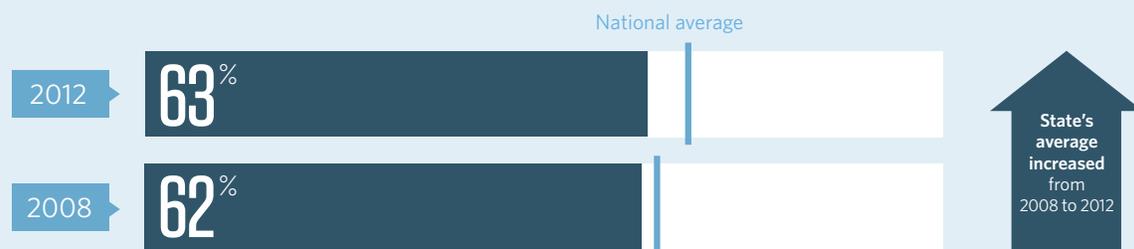# Kentucky

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Kentucky 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 **63**%

2008 **62**%

State's average increased from 2008 to 2012

Key indicators	2008	2012
Data completeness	72.2%	100%
Disability- or illness-related voting problems	22.4%	17.7%
Registrations rejected	Incomplete data	20.9%
Residual vote rate	1.9%	1.0%
Voting information lookup tools	2 of 2	3 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

Kentucky's overall EPI average increased, but by less than the national average. The average wait time to vote decreased by four minutes, from 12 minutes in 2008 to eight minutes in 2012.

The state's data completeness improved by nearly 30 percentage points to 100 percent, making Kentucky one of 18 states (plus the District of Columbia) with a perfect score for this indicator. Further, the state had the nation's largest decrease in the rate of nonvoting due to disability- or illness-related reasons, which dropped almost 5 percentage points.

Kentucky continued to issue provisional ballots at one of the country's lowest rates, 0.02 percent. In 2012, only 287 provisional ballots were issued in the state and 237 were rejected. In 2008, 855 were issued and 678 were rejected.

Room for improvement

Kentucky experienced the highest registration-rejection rate of any state in 2012, at 20.9 percent of all applications. Registrations can be rejected for many valid reasons, such as lack of a signature or missing information, but high rates or large increases can indicate systemic problems. More research is needed to identify the causes and possible solutions.

Kentucky could quickly improve its overall election performance by implementing two policies that are recommended by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration:

- Adding online voter registration would improve not only the online registration indicator but possibly others, including the voter registration rate, registrations rejected, and nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems.
- Requiring a postelection audit of voting equipment would help ensure that vote totals match the votes cast and that any problems related to machinery are discovered and reported.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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