

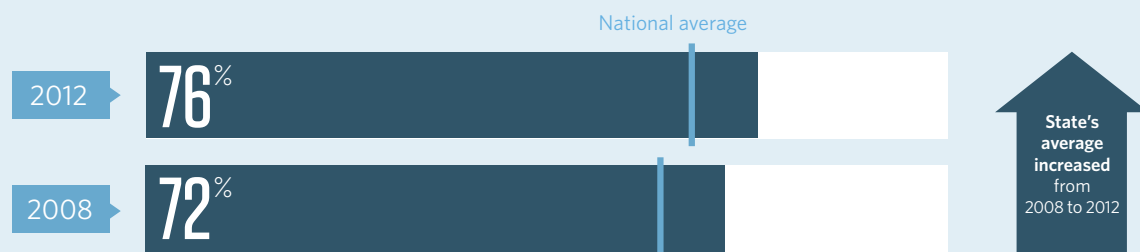


Michigan

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Michigan 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	96.3%	100%
Postelection audit required	No	Yes
Registration and absentee ballot problems	4.7%	3.2%
Residual vote rate	0.7%	1.0%
Voting wait time	20.4 minutes	21.9 minutes

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

Beyond the numbers

Michigan was one of seven states with an overall EPI average in the top 25 percent in 2008, 2010, and 2012. Its score improved between presidential elections due to the addition of a postelection audit requirement, an improvement in data completeness to 100 percent, and a reduction in the rate of nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems.

In 2008 and 2012, the state's rate of voter registrations rejected was below 0.3 percent, and its rates of provisional ballots cast and rejected were among the lowest in the nation. Statewide, provisional ballots were issued at a rate of just 0.08 percent in 2008, which fell to 0.06 percent in 2012.

Room for improvement

From 2008 to 2012, Michigan had the fifth-largest increase in the 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, and further research is needed to determine whether this change is an anomaly, a problem with one county or municipality, or a more systemic product of poorly functioning or outdated technology.

Additionally, the state’s average wait time to vote was the sixth-highest in the nation in 2012 at nearly 22 minutes. The [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#) states that “long wait times at select polling places result from a combination of mismanagement, limited or misallocated resources, and long ballots” and that “jurisdictions can solve the problem of long lines through a combination of planning ... and the efficient allocation of resources.”¹

The state could further improve its overall performance by adding online voter registration as recommended by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. 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 voter registration rate and wait times to vote.

Endnote

- 1 Presidential Commission on Election Administration, *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration* (January 2014), i, 1, <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf>.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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