Beyond the numbers

Utah improved its overall EPI average by more than 11 percentage points from 2008 to 2012, the fourth-largest increase in the nation. Dramatic improvement across four indicators drove the overall performance. Between 2008 and 2012, the state:

- Added online voter registration, which not only improved its performance on the online registration indicator, but may have positively affected other indicators, including registration rate, wait time, nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems, and provisional ballots cast.
- Went from offering one of two possible voting information lookup tools in 2008 to five of five in 2012.
- Dramatically reduced its residual vote rate—the discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and the
number of votes counted for an office, an effective measure of voting technology accuracy—by almost 60 percent, to 1.1 percent.

- Improved its rates of military and overseas ballots both rejected and unreturned. In early 2011, Utah became the first state to enact the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act, which simplified the process for military and overseas voters

**Room for improvement**

Despite the improvement, Utah still can do better on a number of indicators. The state allows permanent mail voting, and in 2012, it had the third-highest rate of mail ballots unreturned, higher than other permanent- and full-mail-voting states, such as Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

In addition, Utah provided less data in 2012 than in 2008 and remains in the bottom third of states in data completeness. The state can work with local election officials to establish or improve data collection and reporting procedures as recommended by the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](https://www.pewtrusts.org/dash/grants/121320).

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**For further information, please visit:**

pewstates.org/epi

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