

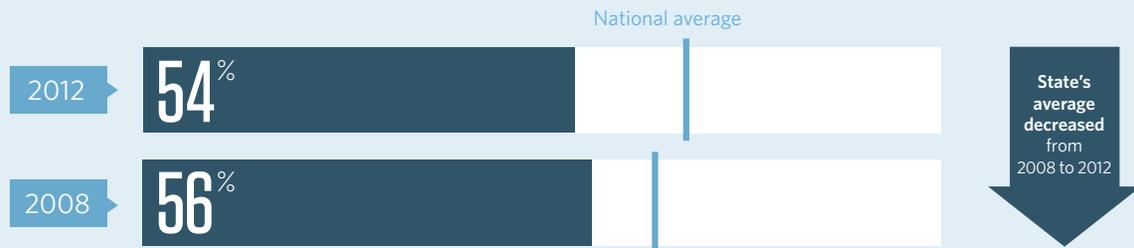


# Oklahoma

## Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Oklahoma 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	17%	15.6%
Military and overseas ballots unreturned	27.7%	31.1%
Turnout	56.3%	49.2%
Voting information lookup tools	1 of 2	1 of 5
Voting wait time	22.4 minutes	15.9 minutes

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

### Beyond the numbers

Oklahoma was among the lowest-performing 25 percent of states in 2008, 2010, and 2012 and was one of only 10 states whose overall EPI averages decreased across presidential election years. In 2012, it was the second-worst-performing state overall, behind Mississippi, and had one of the largest declines in overall average behind Hawaii, Georgia, and Vermont.

The state did decrease its average wait time to vote by six minutes, but that was one of just a few indicators on which it improved from 2008 to 2012.

Turnout declined nationwide in 2012, but Oklahoma saw a particularly steep drop. The state's turnout rate was the country's third-lowest.

The state also had the third-largest drop in voter registration rate, down more than 4 percentage points from 2008.

## Room for improvement

Oklahoma could 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 could also have a positive effect on several indicators, including the voter registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.

The state could also require 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.

The [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#) recommended adding online voter registration and postelection audits.

In 2012, Oklahoma provided just one of five possible online voter information lookup tools on its state elections website, making it one of only five states to provide one or none of these tools. Online lookup tools help voters access the information they need where they are most likely to look for it: online.

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## For further information, please visit:

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

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