

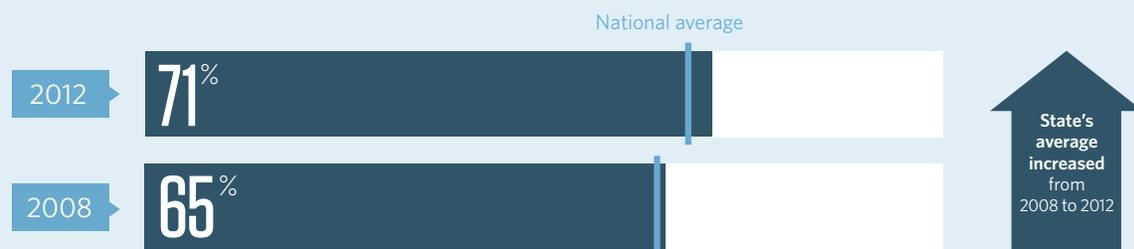


Virginia

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Virginia 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
Military and overseas ballots rejected	7.8%	1.7%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	29.9%	16.9%
Registration or absentee ballot problems	10.1%	7.7%
Turnout	67.6%	66.9%
Voting information lookup tools	2 of 2	5 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

Virginia's overall EPI average increased from 2008 to 2012, driving the state into the top 20. Improvement on indicators related to military and overseas voters contributed to the state's strong gains.

Between 2008 and 2012, Virginia's rates of military and overseas ballots rejected and unreturned fell sharply; the state had the fourth-largest declines in both categories. Although most states improved on these indicators, Virginia did far better than average. It enacted the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act in 2011 to simplify and upgrade the process for military and overseas voters.

Virginia was also one of only seven states offering all possible online voting information lookup tools in both 2008 and 2012.

Although Virginia reduced voter wait times from 28.7 minutes in 2008 to 23.6 minutes in 2012, it still had one of the longest average waits in both years.

Room for improvement

Virginia could reduce the amount of time voters wait at the polls. Although there is no simple solution to long lines, the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#)'s report provides links to tools that help election administrators understand why lines form and anticipate when they may occur.¹

Virginia also had the seventh-highest increase in nonvoting due to disability or illness between 2008 and 2012, which led to the 10th-highest overall rate in 2012. This warrants more research to determine the causes and identify possible solutions.

The state added online voter registration in 2013, a change that will help Virginia improve not only on the online registration indicator, but potentially on other indicators such as registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

Endnote

- 1 Presidential Commission on Election Administration, *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration*, January 2014, i, 1, <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf>.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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