

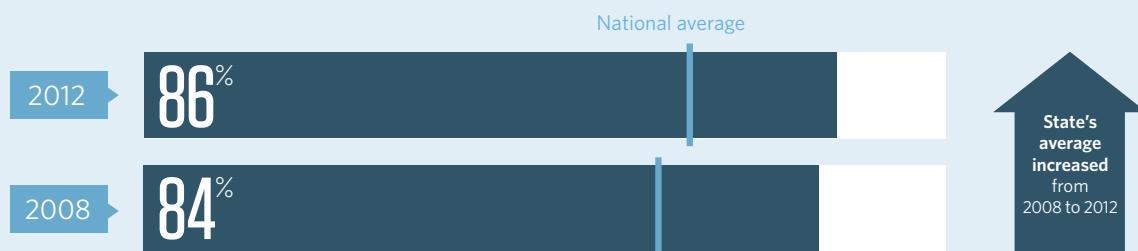


# North Dakota

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for North Dakota 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
Mail ballots unreturned	6.4%	5.5%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	23.4%	18.3%
Residual vote rate	1.6%	0.9%
Voting information lookup tools <sup>†</sup>	1 of 1	3 of 3
Voting wait time	5.3 minutes	7.5 minutes

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

<sup>†</sup> North Dakota does not have a provisional ballot lookup tool because the state is exempt from the provisional ballot requirement of the National Voter Registration Act. It also does not have a registration status lookup tool because it has no voter registration.

## Beyond the numbers

North Dakota was the top-performing state in 2008, 2010, and 2012. As the only state that does not require voter registration, it issues no provisional ballots and has no registration applications to process. The state also has one of the lowest rates of nonvoting due to problems with registration or absentee ballots.

On nine of the 12 indicators on which North Dakota is measured, the state performed well above the national average in 2012.

On two of the other indicators—residual vote rate and turnout—it performed slightly better than the national average. North Dakota considerably improved its residual vote rate (the discrepancy between the number of

ballots cast and the number of votes counted for an office), posting one of the nation's largest decreases on this metric from 2008 to 2012. The state required a postelection audit in both years as well.

North Dakota was one of six states to report 100 percent of the data tracked in the index to the Election Assistance Commission in both 2008 and 2012, and it was one of seven states to have all possible online voting information lookup tools available on its state elections website in both years.

## **Room for improvement**

Even the highest-performing state can do better. In 2012, the state experienced an increase in average wait time to vote, which, though still well below the national average, rose from more than five minutes in 2008 to 7.5 minutes in 2012. By working with local elections jurisdictions to build efficiencies and keep wait times short, North Dakota officials can help ensure that their state remains the national election performance leader.

---

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

---

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

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

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

---

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.