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# Pew's Elections Performance Index

Helping States Strengthen  
Our Democracy

The Pew Center on the States supports policies, practices and technologies that help achieve the highest standards of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, efficiency and security of elections in the U.S. Pew's Elections Performance Index Initiative will provide election officials, policy makers and citizens the data and tools they need to assess how well the nation's democracy is working and identify specific improvements that can be made in the way elections are conducted.

Elections are a core mechanism of democracy. States have a responsibility to ensure that all eligible U.S. citizens can register to vote, all registered voters can cast a ballot and all ballots are counted fairly.

The elections system in the U.S. has seen some significant changes in the past decade. Still, voters, policy makers and election administrators lack an objective source of comprehensive, comparative data showing the impact of these changes and the gaps that still must be addressed.

Pew has been working in collaboration with leading election officials, policy makers and academics to identify a set of essential measures of the health of states' and localities' election systems. Using the best available data, the Pew Elections Performance Index will look over time and across states to provide an empirical assessment of how well our nation is conducting elections based on such criteria as: the accuracy of voter registration rolls; the integrity of military and absentee voting processes; and the design and security of voting technology and ballots.

For more information, visit [www.pewcenteronthestates.org/elections](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/elections)

Bringing these measurements together will provide a simple shortcut for policy makers and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about where state and local election administration lags, where it is improving and how policy changes can affect the conduct of elections.

In this time of fiscal strains, the evaluative data Pew will provide will help governments to make smart investments in machines, laws and approaches that promote efficiency and accuracy.

Pew also will be developing new, openly distributed tools to help states and localities collect and standardize their data in a way that demands less effort but yields more useful information and analysis.

The Pew Elections Performance Index will provide an empirical assessment of how well the nation's democracy is working.

## Contact Us

We welcome your advice and participation in our efforts to improve the performance of our elections system for all Americans. For more information on Pew's Election Initiatives, please visit [www.pewcenteronthestates.org/elections](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/elections) or contact:

*Doug Chapin, Director, Election Initiatives*  
Pew Center on the States  
901 E St. NW 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
202-552-2113 | [DChapin@pewtrusts.org](mailto:DChapin@pewtrusts.org)