Beyond the numbers

Wyoming’s overall EPI average increased 6 percentage points between 2008 and 2012, exceeding the average increase nationwide. This was due in part to the state’s addition of a postelection audit requirement before the 2012 election and to its low rates of both rejected and unreturned mail ballots. Wyoming also had the sixth-shortest average wait time to vote in 2012 at five minutes, a slight improvement over its already low six-minute wait in 2008.

Room for improvement

Between 2008 and 2012, Wyoming experienced an increase in its rate of military and overseas ballots unreturned. Ballots are not returned for various reasons, many of which are unrelated to the administration.
of the election system. The state’s rate and the increase across years are both unusually high, and additional investigation is needed to help determine why this change occurred.

One possible improvement would be to add online voter registration. This would not only boost Wyoming’s performance on the online registration indicator, but it could also improve other indicators, including registration rate, wait time, and nonvoting due to registration and absentee ballot problems. Adding online voter registration is also one of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

Another way Wyoming could improve its election performance is by making more voting information lookup tools available for its voters. The state had only one of five tools in 2012.

For further information, please visit:
pewstates.org/epi

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