## Missouri

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Missouri 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*		
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	National average	
2012 72%		State's average decreased
2008 73%		from 2008 to 2012
Key indicators	2008	2012
Key indicators Military and overseas ballots unreturned	<b>2008</b> 19.1%	<b>2012</b> 21.7%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	19.1%	21.7%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned Registration or absentee ballot problems	19.1% 9.9%	21.7% 7.6%

 $^{\ast}\mbox{The overall EPI}$  average is a simple average of all 17 indicators.

## **Beyond the numbers**

Missouri performed in the top third of all states in 2008 and 2012, but it was one of just 10 in which the overall EPI average declined between the presidential election years.

The state improved on some indicators, including a roughly 50 percent decrease in the average wait time to vote, from nearly 26 minutes to just under 13 minutes. This was the third-largest decrease nationwide. But Missouri also had a 6.6-percentage-point decrease in voter turnout, one of the largest declines in the country.

## **Room for improvement**

Missouri already moved to improve its voter registration system by adding online voter registration in early 2014. Not only will this raise the state's score for the online registration indicator in the future, but it could improve other metrics as well, including the voter registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast. Adding online voter registration is also recommended by the <u>Presidential Commission on Election Administration</u>.

## For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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