

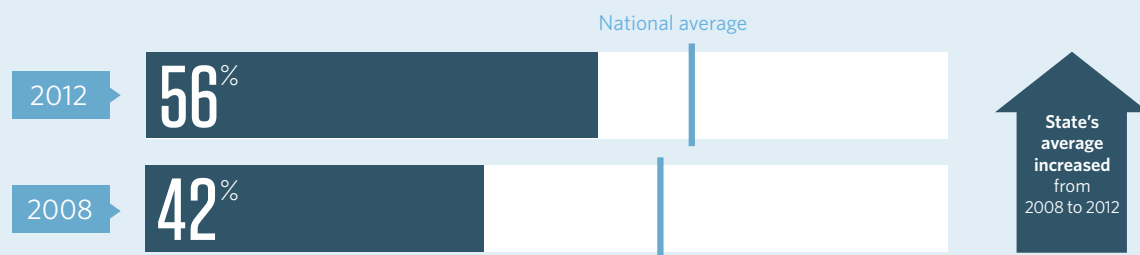


# Alabama

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Alabama 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](http://www.pewstates.org/epi).

### Overall EPI Average\*



Key indicators	2008	2012
Data completeness	48.6%	58.2%
Online registration available	Not available	Not available
Turnout	61.0%	58.9%
Voting information lookup tools	0 of 2	4 of 5
Voting wait time	14.3 minutes	11.3 minutes

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

## Beyond the numbers

Alabama was one of the lowest-performing states in 2008, 2010, and 2012 despite having the nation's second-largest increase in EPI average between the presidential election years.

The state did improve in a couple of areas. Its available voting information lookup tools increased from zero out of a possible two in 2008 to four out of five in 2012, when it lacked only a sample ballot tool. Alabama voters also spent less time waiting in line to vote in 2012 than in 2008.

## Room for improvement

Despite a small increase, Alabama had the lowest data completeness rate in the country in 2012, when it

provided incomplete data on unreturned and rejected mail and military and overseas ballots. The state should work with local election officials to establish or improve collection and reporting of the key performance data measured in this index.

Adding online voter registration would also enhance Alabama's performance. In addition to improving the online registration indicator, it could boost others as well, such as the voter registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

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

These three enhancements—improving data collection, adding online voter registration, and requiring postelection audits—are also recommended by the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

In addition, Alabama should pay significant attention to the issue of nonvoting due to disability and illness. The state had one of the highest rates in the country in that category in both 2008 and 2012. While other states, on average, saw a small decline, Alabama's rate increased from 22.6 percent in 2008, the fourth-highest rate in the nation, to 23.1 percent in 2012, the second-highest. This area warrants more attention, both to investigate causes and to explore administrative solutions.

---

## **For further information, please visit:**

[pewstates.org/epi](http://pewstates.org/epi)

---

**Contact:** Stephanie Bosh, officer, communications

**Email:** [sbosh@pewtrusts.org](mailto:sbosh@pewtrusts.org)

**Project website:** [pewstates.org/elections](http://pewstates.org/elections)

---

**The Pew Charitable Trusts** is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.