

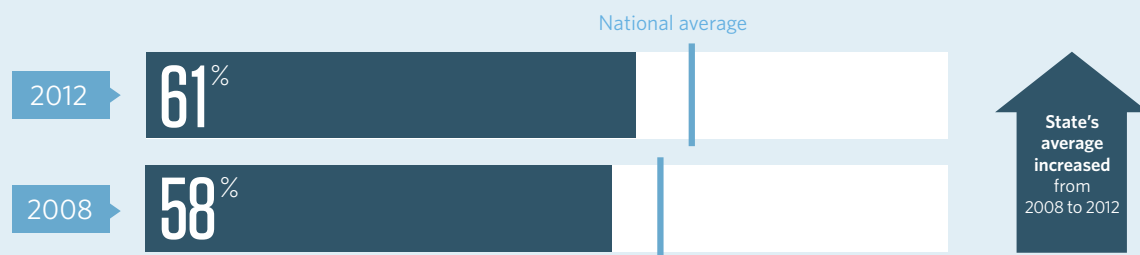


Kansas

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Kansas that emerged from the 2012 update to The Pew Charitable Trusts' Elections Performance Index, or EPI. The EPI analyzes 17 key indicators of election administration and scores each state's performance by indicator and overall. For more information and to view the full interactive index, visit www.pewstates.org/epi.

Overall EPI Average*



Key indicators	2008	2012
Military and overseas ballots rejected	10.1%	5.7%
Online registration available	No	Yes
Provisional ballots rejected out of all ballots cast	1.0%	1.2%
Residual vote rate	Incomplete data	2.2%
Turnout	63.5%	58.1%

*The overall EPI average is a simple average of all 17 indicators.

Beyond the numbers

Although Kansas' overall EPI average increased, it did so by less than the national average, and the state was one of the lower performers in 2012.

Kansas did improve on several indicators, including online voter registration, which it added in 2009, as well as a lower rate of military and overseas ballots rejected, which dropped by nearly half.

But the state had a larger-than-average drop in turnout of more than 5 percentage points from 2008 to 2012, despite a registration rate increase.

Room for improvement

The state's provisional ballot usage and rejection rates, both already high, increased. In Kansas, provisional ballots are issued anytime there is doubt about a voter's eligibility, such as when a voter fails to re-register after moving or to provide photo identification. Provisional ballots can be rejected for many valid reasons, but the state's high and growing rate warrants additional research to understand the causes and identify solutions.

Kansas had the nation's highest residual vote rate—the discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and the number of votes counted for an office—in 2012. Residual vote rate is a good gauge of voting technology accuracy, so more research should be done in Kansas to determine whether the state has a systemic problem of poorly functioning or outdated voting technology.

The state could also require a postelection audit of voting equipment to ensure that vote totals match the votes cast and that any problems related to machinery are discovered and reported.

The state provided more data to federal authorities in 2012 than in 2008, but it still did not have complete data as measured by the index.

Improving data collection and requiring postelection audits are also recommendations of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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