

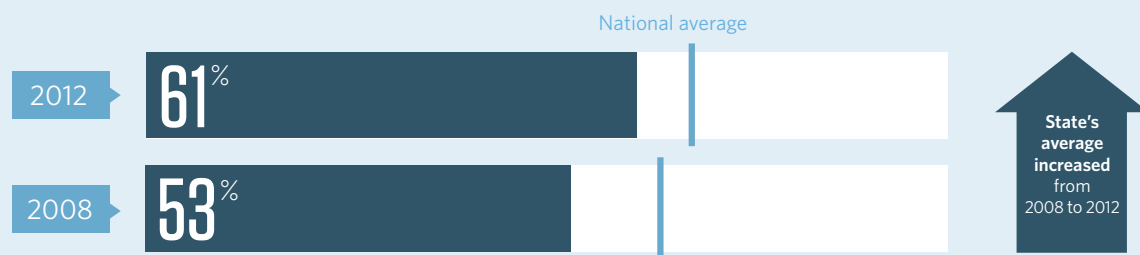


Arkansas

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Arkansas 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	70.7%	96.9%
Registration or absentee ballot problems	3.8%	5.1%
Turnout	52.9%	51%
Voter registration rate	74.2%	75.9%
Voting wait time	21.5 minutes	12.9 minutes

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

Beyond the numbers

Arkansas' overall EPI average increased by more than 7 percentage points between 2008 and 2012, but the state remained a low performer.

Data completeness improved considerably, rising by more than 26 percentage points between 2008 and 2012, the seventh-largest increase.

Another notable upgrade was the drop in average wait time to vote. The state reduced its average wait from more than 21 minutes in 2008 to nearly 13 minutes in 2012, the sixth-largest drop.

In both years, however, the state had one of the nation's lowest turnout rates.

Room for improvement

Arkansas' rate of nonvoting due to registration or absentee ballot problems increased from 3.8 percent, one of the 10 best in the nation, to 5.1 percent between 2008 and 2012. This increase was the fourth-largest and warrants research into why it occurred and how the problem could be addressed administratively.

The state did not provide sufficient data on military and overseas ballots in 2008, but in 2012 it had one of the highest rates (at 10 percent) of rejecting these ballots. Although they can be rejected for many reasons, high rejection rates may indicate a need for more research to identify the cause.

One immediate step that Arkansas could take would be to add online voter registration. This positive move would improve not only the state's performance on the online registration indicator, but possibly others as well, particularly voter registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

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. The [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#) also recommends adding online voter registration and postelection audits.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

Contact: Stephanie Bosh, officer, communications

Email: sbosh@pewtrusts.org

Project website: pewstates.org/elections

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