

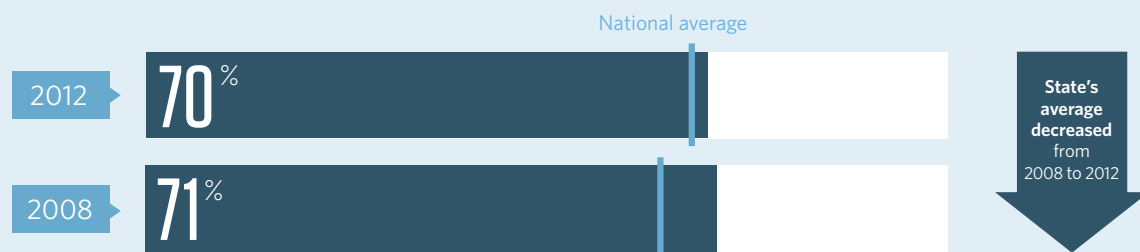


Alaska

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Alaska 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
Mail ballots unreturned	16.5%	15.5%
Military and overseas ballots rejected	4.3%	8.2%
Disability- or illness-related voting problems	15.2%	12%
Registrations rejected	6.8%	9.7%
Voting information lookup tools	0 of 2	3 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

Alaska's EPI average held fairly steady between the 2008 and 2012 elections, while the national average increased 4.4 percentage points.

After offering zero of two possible online voting information lookup tools in 2008, Alaska provided three of a possible five in 2012.

Additionally, the rate of nonvoting due to disability or illness dropped by more than 3 percentage points, a larger-than-average decrease.

The average wait time to vote was second-lowest in the country at 3.7 minutes in 2012, a drop from the already-low 5.7 minutes.

On the other hand, the state experienced the nation's largest drop in turnout between presidential elections: a decrease of more than nine percentage points, from 68.3 percent to 59.2 percent.

The rate of military and overseas ballots that were rejected also increased, from 4.3 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2012.

Room for improvement

Alaska remained among the states with the highest rates of provisional ballots cast out of total ballots cast. It issues provisional ballots for a variety of reasons, such as when a voter's name does not appear on the precinct register or when his or her address has changed. Upgrading voter registration lists by participating in data-sharing agreements, such as the Electronic Registration Information Center, can help address these issues by making available more accurate information on voters who move or die and reduce the rate of provisional ballot use.

Alaska also had the nation's third-largest increase in the rate of registrations rejected between 2008 and 2012. Registrations can be rejected for many legitimate reasons, such as lack of a signature or missing information, but high rejection rates in any single year or large increases over time suggest that more research is needed to understand the causes.

Adding online voter registration could raise Alaska's election performance. This would improve not only the online registration indicator but possibly other indicators as well, including the voter registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

Adding online voter registration and participating in data-sharing agreements such as the Electronic Registration Information Center are recommendations of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

Endnotes

- 1 Gary Bland and Barry C. Burden, *Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Stage 1 Evaluation Report to the Pew Charitable Trusts*, RTI International, http://www.rti.org/pubs/eric_stage1report_pewfinal_12-3-13.pdf.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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