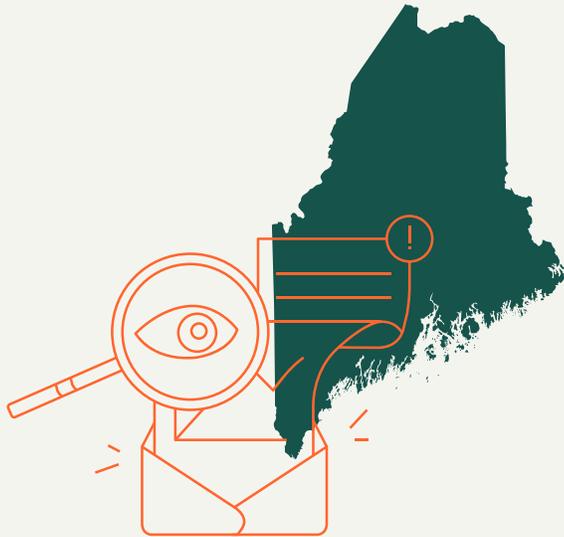
- **H 359**, which would have prohibited local election officials from following any federal directives or guidance or accept or disburse any federal election funds without prior approval from the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.
- **S 350**, which would have required election officials to reject absentee ballots with missing “affidavit flap” information including missing voter signature, missing mother’s maiden name, or a missing required witness signature.
- **H 35**, which would have allowed election officials to conduct annual voter list maintenance that would purge voters from the rolls for not voting or engaging in other voting-related activities for 10 years.



Since 2014, Louisiana has been a member of ERIC, a membership organization made up of over thirty states that provides advanced voter list maintenance services. Since 2014, ERIC identified more than 16,000 deceased voters and 54,000 voters who moved out of the state, enabling Louisiana elections officials to take appropriate action to remove them from the voter rolls. Unfortunately, **Secretary of State Ardoin suspended the state’s participation in ERIC in early 2022**, apparently in response to a blog post on a conspiracy theory website. The state’s withdrawal from ERIC will result in less accurate voter registration records and higher costs incurred by taxpayers to replace the services that ERIC provided.

Election Policy Progress Report

Maine



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, Maine implemented a number of pro-voter reforms. From implementing automatic voter registration and online voter registration to joining ERIC, Maine has substantially improved voter access. Unfortunately, it also implemented legislation in 2021 to limit absentee ballot processing. Because of the overwhelming pro-voter policies passed in 2021 and 2022, Maine received an A- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Maine Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **NO**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
No Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Maine as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states..

How Our Tier Compares

14th

COVI (2020)

33rd

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Maine Legislature continued to build on its recent history of passing pro-voter reforms by creating online voter registration in the state.



H 804 requires the secretary of state to establish an online voter registration system by the end of 2023. The OVR system will be accessible to any eligible voter and not restricted to individuals with a Maine driver's license. The bill also allows the secretary of state to create an application programming interface that would allow third-party registration drives to submit registration forms electronically.

The Legislature also implemented additional pro-voter reforms during the special session.



S 450 modifies the approved automatic voter registration process to allow updates to existing voter registrations, creates notice and cure provisions for absentee ballots, including processes to allow voters to cure missing and mismatched signatures in person or by phone, and authorizes municipalities to use dropboxes, among other things.



H 1172 expands the list of acceptable voter ID for same-day voter registration to include student IDs but also prohibits absentee ballots from being counted before the polls close.



Implementation/Administrative Action



Maine officially became a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which will help election officials identify and conduct outreach to eligible but unregistered voters.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After several years of instituting major election law changes, the Legislature passed a few minor, pro-voter improvements.



S 647 expands the list of acceptable voter ID for same-day voter registration to include ID from federally-recognized Indian tribes.



H 1354 makes it a crime to intentionally interfere with an election workers' ability to perform their duties, through use of force, violence, or intimidation. It also provides clerks with training on deescalation techniques and how to report threats or harassment to the secretary of state.



S 99 allows unaffiliated voters to vote in a party primary.



Implementation/Administrative Action



Maine successfully implemented Automatic Voter Registration at the BMV in 2022. The secretary of state introduced a streamlined process using new technology to provide customers at the BMV an improved experience. As the state receives data from the system, continued efforts will be important to make sure the system operates as optimally as possible.

Election Policy Progress Report

Maryland



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021, Maryland made important pro-voter progress on absentee and early voting. While the Legislature passed a number of pro-voter initiatives, H 222, the restoration of rights bill, was unfortunately watered down prior to passage. In 2022, the only pro-voter bill that passed, which included much-needed reforms to the absentee ballot process, was vetoed by the governor. Though the state made some key progress, the governor’s veto of important absentee legislation was disappointing. Because of that, Maryland received a B- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Maryland Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Maryland as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

5th

COVI (2020)

19th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

From absentee and early voting to voter registration and restoration of rights, the General Assembly passed pro-voter reforms that touched on almost every area of election law during the 2021 session.



H1048/S683 creates a permanent absentee voter list that any voter may opt into, explicitly authorizes dropboxes, and requires the State Board of Elections to send absentee ballot applications to all voters not already on the permanent absentee list in both 2022 and 2024.



H745 increases the number of vote centers required by setting specific population-based minimums for counties to follow and establishes a set of criteria for counties to follow when siting the vote centers.



H206/S596 expands the start of early voting hours to 7am each day during the early voting period.



H156/S283 requires local election boards to consider input from relevant residential institutions in the community, such as colleges, senior living facilities, and military bases, when siting polling places. It also expands voter registration opportunities for higher education students and members of the military.



H222 requires the State Board of Elections to create a program to allow eligible voters that are incarcerated to vote while they remain confined.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



During the 2022 session, the Assembly passed **S163/H862**, which included much-needed pro-voter reforms to the existing absentee voting process. The bill would have established a cure process for missing signatures on absentee ballots and would have allowed pre-processing of absentee ballots to begin well before Election Day. Sadly, Governor Hogan stepped in and vetoed the legislation.



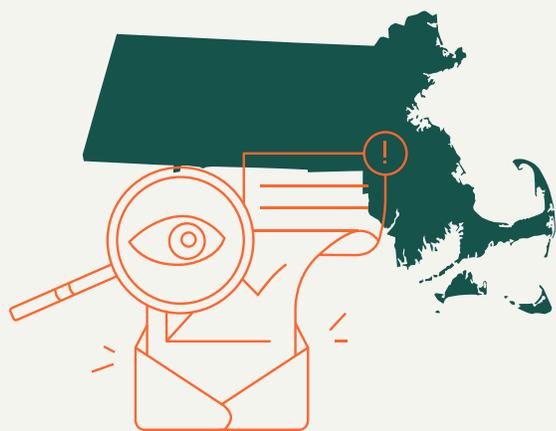
Executive Action



Despite Governor Hogan's public acknowledgment that **S163/H862** included "positive changes to state election law," he vetoed them anyways. Unfortunately in this instance, the governor eschewed positive and meaningful absentee voting reforms for the possibility of a future omnibus absentee bill that could address everything from cure and signature verification to ballot collection rules all at once.

Election Policy Progress Report

Massachusetts



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, Massachusetts introduced a number of key pro-voter bills, two of which became law. The omnibus VOTES Act included key provisions to help make voting more secure and accessible for eligible voters in the state. However, the Legislature also failed to pass important reforms such as same day registration. While Massachusetts saw significant progress in 2021 and 2022, it also missed opportunities to create an even stronger pro-voter environment. Because of that, Massachusetts received an A- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Massachusetts Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Back-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Massachusetts as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

11th

COVI (2020)

10th

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Massachusetts Legislature introduced a host of pro-voter legislation during the 2021 session. However, it was only able to implement a single change to preserve pandemic-era voting options for another year.



H 73 allowed any voter to vote by mail through the 2021 elections by extending COVID-related vote by mail laws through the end of the year.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

In 2022, the Legislature yet again, introduced dozens of pro-voter bills that failed to become law. Thankfully, during a surprising midsummer push, the Assembly passed the omnibus VOTES Act.



S 2924, the VOTES Act, makes no-excuse vote by mail and early voting permanent, allows ballot returns by dropbox, allows incarcerated individuals to vote by mail, extends the voter registration deadline to 10 days before the election, and requires the state to join ERIC. Unfortunately, the version of the Act that passed the Assembly failed to include same-day registration.



Implementation/ Administrative Action



After a lengthy delay, Massachusetts finally joined ERIC, which will help improve the accuracy of its voter rolls.

Election Policy Progress Report

Michigan



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the last two years, the Michigan State Legislature passed a mixed bag of voting legislation with many anti-voter measures and some pro-voter measures proposed. However, the Legislature failed to work with the governor on any of the legislation, so instead of signing the bills into law, the governor vetoed many of the election-related bills. Only three minor pro-voter bills passed in 2022, which were part of a bipartisan package deal. Though some progress was made in the Legislature and through executive action, the opportunity cost of passing key legislation due to the Legislature's inability to work with the governor over the last two years, as well as the sheer amount of anti-voter legislation proposed by the Legislature is impossible to ignore. The missed opportunities and potential for pro-voter rollbacks here outweigh many of the positives seen in Michigan, which is why Michigan received a C+ on this year's scorecard. Although the Legislature didn't perform as well as we'd hoped (hence the C+), Michigan voters positively addressed numerous election administration issues in November by passing the Promote the Vote Initiative.

2020

Looking Back

Where Michigan Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Michigan as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

13th
COVI (2020)

7th
EPI Score (2020)

9/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



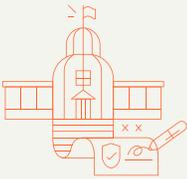
Legislative Action



During the 2021 session, the Legislature introduced nearly 100 election-related bills, more than half of which contained anti-voter provisions. The Legislature was unable to pass some of the strongest anti-voter bills that were proposed, and instead ended up passing a mix of anti-voter changes to ID rules as well as a few slightly helpful election administration bills. However, all of them were ultimately vetoed, a result of the Legislature's unwillingness to engage with the governor.



The Legislature did not make meaningful progress on challenges that became apparent in the 2020 election, including the need for mail ballot pre-processing and improvements to certification processes to prevent partisan tampering with election results.



Executive Action



Governor Whitmer vetoed all of the election-related bills passed by the Legislature, including:

- **S 303**, which would have revised voter ID requirements to require voters who lack ID to cast provisional ballots. These voters would then be required to show election officials an acceptable ID and residence/ citizenship documentation within six days after the election in order for their provisional ballot to be counted. Existing law allows a voter to sign an affidavit confirming their identity and then cast a regular ballot. Use of these affidavits is incredibly rare and generally limited to individuals who have temporarily misplaced their ID.
- **S 277**, which would have required county election officials to update the qualified voter file to remove deceased voters on a monthly basis and required more frequent checks for deceased voters starting the last 45 days before an election.
- **H 4492**, which would have allowed polling places to be sited within privately-owned buildings such as apartment complexes and clubhouses, if publicly-owned buildings were not available or conveniently located.
- **H 4837**, which would have limited access to the qualified voter file to the secretary of state, election officials and staff, and relevant maintenance and vendor staff.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



The Legislature introduced dozens of anti-voter bills during the 2022 session and managed to pass a mix of anti-voter provisions and positive voter list maintenance practices. Similarly to 2021, all three election-related bills were ultimately vetoed by the governor as the Legislature did not engage her through the process.



The Legislature ultimately passed a bipartisan deal consisting of three bills that was signed into law by Governor Whitmer.

- **H 4491** allows limited mail ballot pre-processing, while strengthening the state's list maintenance procedures, and also allows for more outside challengers to monitor voting processes. However, the provision regarding outside challenges must be monitored to ensure that efforts to increase transparency do not provide a route for interference in election administration processes or election security.
- **H 6071** allows municipalities to use privately-owned spaces for polling places, if suitable public spaces are unavailable.
- **S 311** allows active-duty military members to return a ballot electronically by using a "DOD-verified electronic signature."



Ballot Initiatives



Michigan voters chose by a wide margin to revise the state's constitution to improve absentee voting, establish a nine-day early voting period, establish reasonable identity verification, protect election funding, create a permanent mail voter list, and require dropboxes among other things under the "Promote the Vote 2022" ballot initiative.



A competing anti-voter "Secure MI Vote" initiative that would have tightened voter ID laws, rolled back absentee voting, and banned private funding of elections did not secure the necessary signatures to make the ballot in 2022.

While both these efforts have been citizen-led initiatives rather than legislatively driven, their passage or failure will likely shape the Legislature's future actions, or inactions, on election laws.

2022

This Past Year



Executive Action



Again, Governor Whitmer vetoed several election-related bills passed by the Legislature in 2022, including:

- **S 302**, which would add new threatening language to voter registration applications that would likely scare away eligible voters.
- **H 4127**, which would have targeted for removal from the voter rolls a small number of voters with placeholder dates of birth.
- **H 4128**, similar to H 4127, which would have required voters that had not voted since 2000 to respond to an election notice and confirm their current address. Voters that failed to respond to the notice or engage in other election-related activities would then have their registration subject to cancellation.



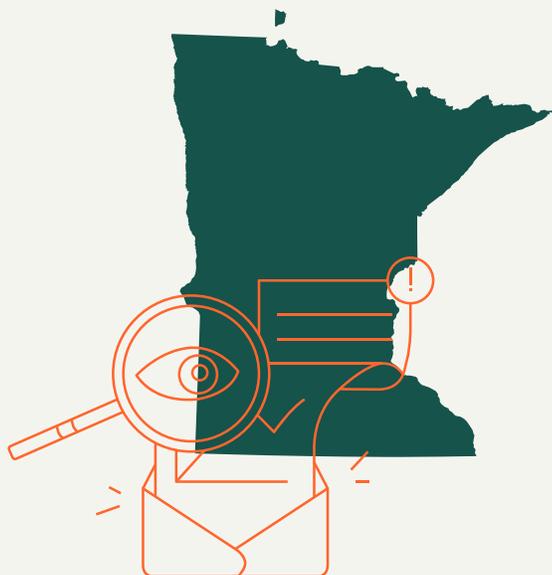
Earlier this summer, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Directive 2022-4 to increase voter registration opportunities in the state. The directive requires state departments and agencies to “identify and assess” new opportunities for Michiganders to be able to register to vote and receive voting information at their offices.



Secretary Benson stood up for voters by rejecting proposed anti-voter changes to the existing signature review regulations. In rejecting the changes, Benson noted that the regulations were “based on facts, data and longstanding nonpartisan standard election administration practices that support Michigan voters.”

Election Policy Progress Report

Minnesota



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, little movement was seen in the pro-voter landscape in Minnesota. The only election-related legislation passed over the last two years encompasses some progress on dropboxes. In 2022, the secretary of state did a great job on fighting back against voter fraud conspiracies in the state surrounding the 2020 election, as well as advocating for continued upgrades to voter registration systems in order to keep the state's rolls secure and up-to-date. Although we didn't see as much progress as we would have hoped over the past two years in the Legislature, we are weighing the efforts made by the secretary of shightly in Minnesota's grade. Therefore, Minnesota received a B on this year's scorecard.

2020

Looking Back

Where Minnesota Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:
Open to all Eligible

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Minnesota as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

15th
COVI (2020)

2nd
EPI Score (2020)

6/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action



Although the Minnesota Legislature introduced dozens of election-related bills during the 2021 regular session, none of them became law.



The Legislature did manage to pass a few pro-voter dropbox-related provisions in a state budget appropriation bill during the second special session.

- **S 2** specifically authorizes local election clerks to provide dropboxes for absentee ballots and requires officials to publish the box locations online at least 35 days before absentee voting starts.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



Again, the Legislature introduced a plethora of election-related bills during the 2022 session and again, none of them became law.



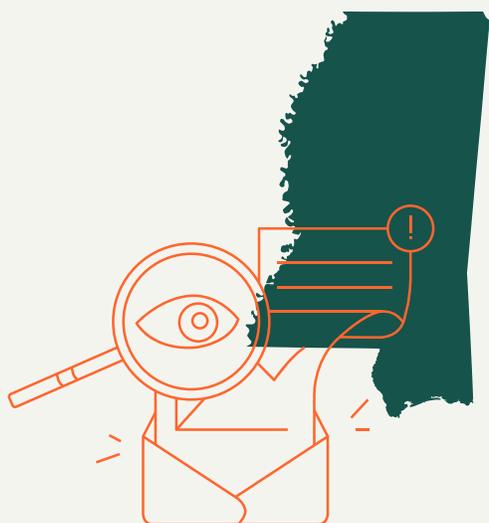
Executive Action



In the face of repeated disinformation campaigns and baseless conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, Secretary of State Simon has remained a voice of reason and continues to advocate for important pro-voter reforms such as automatic voter registration and the restoration of voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Election Policy Progress Report

Mississippi



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the last two years, Mississippi did not further any pro-voter initiatives. In 2021, the Legislature failed to pass any significant voting legislation, but it did reject a number of anti-voter laws, which is a small victory given Mississippi's existing anti-voter climate. In 2022, the Legislature enacted a ban on private funding for elections, but also passed restoration of rights for disenfranchised individuals whose convictions were expunged, giving them a clear path to vote. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the restoration of rights bill. Given that no anti-voter measures were passed in 2021, and in 2022 the Legislature attempted to restore voting rights to returning citizens and only a few anti-voter changes were passed, Mississippi received a C on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Mississippi Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Mississippi as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

47th

COVI (2020)

51st

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action



Although the Mississippi Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2021 session, it did successfully reject several versions of voter list purge legislation, which would have set up an inefficient and expensive system for removing voters from the rolls based on failure to vote or prove citizenship.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

In 2022, the Mississippi Legislature enacted new laws that further restricted the election administration process. The Legislature also attempted to restore voting rights for some of the state's disenfranchised citizens.



H 1365 prohibits election officials from accepting private funding for all election related expenses and any voter education, voter outreach, or voter registration programs.



H 1510 requires registered voters that are flagged as non-citizens by both the state DMV and federal SAVE database to provide proof of citizenship to their local election official. Although prior versions of this legislation targeted a much broader range of registrants for proof of citizenship, the final version contains a more thoughtful approach.



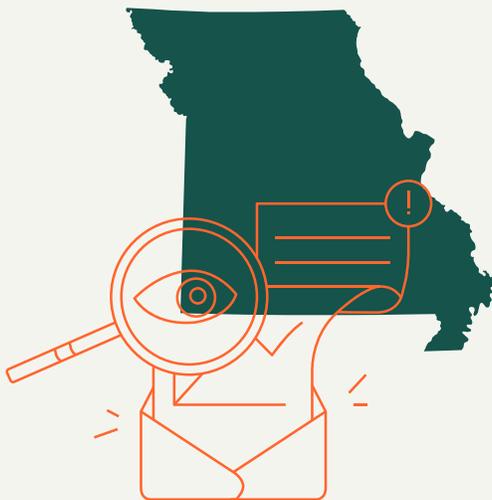
Executive Action



Unfortunately, Governor Reeves vetoed S 2536, which would have provided disenfranchised individuals whose convictions were expunged a clear path to regain their right to vote. In vetoing the legislation, Reeves described the historically discriminatory practice of felon disenfranchisement as “an animating principle of the social contract at the heart of every great republic.”

Election Policy Progress Report

Missouri



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2022, Missouri passed H 1878, an omnibus elections bill, which included both pro-voter and anti-voter initiatives. The pro-voter and anti-voter initiatives passed were both notable. The determination to give Missouri a C+ on this year's scorecard is based on the omnibus bill, along with the fact that Missouri, which could have been much more unfriendly for voting rights, did not pass purely detrimental anti-voter bills in 2021.

2020

Looking Back

Where Missouri Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Missouri as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

48th

COVI (2020)

22nd

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Missouri Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2021 session.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The General Assembly introduced more than 50 election-related bills during the 2022 session, most of which were anti-voter or included anti-voter provisions. In the final days of session, the Assembly managed to pass an omnibus bill, H 1878, which contained both pro-voter and anti-voter provisions, many of which had been considered — but not adopted — in the 2021 legislative session.



H 1878 establishes an early voting process that allows all eligible voters to cast an early vote in person starting the second Tuesday before the election.



H 1878 requires the DMV to use secure electronic transfer to electronically transmit voter registration information from the DMV to local election authorities.



H 1878 protects non-citizens from accidentally registering to vote. Individuals that provide the DMV with documents indicating non-citizenship are not provided the opportunity to register to vote.



H 1878 revises existing voter ID provisions to require all voters to show ID or cast a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be counted as long as the voter's signature matches the one on file or if the voter returns with valid ID before the polls close.



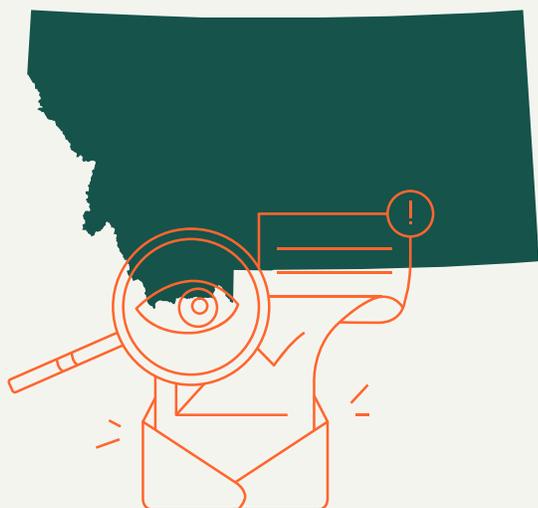
H 1878 expressly prohibits dropboxes for absentee ballot returns and prohibits all vote by mail elections, including through executive order or administrative action.



H 1878 prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from accepting private funds for elections.

Election Policy Progress Report

Montana



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Montana State Legislature introduced a number of anti-voter bills, half of which passed. These bills included provisions putting a stop to same day registration, putting greater restrictions on voter IDs, putting restraints on executive action when it comes to elections, increasing poll watcher presence, and more. The onslaught of anti-voter legislation, upon implementation, would severely roll back voter access and commonsense security measures the state previously passed, which is why Montana received an F on this year's scorecard.

2020

Looking Back

Where Montana Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

21st

COVI (2020)

36th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Montana legislators introduced a host of anti-voter legislation during the 2021 session, and they succeeded in passing almost half of the laws they introduced. Many of the laws have since been found to violate Montana's constitution.

Several of the most controversial anti-voter laws that passed were recently struck down by a Montana District Court.



H 176 attempts to end the state's long-held practice of allowing same-day voter registration by closing "late registration" at noon the day before the election rather than at the close of polls.



S 169 revises existing ID requirements for voter registration. Individuals that do not provide a driver's license number, state ID number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number must show photo ID to register to vote. Voters must also show ID to cast a ballot in person. Individuals that lack proper ID may cast a provisional ballot, but they must return to the election office by 5pm the day after the election to show an acceptable form of ID or show a non-photo ID and sign an affidavit affirming they lack proper ID.



H 506 clarifies that individuals may preregister to vote but they may not receive a ballot — including an absentee ballot — for any election until they are officially eligible to vote. Enforcement of this law is currently blocked by an injunction.



H 530 requires the secretary of state to create election security rules, issue an annual election security report, and create a rule that prohibits anyone from giving or receiving any benefit for returning a voter's ballot or helping with ballot collection. Enforcement of this law is also currently blocked by a preliminary injunction.

The Legislature also passed several laws that are not currently subject to legal challenges.



H 429 prohibits the governor from altering election-related statutes during an emergency without the Legislature's consent.



S 93 allows political parties to appoint poll watchers to monitor dropbox usage during mail ballot elections.



S 170 requires election administrators to conduct voter list maintenance on an annual basis rather than every two years.

2022

This Past Year

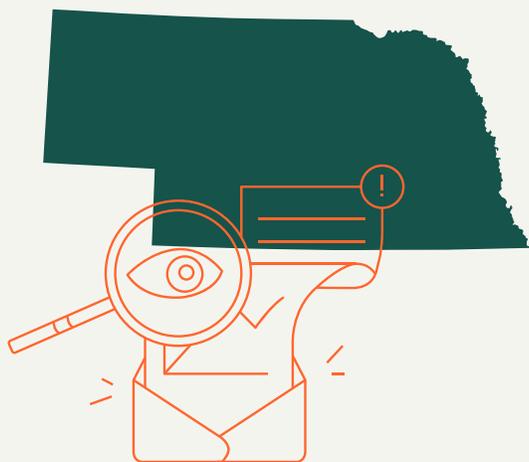


Legislative Action

The Montana Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years, therefore there was no session in 2022. Lawmakers ultimately rejected a request from more conservative members to convene a special session on "election integrity."

Election Policy Progress Report

Nebraska



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the past two years, Nebraska saw mostly minor anti-voter legislation passed by the Legislature. In 2021, the Legislature did pass a small pro-voter initiative that protects voter information from being publicly posted or displayed. Because the state only saw minor legislative rollbacks, in combination with the small pro-voter initiative passed in 2021, Nebraska received a C- on this year's scorecard.

2020

Looking Back

Where Nebraska Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Nebraska as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

22nd

COVI (2020)

6th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Nebraska Legislature made one small change to election laws during the 2021 session.



L 285 prohibits registered voter lists from being publicly posted or displayed, either physically or electronically. It also prohibits the public disclosure of any information the secretary of state may receive from any nongovernmental organizations that improve voter list maintenance the state may join in the future.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After making only minor election-law changes last year, the 2022 Legislature passed **L 843**, an omnibus election bill.



L 843 prohibits election officials from accepting private funds for election administration.



L 843 adds new security requirements to dropboxes.



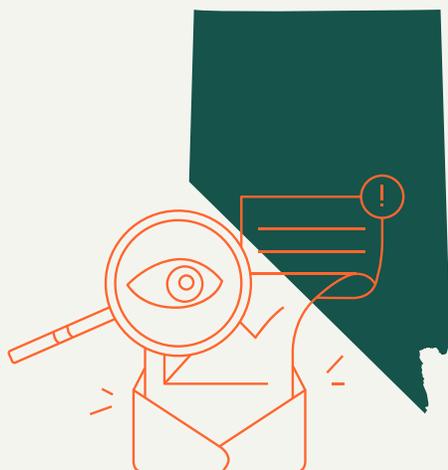
L 843 requires the secretary of state to establish rules and regulations for how counties can implement the new dropbox requirements.



L 843 requires election officials to remove voters from the rolls based on DMV data that a voter has surrendered their NE license/ID, among other things.

Election Policy Progress Report

Nevada



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Nevada made significant pro-voter progress over the past two years. In 2021, we saw a number of pro-voter initiatives passed, including permanent vote-by-mail, shifting to a gold-standard AVR system, and more. The Legislature that year managed to pass nearly every pro-voter improvement it could have. While the Legislature did not meet in 2022, the secretary of state's office worked diligently all year to implement the pro-voter initiatives passed the previous year. Due to the robust, impactful progress made by the state, Nevada received an A on this year's scorecard.

2020

Looking Back

Where Nevada Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End AVR

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Nevada as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

28th

COVI (2020)

13th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 legislative session, Nevada passed several important pieces of legislation that massively expanded voting rights in the state.



Under **AB 321**, Nevada became the sixth state in the nation to shift to a permanent vote-by-mail system. All registered voters can now automatically receive a mail ballot for every election and voters, or any individual of the voter's choice, may return those ballots via mail, in person, or at one of the dropboxes counties are required to provide. AB 321 also allows qualified individuals to register to vote through Election Day.



AB 432 allowed the state to remove unnecessary barriers to voter registration. The state shifted its existing front-end automatic voter registration (AVR) system to a back-end system. Now, all qualified citizens that provide proof of identity and citizenship will be automatically registered to vote during their DMV transaction. The state also expanded the list of agencies that can offer AVR beyond the DMV to include the Department of Health and Human Services, agencies that receive Medicaid applications, and the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, among others. The bill also allows tribal agencies to choose to offer AVR, pending approval by the governor.



AB 422 transitions its decentralized voter registration system to a streamlined top-down system. Under AB 422, the individual county-maintained voter registration systems are shifted to a centralized top-down database overseen by the secretary of state. The bill also requires the secretary to perform a risk-limiting audit of the 2022 general election and requires counties to continue performing risk-limiting audits through 2024.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Nevada Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years, and therefore did not meet in 2022.



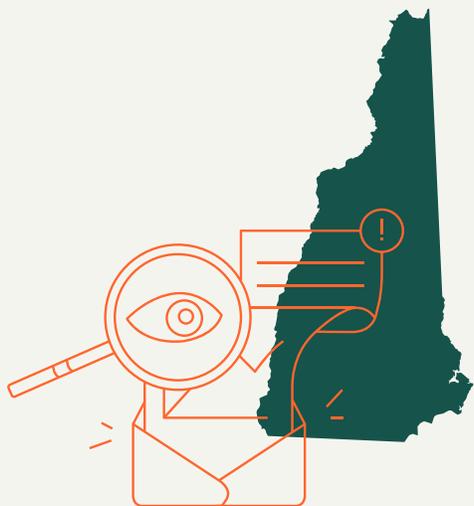
Implementation/ Administrative Action



The secretary of state's office is diligently working to enact all of the pro-voter improvements that were passed by the Legislature during the 2021 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Hampshire



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, New Hampshire saw a mixed bag of anti- and pro-voter initiatives passed in the Legislature. However, in 2022, the Legislature passed a number of significant anti-voter bills that negatively impact college students and election workers. Additionally, the secretary of state established a Special Committee on Voter Confidence in response to anti-democratic actors' demands. Taken together, these anti-voter actions weighed heavily in our consideration for the state's grade, which is why New Hampshire received a D+ on this year's scorecard.

2020

Looking Back

Where New Hampshire Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Hampshire as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

45th

COVI (2020)

39th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Despite continued efforts to suppress the voting rights of out-of-state college students, the General Court was unable to pass most of these anti-voter provisions. Instead, most of the legislation passed during the 2021 session focused on voter rolls and keeping voter lists up-to-date.



S 31 shifts voter address changes to the secretary of state's office instead of local supervisors of checklists, directs the secretary of state to enter into data-sharing agreements with other states to expedite voter roll removals of former New Hampshire voters that moved out of state, and requires supervisors to submit previous voter address information received on New Hampshire voter registration forms to any relevant state chief election officer instead of just those of the surrounding states.



H 223 updates the statewide absentee voter list to include details on when absentee ballots were returned, gives political parties access to the list, and requires the secretary of state to update the list more frequently starting the month before the election.



H 285 made several changes to voter list maintenance procedures including use of USPS National Change of Address data.



H 523 requires voters that used a "qualified voter affidavit" to have their photo taken by an election worker at the polls.



H 555 clarifies that a voter currently incarcerated for a misdemeanor offense or awaiting trial can request an absentee ballot.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, conservative members of the General Court once again continued their push to disqualify college students from voting. Members attempted to pass bills that would have revised the definition of “domicile” for voting purposes, removed student IDs from the list of acceptable voter ID, and made it harder to cast affidavit ballots.



Unfortunately on that last point, they succeeded by passing **S 418**, which needlessly complicated the affidavit ballot process.

- **S 418** requires first-time registrants that lack valid photo ID to cast an affidavit ballot and then mail a copy of a valid identity document to the secretary of state within seven days or the ballot will not be counted. Additionally, if the affidavit voter forgets to mail the required documentation to the secretary of state, the secretary will forward the voter’s information to the attorney general for investigation and possible voter fraud charges.

The General Court also managed to pass legislation that singled out election workers for extra scrutiny and possible criminal charges for mistakes on the job and required workers to give challengers increased access to ballot counting.



H 1567 gives the attorney general the authority to investigate election officials for misconduct and strip those officials of their voting rights if convicted.



H 1174 requires election officials to give challengers access to see and hear ballot counting, including hand counts or counts done by electronic ballot counting machines.



S 405 makes it a felony to use force or violence, or threaten force or violence, to interfere with an election worker completing their duties and creates civil penalties for election workers that fail to perform their duty or negligently perform their duty.



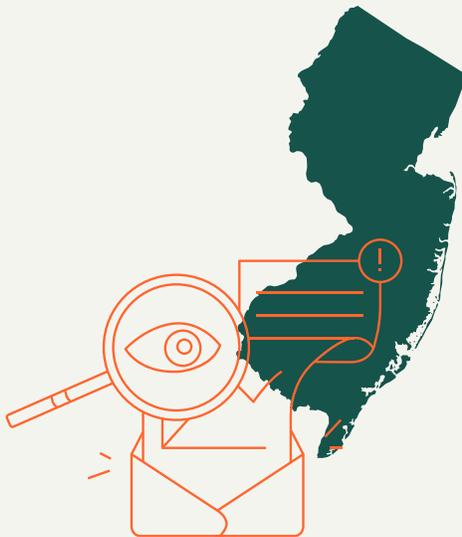
Executive Action



Earlier this year, Secretary of State Scanlan announced the establishment of a “Special Committee on Voter Confidence” aimed at restoring voter confidence in elections. Unfortunately, the commission is based on a false premise. Despite Scanlan’s claims of growing mistrust in elections, quite the opposite is true in New Hampshire. Recent testimony by political scientists to the Commission demonstrated that New Hampshire citizens of all parties have some of the highest levels of confidence in elections compared to citizens of other states.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Jersey



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

Over the last two years, New Jersey saw its ups and downs in the voting rights landscape. In 2021, the state passed a few key voting rights reforms, which include joining ERIC, early voting, and increasing access to dropboxes. However, 2022 was more of a mixed bag when it came to voting rights legislation — the Legislature passed a few minor pro-voter reforms, but we also saw two small restrictive measures passed. Unfortunately, the state also failed to take action on a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration, which would have been among the most impactful reforms for voters in New Jersey. While New Jersey definitely made some important strides ahead, there was ample opportunity lost for critical pro-voter reforms over the past two years, which is why New Jersey received a B on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where New Jersey Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration:
Open to all Eligible

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Felon Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Jersey as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

16th
COVI (2020)

43rd
EPI Score (2020)

8/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

In 2021, the New Jersey Legislature continued its streak of passing pro-voter reforms including instituting early voting and becoming a member of ERIC.



S 3203 establishes a statewide in-person early voting period before all elections. It requires all counties to offer early voting at multiple locations starting ten days before the general election.



S 3999 authorizes the state to join ERIC to help maintain the accuracy of its voter registration lists.



A 5373 revises dropbox siting requirements to ensure boxes are accessible for all voters. Changes include requiring boxes in lower income neighborhoods, relocating boxes that are located within 2,000 feet of each other, and requiring county officials to consider travel times, proximity to other boxes, and commuter traffic patterns when placing boxes.



Implementation/Administrative Action



Implementation of early voting required a state-wide effort to modernize New Jersey's aging election infrastructure. The Legislature approved an appropriation to provide counties with sufficient funds to upgrade their voting machines and to acquire e-poll books. This required significant work by local election officials to make changes rapidly in less than a year to be ready for their elections. Unfortunately, as a result of the rapid timeline for implementation, there were connectivity issues at several polling locations which caused e-poll books to be inoperable and led to long lines.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Legislature passed only a few modest pro-voter reforms. It also passed a few bills that slightly diminished access for some voters.



A 3817 requires the secretary of state to establish an online portal for voters to change their name, address, or party affiliation and to establish a portal for voters to request permanent mail-in ballots by 2026.



A 3822 allows counties to begin canvassing mail-in ballots five days before the election and explicitly allows voters to update their party affiliation as part of the automatic voter registration process at MVC offices.



A 3820 removes the option for unaffiliated mail-in voters to receive both party primary ballots and choose one to vote by mail. Instead, these voters will receive notice of how to affiliate with a party and then vote in person.



A 3819 removes voters from the permanent mail-in voter list if they fail to vote by mail for four years in a row and requires county officials to conduct a voter education campaign to inform voters about the potential to be removed from the list.



The Legislature also failed to take action on a bipartisan bill to adopt same-day voter registration, which would be among the most impactful reforms for voters in New Jersey. The state Senate president blocked the bill from moving forward.



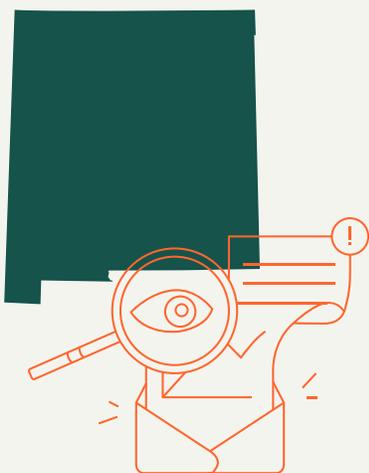
Implementation/Administrative Action



New Jersey officially became a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which will help New Jersey election officials identify and conduct outreach to eligible but unregistered voters. ERIC also enables its member states to identify voters who have moved or who have duplicate registrations in other member states.

Election Policy Progress Report

New Mexico



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the New Mexico Legislature passed critical legislation to protect voter access on Native, tribal, and pueblo lands, which was a critical step forward to ensuring equal access to the polls for all eligible voters in the state. However, that was the only pro-voter initiative passed in the last two years. Although the Legislature seemed to make significant progress on restoration of rights in both 2021 and 2022, and almost made significant upgrades, including further improvements to Native voting rights and a back-end AVR system in 2022, those bills did not pass despite strong support from each legislative chamber. While the state implemented same-day registration and increased accessibility to the polls for tribal nations, we view the failure to pass key pro-voter reforms as a critical setback, which is why New Mexico received a B- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where New Mexico Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New Mexico as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

31st

COVI (2020)

25th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Over the course of the 2021 session, the New Mexico Legislature passed legislation to protect voter access on Native lands.



H 231 institutes critically important protections for polling places sited on Indian nation, tribal, or pueblo lands. It prohibits abolishing or consolidating polling places on Indian nation, tribal, or pueblo lands at any time without written agreement from the Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo. During times of emergency, it offers Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos additional polling place protections. It bars changes to the days or times voting is offered on these lands without prior written agreement and it requires county clerks to provide alternate or mobile voting sites as well as Election Day polling sites on these lands if they are requested by the Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo.



The Legislature seemed to make progress towards passing significant pro-voter reforms, including restoration of rights for formerly incarcerated individuals and an expanded automatic voter registration system. Unfortunately, the Legislature was unable to pass either of these bills.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

At the start of the 2022 session, the New Mexico Legislature appeared to be on track to pass significant pro-voter legislation. Despite strong support from a coalition of New Mexico democracy organizations, as well as majority support in the House and significant support in the Senate, the Legislature failed to pass the New Mexico Voting Rights Act.



S 8, the New Mexico Voting Rights Act, would have instituted back-end automatic voter registration at the DMV, expanded online voter registration opportunities, established a permanent absentee voter list, expanded Native voting access, automatically restored the right to vote for formerly incarcerated individuals upon release, and established an Election Day holiday.



Executive Action



Although the Legislature ultimately failed to pass pro-voter reforms, Governor Grisham and Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver remained strong champions for the New Mexico Voting Rights Act, in all its various versions, throughout the session.



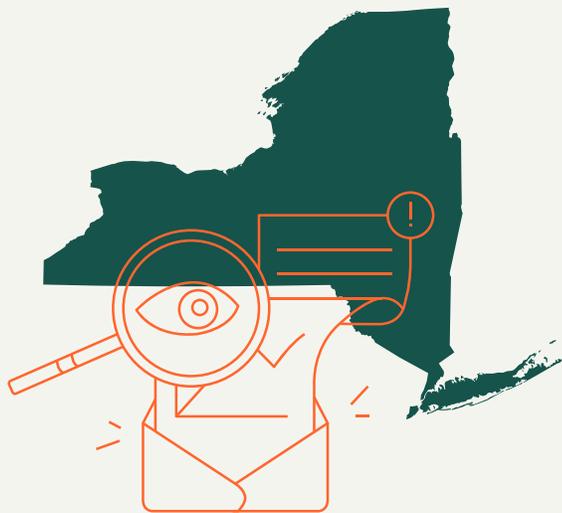
Implementation/ Administrative Action



Same-day registration was successfully rolled out during the June primary with more than 10,000 new voters taking advantage of the option to register and vote on the same day.

Election Policy Progress Report

New York



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021, New York passed a number of pro-voter initiatives, however, two critical pieces of legislation that would have expanded voting rights ultimately failed at the ballot box. In response, the 2022 Legislature had to craft temporary legislation to ensure all voters still had the option to vote absentee by mail. Although the Legislature also passed a historic statewide voting rights act, the state’s surprising failure to enact same day voter registration and establish no-excuse absentee voting for all earned New York a B on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where New York Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
Strict Non-Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for New York as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

17th
COVI (2020)

47th
EPI Score (2020)

7/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed two important pieces of legislation that gave voters the opportunity to amend the state constitution to expand voting rights during the 2021 general election. Unfortunately, neither law was ultimately passed by the voters.



S 517 (Ballot Proposal 3) would have eliminated the 10 day voter registration deadline before elections and allowed same day registration.



S 360 (Ballot Proposal 4) would have eliminated the need for voters to have an excuse to vote by mail.

The Legislature successfully passed several pro-voter pieces of legislation into law.



S 830 shortened the timeframe that former felons are disenfranchised by allowing them to have their voting rights automatically restored upon release from incarceration. Previously, people on parole were disenfranchised unless pardoned by the governor.



A 6970 required the State Board of Elections to set up a new online absentee ballot application portal.



S 4306 the “Make Voting Easy Act” expanded early voting by increasing the number of locations that offer early voting and expanding allowable weekend voting hours.



S 1027 modified several provisions related to mail ballots including allowing processing to begin before the close of polls and revising notice and cure provisions.



Ballot Initiatives



Although the Legislature successfully passed proposals to get Ballot Proposals 3 and 4 before the voters during the 2021 general election, sadly, both proposals failed to pass due to the failure to run a robust voter education campaign on the benefits of these changes as well as confusing ballot language. As a result, anti-voter groups on the right were able to successfully defeat both initiatives in a low turnout off-cycle election.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After the defeat of the pro-voter ballot proposals during the 2021 general election, legislators came back during the 2022 session and were able to successfully pass the historic “John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act,” which expands access to voting.



S 1046 establishes a preclearance process that certain jurisdictions with a history of voting rights violations must follow before making changes to their existing election policies.

Because of the defeat of Ballot Proposal 4, the Legislature was forced to pass yet another pandemic-related fix to temporarily extend vote by mail access for all during the 2022 session.



S 7565 allows voters to continue to use the pandemic as an excuse to vote absentee by mail through December 31, 2022.

Late in 2022, the Legislature also passed legislation to help ensure all eligible votes will be counted.



S 284 ensures that if a voter casts provisional ballots in the wrong precinct within their county, any votes they were entitled to cast in that county will now be counted.



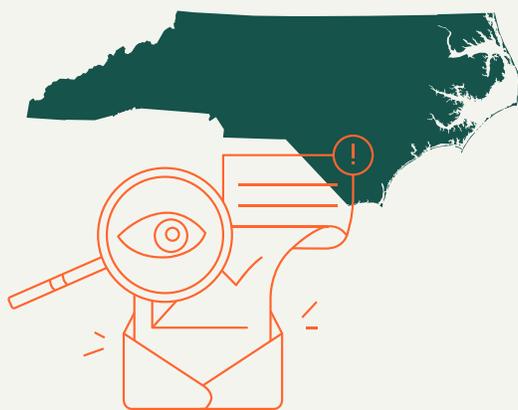
Implementation/Administrative Action



New York was delayed in finalizing its contract with a vendor to manage the implementation of OVR/AVR, which may cause challenges for the state to go live with a modernized voter registration system.

Election Policy Progress Report

North Carolina



IRG's Grade TL;DR

The North Carolina State Legislature attempted to pass three anti-voter measures in 2021. However, two of those bills were vetoed by the governor — the only bill that passed strips the State Board of Elections of oversight responsibilities. In 2022, the Legislature passed one minor anti-voter reform, which was also again vetoed by the governor. The Legislature's attempts to pass anti-voter bills over the last two years was taken into heavy consideration when scoring North Carolina this past year — we also strongly considered the governor's role in protecting voting rights for eligible voters in the state. Considering the Legislature's anti-voter bills and the governor's success at preventing them from becoming law, North Carolina received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where North Carolina Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for North Carolina as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

23rd

COVI (2020)

40th

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The General Assembly passed three anti-voter bills during the 2021 session, two of which were ultimately vetoed by Governor Cooper. The third, **S 105**, folded an effort to weaken the State Board of Elections' authority into the state budget appropriation bill.



S 105 removes the State Board of Elections' authority to enter into settlement agreements over election law issues with the attorney general's consent when the Legislature is out of session.



Executive Action

As referenced above, Governor Cooper successfully vetoed two anti-voter bills passed by the Assembly in 2021:



S 725, which would have prohibited the State Board of Elections, county boards of elections, and county commissioners from accepting private funds for election administration. In vetoing **S 725**, the governor stated that if the Legislature wants to eliminate outside funding for elections, it should focus on making sure local election boards are adequately funded by the state.



S 326, which would have shortened the deadline to return absentee ballots to the close of polls. Ballots are currently counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received within three days after the election. Governor Cooper noted that **S 326** would have inevitably led to legal votes going uncounted.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The General Assembly did not successfully pass any election-related laws during the 2022 session.



Executive Action

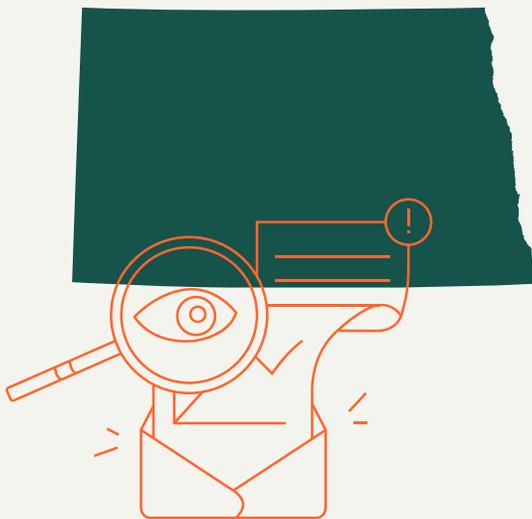
Governor Cooper vetoed one bill passed by the Assembly in 2022:



H 605, would have shifted the primary dates and candidate filing deadlines for the 2022 election.

Election Policy Progress Report

North Dakota



IRG's Grade TL;DR

North Dakota is a state where the Legislature meets biennially. In 2021, the Legislature met and passed a mixed bag of voting legislation — we saw a few pro-voter initiatives passed involving pre-processing ballots, establishing notice and cure provisions, and expanding acceptable voter ID documents. However, the Legislature also passed some anti-voter measures, including creating criminal penalties for accepting private funds for election administration and putting limits on mailing absentee ballots. In reviewing all legislation passed, the anti-voter measures slightly outweigh the pro-voter measures passed in 2021, which is why North Dakota received a B- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where North Dakota Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

8th

COVI (2020)

5th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Aside from limiting election officials' funding opportunities, the North Dakota Legislature passed mostly pro-voter reforms that increase voter access and provide election officials with guidance and flexibility to more easily administer elections in 2021.



S 2142 allows local election officials to begin pre-processing absentee ballots three days before the election.



H 1256 prohibits election officials from accepting private funds for election operations or administration.



H 1253 establishes notice and cure provisions to allow voters to correct mismatched signatures on mail ballots, creates criminal penalties for accepting private funds for election administration, and limits mailing unsolicited absentee ballot applications to active and new voters, among other things.



H 1447 revises the list of acceptable voter identification to include student photo IDs and certain documents provided by higher education institutions.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The North Dakota Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years, therefore they did not meet in 2022.

Election Policy Progress Report

Ohio



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Legislature made some anti-voter changes to election law, including prohibiting election officials from collaborating with non-governmental entities on matters relating to election administration and prohibiting election officials from settling election-related lawsuits in any way that would change existing Ohio laws. Late in 2022, the state enacted a major piece of anti-voter legislation that created one of the strictest voter ID laws in the nation. Due to this substantial change, Ohio received an F on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Ohio Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
Strict Non-Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Ohio as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

34th

COVI (2020)

28th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

While the Ohio Legislature did not pass any wholly election-related bills during the 2021 session — which we view as a positive — it did manage to include a few anti-voter provisions in a general appropriations bills it passed.



H 110 prohibits election officials from collaborating with non-governmental entities, including faith-based organizations, on matters relating to election administration and prohibits election officials from settling election-related lawsuits in any way that would change existing Ohio laws.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action



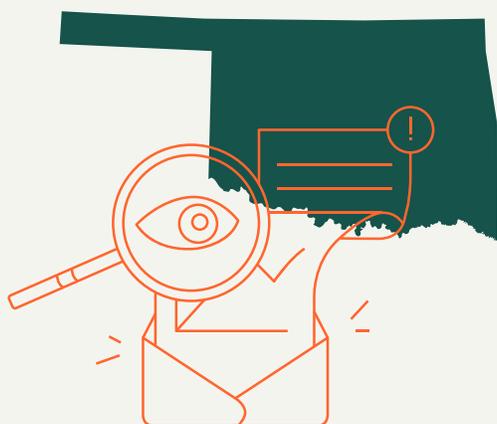
For most of the 2022 session, the redistricting process dominated discussions over potential election changes and it seemed that no significant election-law related would be passed. However, during the lame duck session, the Legislature enacted a strict voter ID law.



- **H 458** requires voters to show a state-issued photo ID, US passport, or US military ID to vote in person. Other reliable identifying documents such as utility bills and bank statements could no longer be used to establish a voter's identity at the polls. It also removes the option to vote early in person the day before the election, shortens the timeframe for voters to request and return absentee ballots, and restricts dropboxes to one per county.

Election Policy Progress Report

Oklahoma



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021 and 2022, Oklahoma saw a number of pro-voter measures passed, including joining ERIC, authorization for the use of e-pollbooks, expanding early voting, and expanding access to the polls for disabled and elderly voters. However, in 2022, the state passed a slew of anti-voter bills which includes prohibiting the use of private funds for election administration and establishes criminal penalties for violating the law, expanding the crime of “absentee ballot harvesting” to include delivering absentee applications or requests using official letterhead for an elected official or candidate, stricter ID requirements, and more. The anti-voter measures unfortunately far outweigh the pro-voter measures passed, which is why Oklahoma received a C- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Oklahoma Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information

Center Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

37th

COVI (2020)

49th

EPI Score (2020)

3/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed two important changes to improve election administration and also took minor steps to increase voter access for in-person early voting.



S 710 authorizes the state to join ERIC to help maintain the accuracy of its voter registration lists.



S 712 authorizes the state to use e-pollbooks.



H 2663 shortens the timeframe for voters to request absentee ballots by eight days, but it also expands the days and hours early voting is offered.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Legislature made a few changes to increase ballot access for small subsets of voters.



H 1711 allows blind voters to receive their absentee ballot electronically.



S 714 expands the timeframe for absentee voting board members to deliver ballots to voters residing in nursing facilities.

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



H 3364 requires voters to include an ID number on their absentee ballot application. If the voter's information and ID number does not match their information on file in their registration record, the application will be rejected.



H 3365 revises voter list maintenance and voter registration procedures, including adding new instances when voter registrations may be immediately canceled without following the waiting periods required by federal law.



H 2974 requires the State Board of Elections to complete a yearly review of voter registrations to check for locations with more than ten registrations. Counties that are notified of these locations in their jurisdiction must immediately forward the registrations to the county district attorney for investigation and potential voter fraud prosecution. Although the bill does include important exceptions for multi-unit residences, such as assisted living facilities and military housing, it unnecessarily targets low-income and vulnerable voters as potential criminals based solely on a shared living situation.



H 3046 prohibits the use of private funds for election administration and establishes criminal penalties for violating the law. It does allow the state and counties to accept donations that "are not directly related to the administration of elections" with prior approval by the governor and written notice to the House speaker and Senate president.



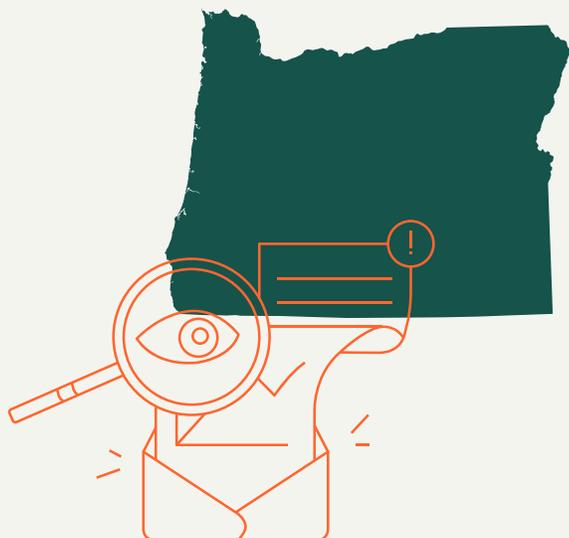
S 523 prohibits state and local election officials from entering into consent agreements related to election procedures, it allows the Legislature to intervene in any suit related to election procedures, and it bars the governor and other state and local election officials from altering election procedures in any way that is not expressly allowed by state law.



H 3321 expands the crime of "absentee ballot harvesting" to include delivering absentee applications or requests using official letterhead for an elected official or candidate.

Election Policy Progress Report

Oregon



IRG's Grade TL;DR

While we applaud Oregon's hard work in making a number of significant positive pro-voter changes over the last two years, the Legislature failed to take action on two critical opportunities to further expand voting rights during the last two sessions — expanding their AVR system to Medicaid offices and ending felon disenfranchisement in the state — which is why it received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Oregon Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Back-End

Online Voter Registration:
DMV ID

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Oregon as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

1st

COVI (2020)

8th

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Oregon Legislature has long been a proponent of pro-voter policies, and it continued to make incremental improvements to elections during the 2021 session.



H3291 requires clerks to accept all ballots that have a date or indicator that they were mailed by Election Day if they are received within seven days after the election, and it allows clerks to begin counting ballots when received.



H3021 increases voter language accessibility by requiring the secretary of state and county clerks to provide voter pamphlets in the five most common non-English languages in the area. It also establishes a Translation Advisory Council to complete the translation for the pamphlets.



H2681 requires county clerks to send “inactive” voters notice that their registration is inactive 60-70 days before a primary or general election. The notice must include instructions on how the voter can reactivate their registration. Clerks are also prohibited from moving a voter’s registration to inactive status for failing to vote or update their registration.



However, the Legislature failed to act on **H2499**, a bipartisan bill that would have expanded automatic voter registration (AVR) beyond the DMV to Medicaid and other agencies designated by the governor and that would have used state income tax records to update voter registration records.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

During the 2022 session, the Legislature passed important updates to protect election workers from harassment and increase access to the online voter registration system.



H4133 revises the existing online voter registration system to allow applicants to register using the last four digits of their Social Security number if they do not have an Oregon driver’s license or state ID number. The revised system also allows voters to directly submit an electronic image of their signature when registering with their Social Security number and it allows the secretary of state to include an API in the registration system to allow third-party organizations to directly submit voter registrations electronically to the state for processing.



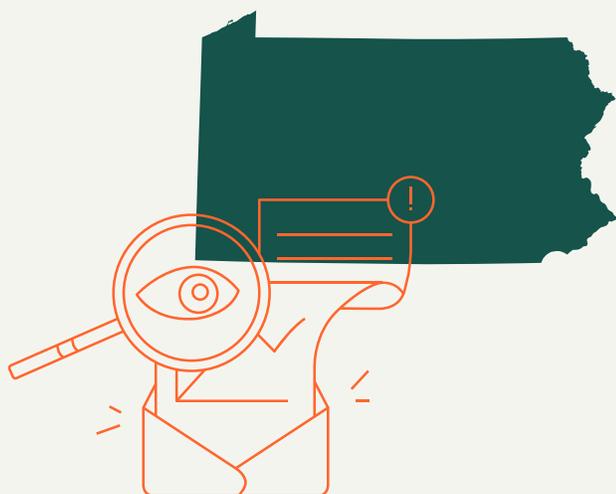
H4144 allows election workers to protect their voter registration address from public disclosure and increases criminal penalties for individuals that harass election workers for doing their jobs.



However, the Legislature failed to act on **H4147**, a bill that would end felon disenfranchisement in Oregon by eliminating the rule that people convicted of a felony lose the right to vote until they complete a period of imprisonment. With the passage of this bill, Oregon would have joined Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia as jurisdictions that do not disenfranchise people on the basis of felony convictions.

Election Policy Progress Report

Pennsylvania



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Many of our positives listed on this year's progress report are necessary vetoes by the Governor after the Legislature made attempts to significantly suppress voting rights two years in a row. Thanks to gubernatorial action, many of these bills were unable to pass, but we cannot look past the outright assault the Legislature made time and time again in 2021 and 2022, which is why Pennsylvania received a C- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Pennsylvania Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Pennsylvania as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

32nd

COVI (2020)

35th

EPI Score (2020)

7/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action



The General Assembly introduced nearly 100 election-related bills during the 2021 session, more than half of which included anti-voter provisions. Only one of those anti-voter bills was passed by both chambers of the assembly and it was vetoed by Governor Wolf.



Executive Action



In 2021, Governor Wolf vetoed **H100**, which would have:

- Established drastically shorter voter registration deadlines to 25 days before the election.
- Created onerous dropbox siting requirements that would have limited the usefulness of the boxes.
- Required signature match for mail ballots without establishing robust cure provisions for easily solvable issues such as lack of secrecy envelope.
- Barred the state and counties from maintaining permanent mail-in voting lists, even for one year at a time.
- Required absentee and mail-in ballot applicants to include at least two specific ID numbers or have their application rejected. The only acceptable options are the last four digits of a Social Security number, a driver's license number, or a voter registration number.
- Barred voters from applying for absentee or mail-in ballots in person.
- Shifted all election audit authority away from the counties and Department of State to the auditor general.
- Removed county election boards' ability to set regulations and instructions.

The governor noted in his veto statement that H 1300 contained several small improvements such as earlier pre-canvassing, authorizing electronic poll books, and increased poll worker pay. However, the harsh anti-voter provisions completely outweighed the minor advances.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

In 2022, the Assembly again proposed dozens of anti-voter law changes. Three of these measures were passed by both chambers of the Assembly, and one was later vetoed by the governor:



S 106 proposes several controversial amendments to the state constitution, two of which relate to elections. One amendment would require voters to show ID at the polls to vote and another would allow the Auditor General to audit all aspects of elections including election results. Before these changes are incorporated into Pennsylvania's constitution, the language must be passed again next year by the Legislature and receive majority approval in a vote of the people.



S 982, which was adopted into law during budget negotiations, prohibits election officials from accepting private funds for election administration and any official that violates the law would be subject to criminal penalties. The bill's poor drafting creates substantial uncertainty regarding how commercial vendors and non profit organizations can provide services and technical assistance to election officials. And although the law implicitly acknowledges counties' needs for more election funding by establishing a state-run grant program, unfortunately, the law also makes acceptance of the funds contingent on agreeing to a host of requirements, including a potentially unrealistic processing and ballot counting timeline, among others.



Executive Action



Governor Wolf again vetoed anti-voter legislation that came out of the Legislature. In 2022, he vetoed **S 573**, which would have:

- Greatly expanded poll watcher access in a way that could lead to voter intimidation and harassment and likely would have negatively impacted election officials' ability to do their jobs. In his veto statement, the governor called out the anti-voter provisions in S 573. As he correctly noted, the bill "encourages voter intimidation" and "makes it possible for bad faith partisan operatives" to disrupt the election process.



Recently, Governor Wolf issued an executive order to designate seven state agencies as "Voter Registration Distribution Agencies," which will expand access to voter registration for Pennsylvania citizens. Although agency voter registration generally has limited impact, this is a positive step towards helping reach the estimated 1.7 million eligible, but unregistered citizens in the state.



Implementation/Administrative Action



63 of 67 counties in Pennsylvania applied for the \$45 million in state funding, which is available for election administration.

Election Policy Progress Report

Rhode Island



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, Rhode Island did not seize any opportunities through legislative means to progress on pro-voter reforms. However, in 2022, the state passed key pro-voter legislation that significantly helped to expand access to the ballot for all eligible voters in the Ocean State. Because of the robust legislation passed in 2022, while also taking into consideration the opportunities missed in 2021, Rhode Island received an A- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Rhode Island Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration:
YES (presidential races only)

Restoration of Rights:
Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Rhode Island as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

19th

COVI (2020)

8th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2021 session.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After years of hard work from pro-democracy groups and the Assembly, the “Let RI Vote Act” finally passed.



H 7100, “Let RI Vote Act”, establishes no-excuse absentee voting, removes onerous notary/witness requirement for absentee ballots, allows voters to request an absentee ballot via an online portal, and requires every town and city to have at least 1 dropbox.



H 7428 creates a robust signature review process to allow more options for signature matches and allows ballot pre-processing to begin even earlier, starting 20 days before the election.

Election Policy Progress Report

South Carolina



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the last two years, the South Carolina State Legislature made several changes to their voting rights laws. In 2021, we did not see any significant election-related laws during the 2021 session. However, in 2022, the Legislature passed a bipartisan bill that included both pro- and anti-voter measures, which includes expansion on absentee ballot processing and early voting, as well as new restrictions on absentee voting. Given the state's overall landscape in 2020, and weighing the positive and negative changes made in 2022 as well as the fact that additional restrictions were not passed, South Carolina received a B+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where South Carolina Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities: **NO**

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for South Carolina as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

44th

COVI (2020)

24th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Legislature did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2021 session.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

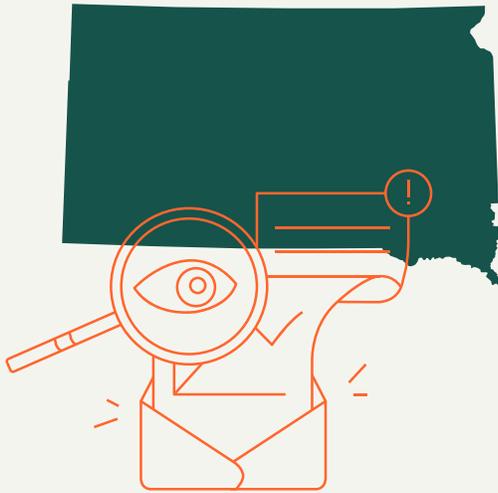
In 2022, the South Carolina Legislature passed a bipartisan bill that contained both pro-voter reforms and anti-voter restrictions in 2022.



S 108 establishes a two-week universal in-person early voting period and allows absentee ballot processing to begin before Election Day. The bill also includes a few absentee voting restrictions including requiring all applicants to include a partial Social Security number, restricting ballot returns to five ballots per person, and clarifying that dropboxes are not allowed, as existing law was silent on the issue.

Election Policy Progress Report

South Dakota



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, South Dakota made a few minor pro-voter improvements, which include protecting domestic violence victims' information from public voting disclosure and pre-processing absentee ballots. However, in 2022, the Legislature passed a bill that prohibits private funding for election administration in the state, leaving local elections offices without sufficient funds to properly run elections. Due to the detrimental impact of the 2022 anti-voter bill for elections workers and eligible voters, and taking into consideration the minor progress made for voters in 2021, South Dakota received a C on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where South Dakota Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

29th

COVI (2020)

48th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The South Dakota Legislature made a few small but important pro-voter changes to election laws during the 2021 session.



S 102 allows victims of domestic violence to protect their voter registration information from public disclosure.



S 184 allows counties to potentially begin pre-processing absentee ballots on Election Day before the polls close. It gives auditors the discretion to implement pre-processing if the county has an influx of absentee voting for an election.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

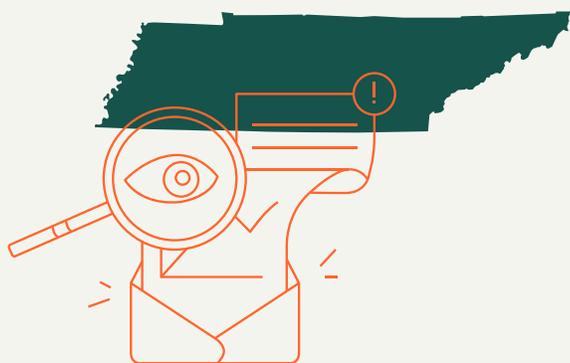
During the 2022 session, the Legislature passed only one election-related anti-voter bill.



S 122 prohibits private funding for election administration in the state. It hinders election jurisdictions' ability to adequately fund elections by barring them from accepting needed funds from outside sources while not providing sufficient state funds to support local election officials.

Election Policy Progress Report

Tennessee



IRG's Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Tennessee State Legislature was able to make a few minor pro-voter changes, including increasing opportunities for counties to set up convenient voting centers on Election Day. 2021 also brought the banning of private funding for elections with a narrow avenue to allow funding with prior approval from the elected officials. While this wasn't as bad as expected, in 2022, the Legislature passed three anti-voter bills that further restrict accessibility. Overall, the measures passed in 2021 and 2022 were somewhat minor, and taking into consideration the pro-voter initiatives passed in 2021, Tennessee received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Tennessee Started

Automatic Voter Registration: **NO**

Online Voter Registration: **DMV ID**

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

Restoration of Rights:
Some Prison Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Required**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
Strict Photo ID

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Tennessee as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

46th

COVI (2020)

37th

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

At a time when most southern state Legislatures were looking to enact measures to further restrict voting, the General Assembly was able to enact a few pro-voter changes. Although it passed a bill restricting private funds, it also created a carve out to allow the funds under certain conditions.



H 1178 increases opportunities for counties to set up convenient voting centers on Election Day. It expands the existing pilot program for centers and allows any county that previously participated in the pilot program and had favorable reports of the center to establish a permanent convenient voting center.



S 1534 restricts the use of private funds for election administration. However, it does leave open a narrow avenue to allow funding with prior approval, either by the House and Senate speakers for funding the state or funding the secretary of state, or by the secretary of state for funding counties.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Although the Assembly mostly held the line on election law changes in 2021, unfortunately, that was not the case in 2022. The General Assembly enacted several new anti-voter restrictions this past year.



S 2675 revises the state's post-election audit procedures to allow the secretary of state to conduct random audits of three counties after the primary and six counties after the general election. It also allows the secretary of state to choose the method of audit from among three options: a "risk-limiting audit," a "traditional audit" where bipartisan teams of election officials conduct a hand count of a sample of ballots, or a "performance audit" that reviews election procedures.



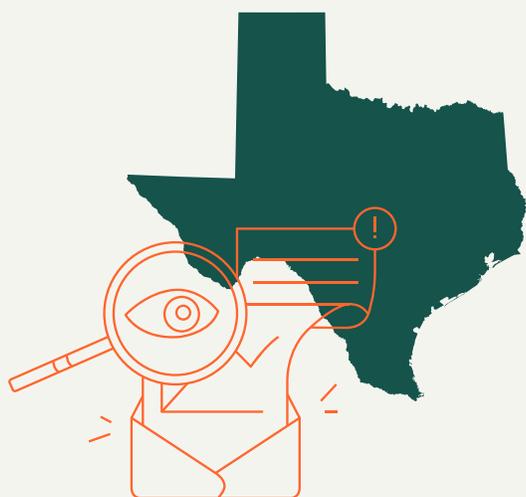
H 2128 creates a redundant law that expressly bars non-citizens from voting in elections, as is already prohibited by Tennessee law. It also authorizes local election officials to use potentially flawed jury duty disqualification data to remove registered voters from the rolls.



H 2483 prohibits the governor and state and local election officials from entering into any consent decrees related to election laws without first consulting with the House and Senate speakers. It also allows the Assembly to sue the state or local election officials for violating this law.

Election Policy Progress Report

Texas



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

Going into 2021, Texas was ranked at the very bottom for voting rights efforts, so we were surprised to see the Legislature pass a few small pro-voter reforms. Unfortunately, the good news stops there — in 2021 Texas also passed a number of anti-voter bills, including SB 1, which had significant detrimental impact on eligible voters in the state. In 2022, we saw the impact of SB 1 where one in eight mail ballots were rejected and voters experienced significant confusion with the new rules. Taking into account the minimal progress made in combination with the negative impacts of SB 1 and other anti-voter measures, Texas received a D- on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Texas Started

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 Participation: **YES**

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

ID Requirements: **Photo ID Requested**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Texas as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

50th

COVI (2020)

34th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard (2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 regular session, the Texas Legislature managed to pass a few small pro-voter reforms while also continuing to enact unnecessary barriers to voting. Unfortunately, there were also a number of anti-voter measures that passed.



S 331 expands voters' access to interpreters and allows voters to use interpreters to help with reading and marking their ballot.



H 1382 requires the secretary of state to create an online ballot tracking system for voters to check on their vote by mail applications and ballots.



H 3107 relaxes existing rules around temporary voting locations for most counties, extends the mail ballot application deadline for in-person returns by one week, and expands election judge training, among other things.



H 574 makes it a felony to intentionally count invalid votes or fail to count valid votes.



H 2283 restricts private funding in elections. It required local election officials to get prior approval from their local political subdivision or the secretary of state before accepting funds and required the secretary of state to equitably distribute any funds it received based on county population.



S 1111 tightens residency requirements for Texas voters and allows clerks to request additional residency proof from certain voters.



S 1113 allows the secretary of state to withhold funding from local registrars for failing to perform required voter list maintenance tasks.



H 3920 narrows the definition of the "disability" excuse for vote by mail applications.

During the second special session, the Legislature enacted sweeping detrimental changes to election laws through SB 1 that touched on almost every aspect of the voting process. Though many aspects of the bill further suppressed Texas voters, there were a few minor pro-voter initiatives included.



SB 1 adds new requirements to the vote-by-mail process that requires voters to include their Texas driver's license, state ID, or voter ID number on both their mail ballot application and ballot. Applications and/or ballots with numbers that do not match the ID number on file are rejected and voters will not be issued an application or have their ballot counted if they do not cure the problem.



SB 1 subjects election administrators to new criminal penalties for minor errors on the job.



SB 1 prohibits outdoor and drive-thru polling locations, tools that counties had previously used to make voting more accessible for voters.



SB 1 restricts the hours that early voting may be offered.



SB 1 requires voter assistants to complete additional paperwork when assisting voters and subjects the assistants to possible criminal penalties for any errors.



SB 1 greatly expands poll watchers access to the voting process and subjects election administrators to new criminal penalties for attempting to remove disruptive poll watchers.



SB 1 severely restricts election administrators' ability to tailor election practices and procedures to the needs of their local communities.



SB 1 requires election administrators to investigate and purge voters from the rolls based on unreliable data and potentially false matches to existing voter records. The secretary of state can also enact financial and criminal penalties against the administrators for any perceived list maintenance errors.



SB 1 increases the minimum number of early voting hours. In major elections, most counties must have at least 6 hours on the last Sunday of early voting, one more than current law. It also adds an extra hour of early voting in smaller elections as well.



SB 1 streamlined address updates. Voters who return list maintenance notices indicating that they have moved from their voter registration address will automatically have their address updated to their new residence.



SB 1 gives voters a way to cure minor mail ballot errors. Voters whose mail ballots are rejected for a technical defect (such as a missing signature, a mismatched signature, etc.) will be contacted by elections officials and be given a chance to fix the issue.



Executive Action



At the start of the 2020 legislative session, Governor Abbott named “election integrity” as one of his top emergency priorities for the Legislature. Unfortunately, rather than addressing his state’s onerous barriers to voter registration and voter access, Abbott made matters worse by signing **SB 1** into law which needlessly complicated the voting process for voters and election administrators.



Implementation/ Administrative Action



The secretary of state settled a long running lawsuit brought by voters who were denied the opportunity to register to vote while renewing their driver’s licenses online with DPS. As a result of this settlement, civil servants at DPS and secretary of state integrated voter registration into online driver licensing transactions. As a result, DPS registered or updated the registration of more than a million Texans in less than a year after rolling out the system. These secure online registrations reduce paperwork for elections officials and help keep the voter rolls up to date.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Texas Legislature meets biennially during odd-numbered years, therefore it did not meet this year.



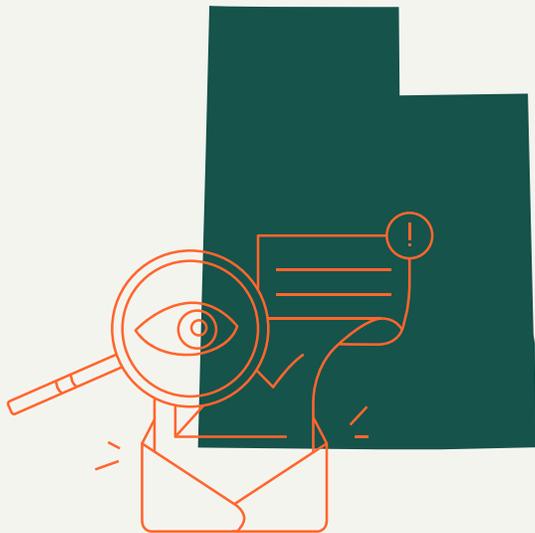
Implementation/ Administrative Action



In the first election run under the new rules put in place by SB 1, Texans' mail-in ballots were rejected at an extraordinarily high rate: approximately one in eight mail ballots were thrown out, about twelve times the rate in prior elections. Many county election administrators were forced to increase staffing for their mail ballot and call center teams, increase public awareness campaigns, and make changes to mail ballot forms and envelopes to help voters provide new information required by SB 1.

Election Policy Progress Report

Utah



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Utah started out 2021 by strengthening its voting landscape by further modernizing its ballot tracking system. Unfortunately in 2022, a few anti-voter measures passed the Legislature, including a ban on private election funding and shortening the ballot curing deadline. We saw two minor pro-voter proposals passed in 2022 as well. Given the mixed bag of legislation passed over the last two years, Utah received a C+ on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Utah Started

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 Participation: **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 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

3rd

COVI (2020)

38th

EPI Score (2020)

9/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

As an early adopter of vote by mail, the Utah Legislature used the 2021 legislative session to refine its election laws to ensure a secure and voter-friendly process, passing legislation to expand the state's ballot tracking and notification system.



H70 requires the state to modernize its system to allow voters to receive ballot status updates via text or email, to maintain a statewide or locally based online tracking site, and to provide an offline method to track ballot status, such as a toll-free number.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Legislature took a different approach to election reforms during the 2022 session. While it revised dropbox laws to give voters more options to return mail ballots, the Legislature also passed legislation to limit election officials' funding opportunities and shortened the deadline for voters to correct minor mail ballot mistakes.



H313 prohibits election officials from accepting private funding for elections; requires at least one dropbox per municipality, with the option to provide more; and requires the lieutenant governor to complete an annual audit of the voter registration database and notify county clerks of the results and necessary changes.



H 411 shortens the ballot cure deadline by two days.



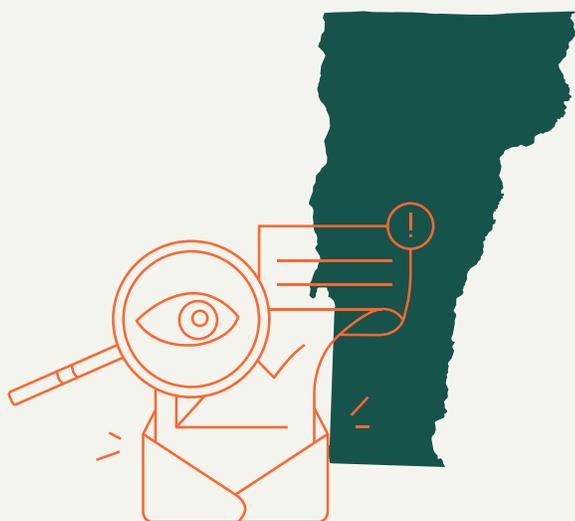
S32 revises the disclosure rules for private voter registration records to clarify that certain identifying voter information may not be publicly disclosed.



H67 requires county clerks to ensure all required voter list maintenance is completed at least 90 days before an election.

Election Policy Progress Report

Vermont



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Although Vermont did not make any substantial election law changes in 2022, the Legislature passed historic legislation to move the state to a permanent vote-by-mail system in 2021. Due to the significant pro-voter changes passed in 2021, Vermont received an A- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Vermont Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration:
Open to All Eligible

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
No Disenfranchisement

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Vermont as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

9th

COVI (2020)

1st

EPI Score (2020)

8/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Although the General Assembly passed only one election-related law during the 2021 session, it was a significant change that will dramatically increase voter access in the state.



S 15 establishes vote by mail for all general elections, allows every active registered voter to automatically receive a ballot by mail for all state general elections, authorizes dropboxes and creates a system for cities to receive state funding for boxes, establishes notice and cure provisions to allow voters to correct ballot errors, and requires the secretary of state to engage with municipalities and relevant stakeholders on how to strengthen ballot language access for Vermonters of limited English proficiency.

2022

This Past Year

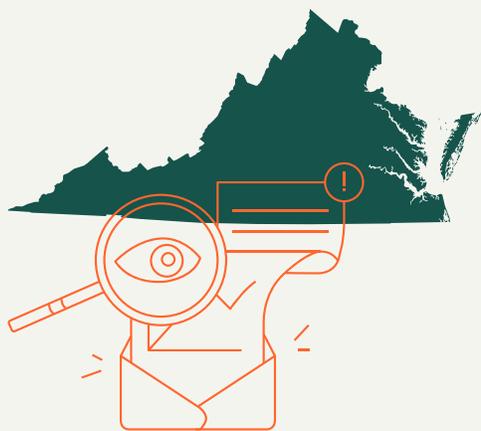


Legislative Action

The General Assembly did not pass any significant election-related laws during the 2022 session.

Election Policy Progress Report

Virginia



IRG’s Grade TL;DR

In 2021, the Virginia State Legislature made significant progress by passing a multitude of pro-voter reforms, including passing a state-level version of the federal Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately after a shift of power in the election, the 2022 Legislature only passed a few minor pro-voter changes and one significant anti-voter bill that bans private funds for elections. The broad wording of the bill will likely force elections officials to pay for nonpartisan training and technical assistance from industry and nonprofit experts that they had received in previous years. Additionally, the newly-elected attorney general created an “Election Integrity Unit” to prosecute alleged election law violations, despite having previously noted that he found no evidence of widespread fraud during the 2020 election. Overall, the pro-voter measures will have a more profound impact on eligible voters’ access to the ballot, giving Virginia a B on this year’s progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Virginia Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Front-End

Online Voter Registration:
DMV ID

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

Restoration of Rights:
**Some Permanent
Disenfranchisement**

Vote by Mail: **No-Excuse**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Virginia as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

12th
COVI (2020)

18th
EPI Score (2020)

9/10
CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Medium
MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the General Assembly passed several pro-voter pieces of legislation that further expanded voting rights in the state.



S 1245 allows absentee ballot drop offs at the registrar’s office, early voting centers, and all polling places on Election Day, requires ballot pre-processing to begin before the election, and prohibits election officials from rejecting absentee ballots for minor errors such as unsealed outer envelopes, missing dates, and more.



H 1890 is a state-level version of the federal Voting Rights Act. It prohibits the state and local election jurisdictions from making any election-related changes to existing policies or procedures that discriminate against voters based on “race, or color, or membership in a language minority group,” requires certain jurisdictions that want to change election policies to obtain preclearance from the attorney general, and requires jurisdictions that meet certain population thresholds for language minority groups to provide voting materials in that language.



HJR 555 is a proposed constitutional amendment to the Virginia Constitution that would automatically restore an individual’s right to vote upon their release from incarceration for a felony conviction. This resolution must be voted on again by the Legislature in a subsequent session and then be placed on the ballot for voters to pass at a future general election.



H 2125 allows qualified individuals to preregister to vote at the age of 16.



H 1968 allows election officials to offer absentee voting in person the two Sundays before Election Day.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

After the 2021 elections saw the balance of power shift in the House of Delegates, the Assembly was unable to muster the same support for pro-democracy legislation that it had in the past. The Assembly made only minor pro-voter changes in 2022 and one significant anti-voter change.



S 689 protects registered voter list information from being publicly posted online.



H 1140 requires local registrars to notify voters by both mail and email that their voter registration has been canceled.



H 439 requires absentee ballot instructions to include the website where voters can go to see explanations of any proposed constitutional amendments or state referendum on the ballot.



S 211 requires the State Registrar of Vital Records to transmit death records to the Elections Department on a weekly basis rather than a monthly basis.



S 80 prohibits election officials from accepting private funds for “voter education and outreach programs, voter registration programs, or any other expense incurred in the conduct of elections.” The broad wording of the bill will likely force elections officials to pay for nonpartisan training and technical assistance from industry and nonprofit experts that they had received in previous years.



Executive Action



Recently, Attorney General Miyares announced the creation of an “Election Integrity Unit” to prosecute alleged election law violations, despite having previously noted that he found no evidence of widespread fraud during the 2020 election.



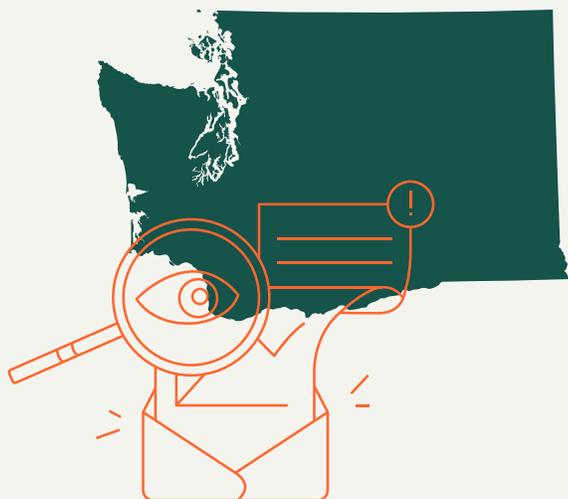
Implementation/ Administrative Action



The Department of Elections is currently working on implementing the new same-day registration law that goes into effect on October 1.

Election Policy Progress Report

Washington



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Washington State passed historic pro-voter legislation in 2021 restoring voting rights to formerly incarcerated individuals for felony conviction, and 2022 also saw some minor pro-voter reforms in the state. However, the Legislature failed to pass legislation to make critical upgrades to their voter registration system and failed to secure equitable ballot access for communities of color into law. As a top tier state, we expect more out of Washington, which is why it received a B on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Washington Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Back-End

Online Voter Registration:
DMV ID

Same-Day Registration: **YES**

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

Vote by Mail: **Vote by Mail**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
Regular Ballot Early Voting

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Washington as of 2020, we considered the state a top tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other top tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

2nd

COVI (2020)

12th

EPI Score (2020)

10/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

High

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

During the 2021 session, the Washington Legislature was finally able to pass important legislation that restores the right to vote for thousands of Washington residents.



H1078 automatically restores the right to vote for anyone formerly incarcerated for a felony conviction. Individuals under “community custody” will no longer have to wait to complete probation before they can register and vote.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The Washington Legislature only made a few minor updates to election laws in 2022.



H1953 protects a voter’s signature, phone number, and email address from public disclosure.

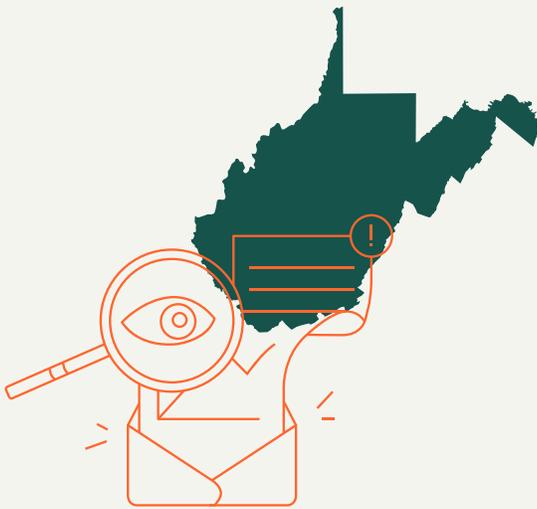


Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to pass two major pieces of pro-voter legislation during the session.

- **SB5636**, which would have updated the existing automatic voter registration system to make it more secure, efficient, and effective at registering voters. Although it passed the policy committee, the Senate failed to bring it to the floor for a vote.
- **SB5597**, which would have strengthened the “Washington Voting Rights Act” to ensure that communities of color have an equal opportunity to elect a representative of their choice. It passed the Senate, but the House failed to bring it to the floor for a vote.

Election Policy Progress Report

West Virginia



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Over the last two years, we saw few laws passed related to elections in West Virginia — in 2021, no elections-related laws were passed. In 2022, the Legislature passed a mixed bag of voting laws, including protecting voters against harassment, creating harsher penalties for voting-related crimes, and a ban on private funding for elections. Given that the state could have passed much more harmful legislation over the last two years, and taking into consideration the minor pro-voter wins in 2022, West Virginia received a B- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where West Virginia Started

Automatic Voter Registration:
Hard Stop

Online Voter Registration:
DMV ID

Same-Day Registration: **NO**

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

Vote by Mail: **Excuse-Only**

Electronic Registration Information
Center Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
ID Requested, but not Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for West Virginia as of 2020, we considered the state a bottom tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other bottom tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

35th

COVI (2020)

15th

EPI Score (2020)

4/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The West Virginia Legislature did not pass any election-related laws during the 2021 session.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

The West Virginia Legislature was restrained in its approach to election law changes during the 2022 session, and the few laws it passed focused mostly on election-related crimes. Given the current landscape of the state and previous attempts from elected officials to pass voter restriction legislation, this is viewed as an overall win.



H 4299 makes it a misdemeanor to intentionally “physically interfere” with a voter’s access to the polls in an effort to intimate or harass the voter.



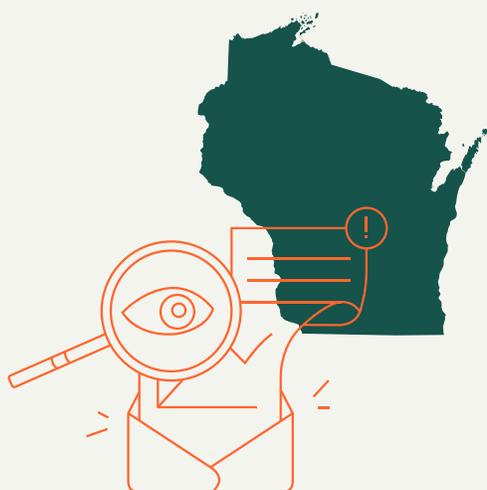
H 4311 raises the penalties for all crimes related to voting more than once from a misdemeanor to a felony.



H 4097 prohibits election officials from directly accepting private funds for election administration. However, it does allow private funds to be disbursed to local jurisdictions through the secretary of state’s office, with approval from the State Election Commission.

Election Policy Progress Report

Wisconsin



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Though Governor Evers played a significant role in protecting voting rights for eligible voters in the state of Wisconsin, the Legislature repeatedly attempted to restrict voting access two years in a row and succeeded by taking the first step to amending the state constitution to enact a private funding ban on elections.

Wisconsin became the target of repeated and baseless claims of election fraud, which impacted the legislation elected officials put forth during the last two sessions. This has put a damper on any pro-voter measures the state desperately needs. We expect much more out of a middle tier state, and due to the repeated attacks on voting rights from the Legislature, Wisconsin received a D on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Wisconsin Started

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 Participation: **YES**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements: **Strict Photo ID**

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Wisconsin as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

25th

COVI (2020)

4th

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Fair

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

The Legislature passed several anti-voter bills during the 2021 session. However, they were all vetoed by the governor.



Executive Action



Governor Evers stood up for voters and successfully vetoed all of the Legislature's anti-voter bills:

- **A173** attempted to ban cities and counties from accepting private funds for election administration.
- **S 203** would have severely limited who could return a ballot for a voter, made it a felony for the wrong person to return a voter's ballot, and restricted dropbox locations.
- **S 204** would have required voters to provide a copy of their ID with every absentee ballot application and to resubmit applications for every single primary or general election.
- **S 212** would have allowed election workers to reject an absentee ballot if the voter accidentally left something minor off the voter certificate.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Again in 2022, the Wisconsin Legislature attempted to pass numerous anti-voter bills during the 2022 session. All but one of the anti-voter bills were vetoed by the governor.



SJR 101, the first in a series of steps, attempts to amend the state constitution to enact a private funding ban on elections.



Implementation/ Administrative Action

Over the past few years, Wisconsin became the target of repeated and baseless claims of election fraud. Unfortunately, this has led to numerous lawsuits being filed against the Wisconsin Election Commission. As a result, instead of concentrating on future elections and pro-voter improvements, the Commission has been forced to focus on litigating grievances from past elections and rescinding helpful guidance to local clerks.



Executive Action

Governor Evers remained a stronghold against a wave of anti-voter bills that passed out of the Wisconsin Legislature during the 2022 session.

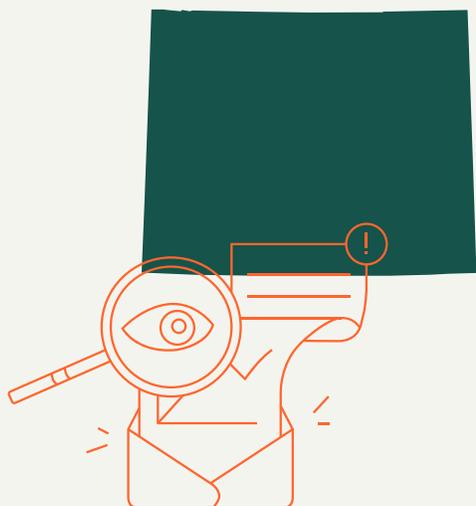


Several bills attempted to erode the Wisconsin Election Commission's authority to oversee elections in the state, yet again, he successfully vetoed all of the unnecessary election restrictions the Legislature attempted to implement.

- **S 213** attempted to strip away the duty of the Wisconsin Election Commission to oversee election authorities' actions and would instead have sent all complaints about election worker actions to the courts.
- **S 936** similarly attempted to change the WEC's complaint process for alleged election law violations and allow individuals to sue the WEC directly.
- **S 938** would have required the WEC to attempt to reverify all registered voters' citizenship information 60 days before absentee ballots go out through DOT and DHS databases, but the bill failed to provide necessary detail on exactly what data would need to be matched to verify citizenship.
- **S 940** would have required the WEC to purge voter registrations if a check of DOT database info against existing voter registration list information indicated minor discrepancies.
- **S 943** would have allowed a legislative joint committee to review WEC's guidance documents on a weekly basis and require the WEC to rescind any guidance the Legislature decided did not qualify as guidance.
- **S 935**, similar to **S 212** from 2021, would have allowed election workers to reject absentee ballots for minor errors on the voter certificate.
- **S 937** very narrowly redefined the "indefinitely confined" absentee voter excuse to only allow the excuse in very limited circumstances.
- **S 939**, similar to **S 203** from 2021, would have required all early in-person voters to complete absentee ballot applications at the polls before casting their early ballot, limited who could return a ballot for a voter, made it a felony for the wrong person to return a voter's ballot, and restricted dropbox locations.

Election Policy Progress Report

Wyoming



IRG's Grade TL;DR

Very little election-related legislation was passed in Wyoming over the last two years. In 2021, the Legislature passed an anti-voter measure that further restricts voter ID laws, while in 2022, the Legislature passed a pro-voter measure to allow counting of absentee ballots earlier. However, the restrictions on voter ID laws will have a much more significant impact on eligible voters in the state over the pro-voter initiative passed, therefore Wyoming received a C- on this year's progress report.

2020

Looking Back

Where Wyoming Started

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 Participation: **NO**

Early Voting Opportunities:
In-Person Absentee

ID Requirements:
No Document Required

Relying on the Cost of Voting Index for Wyoming as of 2020, we considered the state a middle tier state for pre-existing voting policy and compared its 2021-22 activity against other middle tier states.

How Our Tier Compares

26th

COVI (2020)

45th

EPI Score (2020)

5/10

CLC State Scorecard
(2022)

Low

MAP Democracy Policy
Tally (2022)

2021

Two Years Ago



Legislative Action

Although the Wyoming Legislature passed only a single election-related law during the 2021 session, sadly it was a restrictive voter ID law.



H 75 requires voters to show ID before voting in person. Although voters that lack proper ID may vote a provisional ballot, the law also revises the existing grounds for challenging a voter to include “failure to present acceptable identification” before voting.

2022

This Past Year



Legislative Action

Yet again, only one new election law was passed by the Wyoming Legislature during session. Fortunately this year’s change focused on improving the election administration process for county clerks.



H 52 allows county clerks to begin processing absentee ballots the Thursday and Friday before the election.