

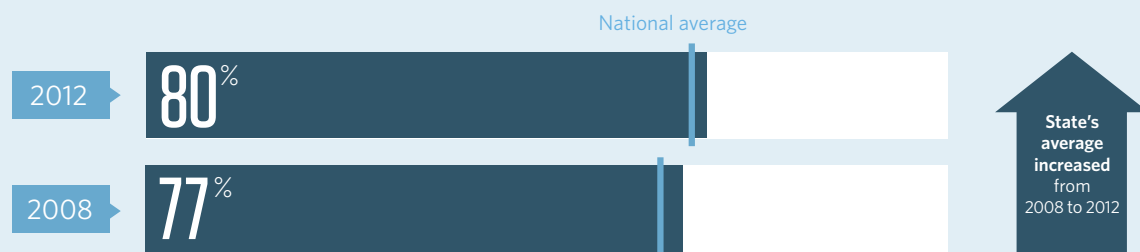


# Minnesota

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Minnesota 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	96.8%	100%
Mail ballots unreturned	Incomplete data	4.3%
Registration or absentee ballot problems	1.2%	1.2%
Turnout	78.1%	76.1%
Voting information lookup tools	1 of 2	4 of 4 <sup>†</sup>

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

<sup>†</sup> Minnesota does not have a provisional ballot lookup tool because the state is exempt from the provisional ballot requirement of the National Voter Registration Act.

## Beyond the numbers

In 2012, Minnesota was second to North Dakota in overall EPI average and was one of seven states with an overall EPI average in the top 25 percent in 2008, 2010, and 2012.

The state excelled on several key indicators and improved on a number of others:

- Minnesota had the nation's highest voter turnout rate in 2008 and 2012.
- The state's rate of nonvoting due to registration or absentee ballot problems was the second-lowest in the nation in both years. Minnesota has had Election Day registration since 1974, and according to the secretary

of state's office, more than half a million people typically use Election Day registration during a presidential election, and 61 percent of registered voters have used it at least once.

- In 2012, Minnesota had all four possible online voting lookup tools, compared with only 1 of 2 in 2008.
- The state raised its data completeness to 100 percent in 2012 and also improved on mail ballots rejected and military and overseas ballots unreturned.
- Minnesota's rate of mail ballots unreturned was 4.3 percent, one of the lowest in the country. Voters in the state are required to give a valid excuse, such as illness or travel, to cast a mail ballot.

## Room for improvement

Minnesota took a step toward improving its voter registration system following the 2012 election by implementing online registration, a change that is consistent with the recommendations of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#).

Minnesota had an increase in the proportion of military and overseas ballots rejected from 2008 to 2012, with 7.6 percent of these ballots rejected in 2012. Military and overseas ballots can be rejected for a number of reasons, and more research needs to be done in the state to better understand why these ballots were rejected.

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## For further information, please visit:

[pewstates.org/epi](http://pewstates.org/epi)

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**Contact:** Stephanie Bosh, officer, communications

**Email:** [sbosh@pewtrusts.org](mailto:sbosh@pewtrusts.org)

**Project website:** [pewstates.org/elections](http://pewstates.org/elections)

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