

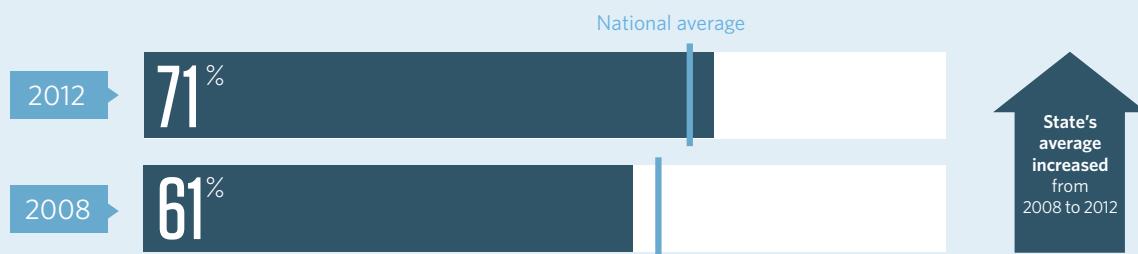


# Illinois

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Illinois 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	63.9%	82.2%
Disability- or illness-related voting problems	18.6%	15.6%
Provisional ballots rejected out of all ballots cast	Incomplete data	0.6%
Voting information lookup tools	0 of 2	3 of 5
Voting wait time	9.3 minutes	11.7 minutes

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

## Beyond the numbers

Illinois increased its overall EPI average by nearly 10 percentage points, more than twice the national average increase and the ninth-largest jump in the country.

The state had zero out of a possible two online voting information lookup tools in 2008, but by 2012 it had added three of a possible five.

Additionally, the rate of nonvoting due to disability- or illness-related reasons had the sixth-largest drop from 2008 to 2012.

## **Room for improvement**

Despite its strong gains, Illinois still has room for improvement in conducting elections. The state had the 10th-highest rate of provisional ballots rejected out of total ballots cast in 2012 even though it did not issue a large number of these ballots. Provisional ballots can be rejected for many reasons, but an unusually high rate may indicate a larger administrative problem. More research is needed to help understand why these rejections were occurring at higher rates and what solutions are available.

Illinois' data completeness rate was the fourth-lowest in the country, at 63.9 percent in 2008. By 2012, it had improved by 18 percentage points, a larger-than-average increase, but at 82.2 percent, it was still the fifth-lowest. The state can work with local election officials to establish or improve collection and reporting of key performance data.

In 2013, the state passed legislation allowing online voter registration with a rollout deadline of July 2014. This will improve Illinois' performance on the online registration indicator and could also have a positive impact on other indicators, including registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

Upgrading voter registration lists by participating in data-sharing agreements, such as the Electronic Registration Information Center, can also help address these issues, allowing states to get more up-to-date information on voters who move and reduce the rate of provisional ballot use.<sup>1</sup>

Improving data collection, adding online voter registration, and participating in data-sharing agreements are also recommendations of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

## **Endnote**

- 1 Gary Bland and Barry C. Burden, *Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC): Stage 1 Evaluation Report to The Pew Charitable Trusts* (Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International), [http://www.rti.org/pubs/eric\\_stage1report\\_pewfinal\\_12-3-13.pdf](http://www.rti.org/pubs/eric_stage1report_pewfinal_12-3-13.pdf).

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**For further information, please visit:**  
[pewstates.org/epi](http://pewstates.org/epi)

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