

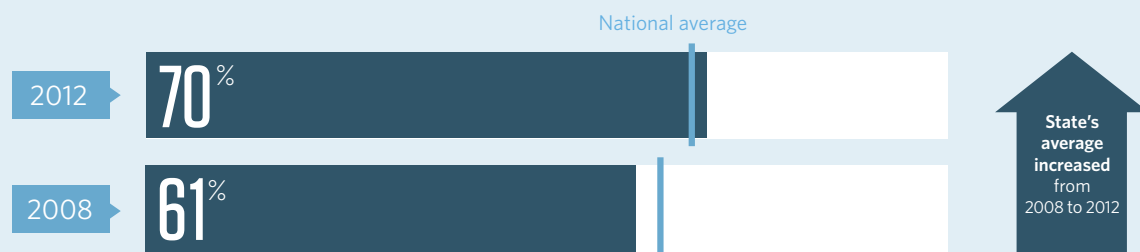


# New Hampshire

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for New Hampshire 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	68.8%	100%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	18%	12.7%
Registrations rejected	Incomplete data	0.002%
Voting information lookup tools <sup>†</sup>	0 of 2	3 of 4
Voting wait time	7.5 minutes	10.7 minutes

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

<sup>†</sup> New Hampshire does not have a provisional ballot lookup tool because the state is exempt from the provisional ballot requirement of the National Voter Registration Act.

## Beyond the numbers

New Hampshire was one of a dozen states with overall EPI averages that increased by 9 percentage points or more in 2012. This increase is due in part to a jump from approximately 69 percent data completeness in 2008, among the worst that year, to 100 percent in 2012. Collecting and reporting thorough, accurate data is a practice recommended by the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

The state has allowed Election Day registration for nearly two decades. In 2012, 99,319 voters—14 percent of all voters—registered at the polls on Election Day statewide, an increase from the 76,755 voters (11 percent) who registered on Election Day in 2008. Like nearly all the other states with Election Day registration, New Hampshire had one of the lowest rates of nonvoting due to registration or absentee ballot problems.

It also had one of the highest turnout rates in 2008 and 2012 and the lowest rate of registrations rejected of any state in 2012.

New Hampshire had three of four possible online voting information lookup tools in 2012, compared with zero of a possible two in 2008.

## Room for improvement

New Hampshire's performance declined slightly in the area of average wait time to vote, which rose from 7.5 minutes in 2008 to almost 11 minutes in 2012, the fifth-largest increase nationwide. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration stated that "long wait times at select polling places result from a combination of mismanagement, limited or misallocated resources, and long ballots" and that "jurisdictions can solve the problem of long lines through a combination of planning ... and the efficient allocation of resources."<sup>1</sup> Although New Hampshire's average wait time was still below the national average, more research should be done to help municipalities anticipate and reduce lines at the polls.

The state could further improve its overall performance by adding online voter registration. This step would not only raise the state's score for the online registration indicator, but it could have a positive impact on other metrics as well, including wait times.

The state can 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.

Adding online voter registration and requiring postelection audits are also among the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

## 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>.

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## For further information, please visit:

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

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

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

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

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