

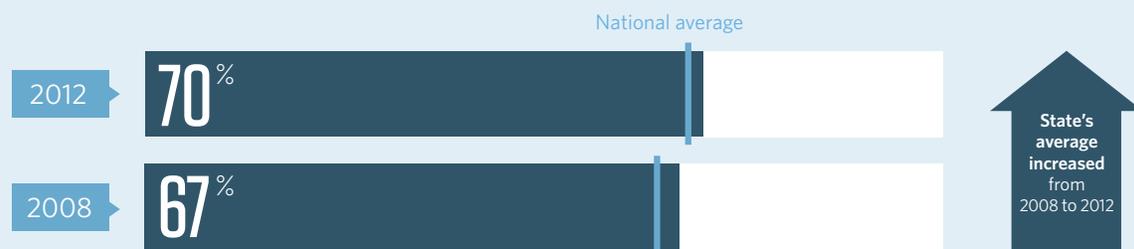


Maine

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Maine 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	93.1%	99.99%
Provisional ballots cast out of all ballots	Incomplete data	0.04%
Provisional ballots rejected out of all ballots cast	Incomplete data	0%
Registration or absentee ballot problems	1.4%	1.2%
Residual vote rate	1.8%	1.6%

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

Beyond the numbers

Maine's overall EPI average increased about 3 percentage points from 2008 to 2012, which was less than the national average increase of 4.4 points.

Although Maine has had Election Day registration since the 1970s and is not required by federal law to use provisional ballots, it issued a very small number of them in 2012. In 2008, the state did not provide sufficient data to determine provisional ballot usage and rejection rates. In 2012, however, only 0.04 percent of ballots issued statewide were provisional and none of those were rejected.

Like many of the other states with Election Day registration, Maine had strong turnout in both presidential years: fourth-highest in the nation in 2008 and sixth-highest in 2012.

The state also improved its already low rate of nonvoting due to registration or absentee ballot problems. In 2012, Maine had the lowest rate in the country.

Maine did not perform as well in a few areas in which most states saw marginal improvement. The state had moderate increases in its mail ballot and military and overseas ballot rejection rates, which both declined slightly nationwide. Similarly, Maine's rate of nonvoting due to disability or illness increased by 1.5 percentage points, while this rate dropped nationwide by about half a point, on average.

Room for improvement

In 2012, Maine had the sixth-highest residual vote rate—the discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and the number of votes counted for an office. The residual vote rate is a good indication of voting technology accuracy, so Maine could benefit from further research to determine whether the state's high rate is an anomaly, a problem with one county or municipality, or a more systemic product of poorly functioning or outdated technology.

Maine can support this effort and improve its overall election performance by requiring 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.

Maine could further improve its overall performance by adding online voter registration. Not only would this raise the state's score for the online registration indicator, but it also could have a positive impact on other metrics, including the voter registration rate, wait time, and nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems.

Adding online voter registration and requiring postelection audits are both recommendations of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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