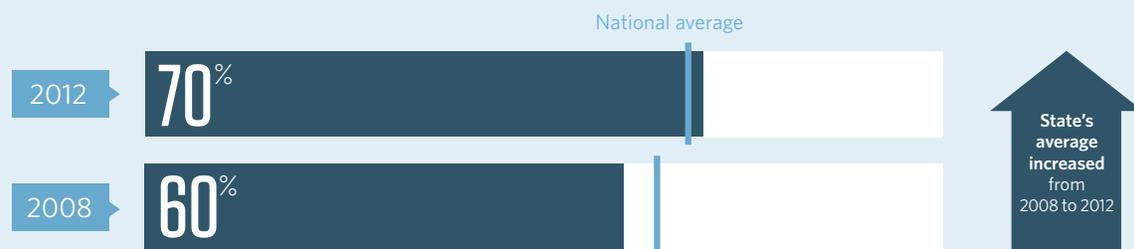# Ohio

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Ohio 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 **70**%

2008 **60**%

State's average increased from 2008 to 2012

Key indicators	2008	2012
Mail ballots rejected out of all ballots cast	0.5%	0.2%
Postelection audit required	No	Yes
Registrations rejected	Incomplete data	7.0%
Residual vote rate	1.3%	0.9%
Voting wait time	15.6 minutes	11.0 minutes

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

Beyond the numbers

Ohio was one of a dozen states that increased their overall EPI averages by 9 percentage points or more in 2012. The state mailed an absentee ballot application to every registered voter for the first time, yet the number of rejected absentee ballots decreased. Ohio also added a postelection audit between 2008 and 2012.

Additionally, the state had a decline in its residual vote rate—the discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and the number of votes counted for an office—from 1.3 percent in 2008 to 0.9 percent in 2012.

Room for improvement

Ohio allows registered voters to update their information online, but it does not yet permit new applications to be submitted online. If the state expanded its online system to support both types of transactions, it would improve its performance not only on the online registration indicator but possibly on others as well, including the voter registration rate and provisional ballots cast. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration recommended providing online voter registration, and the Ohio secretary of state has advocated for the state to adopt online registration.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi