

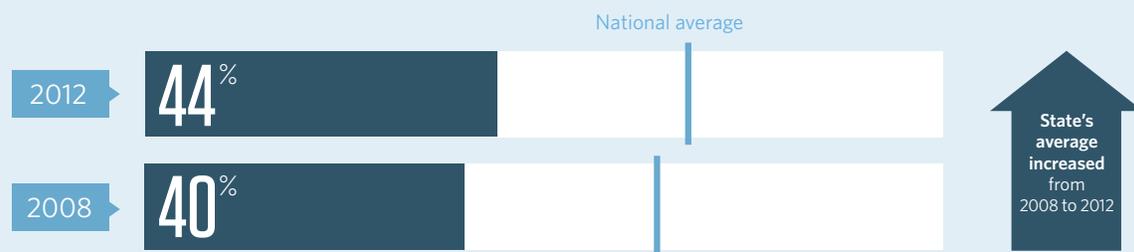


Mississippi

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Mississippi 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	73.5%	72.1%
Disability- or illness-related voting problems	18.5%	20.7%
Registration or absentee ballot problems	8.3%	6.5%
Voter registration rate	86.8%	90.2%
Voting information lookup tools	0 of 2	1 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

Mississippi had the lowest EPI average in all three years measured by the index: 2008, 2010, and 2012. While the state did better on a few indicators—such as the voter registration rate, which rose 3.4 percent—on eight of the 17 indicators not enough data were provided to determine whether the state's performance had changed.

Room for improvement

Mississippi could take many steps to improve its overall performance, including implementing three policies recommended by the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#):

- Adding online voter registration could have a positive impact on many areas, including voter registration rate,

wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast. Legislation to allow the state to implement an online voter registration system was introduced in early 2014.

- In 2012, the state had the second-lowest data completeness rate, 72.1 percent, and was one of only 10 states in which the rate decreased compared with 2008. The lack of data prevented calculation of Mississippi's performance in most areas in the index. The state can work with its local election officials to establish or improve procedures for collecting and reporting key performance data.
- Mississippi could also require a postelection audit of voting equipment to ensure that vote totals match the votes cast and that any problems related to machinery are discovered and reported.

In addition, the state had only one of five online voting information lookup tools on its state election website in 2012. Mississippi could serve its voters better by offering the full complement of online tools. Improving the availability of voting information could also lead to gains on other metrics, including provisional ballots cast, nonvoting due to absentee ballot or registration problems, and mail ballots rejected.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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