

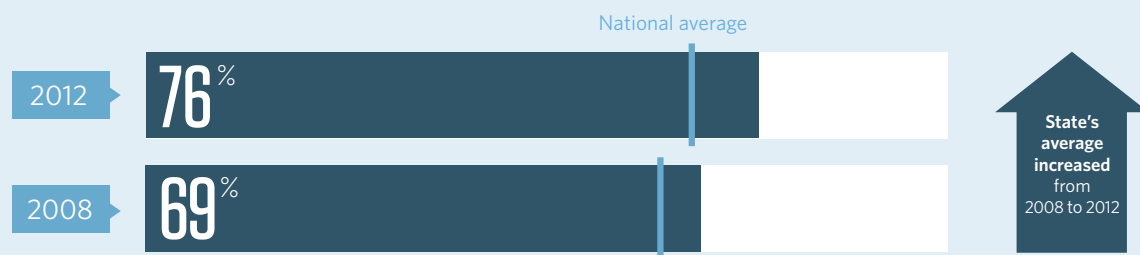


Maryland

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Maryland 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
Data completeness	88.9%	100%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	17.4%	25.8%
Online registration available	No	Yes
Registrations rejected	Incomplete data	0.3%
Voting information lookup tools	2 of 2	5 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

In 2012, Maryland's overall EPI average increased 7 percentage points, almost 3 points more than the average increase, moving the state into the top 10 nationwide.

Maryland added online registration just before the 2012 presidential election and was one of only seven states to make all possible voting information lookup tools available on its website in both 2008 and 2012.

The state also had a very low rate of rejected voter registration applications and substantially improved its data completeness, reporting 100 percent complete data to the Federal Election Assistance Commission.

The state had an 8-percentage-point jump in its rate of military and overseas ballots unreturned in 2012. In 2008,

Maryland was one of the top 10 performers on this indicator, but this above-average increase dropped it out of the top performers in 2012. The state also saw a small increase in the rate of mail ballots unreturned.

Room for improvement

Maryland's already high average wait time to vote got worse, rising from 24.5 minutes in 2008 to 29.2 minutes in 2012, the third-longest wait in the country. The [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#) stated that "long wait times at select polling places result from a combination of mismanagement, limited or misallocated resources, and long ballots" and that "jurisdictions can solve the problem of long lines through a combination of planning ... and the efficient allocation of resources."¹

Further research is needed to determine why voters are waiting so long. State officials could use that information to reduce wait times at the polls.

Endnote

- 1 Presidential Commission on Election Administration, *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration* (January 2014), i, 1, <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf>.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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