

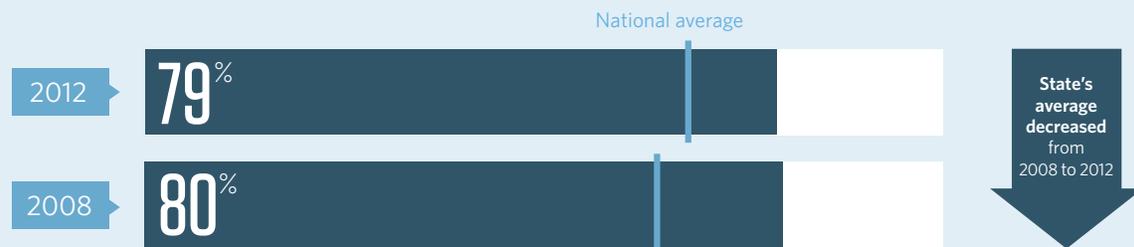


Wisconsin

Elections Performance Index

This profile reports important trends for Wisconsin 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.

Overall EPI Average*



Key indicators	2008	2012
Data completeness	88.2%	99.9%
Disability- or illness-related voting problems	17.3%	22.2%
Provisional ballots cast out of all ballots	0.007%	0.004%
Turnout	72.7%	72.5%
Voting information lookup tools	2 of 2	5 of 5

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

Beyond the numbers

Wisconsin was one of seven states with an overall EPI average in the top 25 percent of all states in 2008, 2010, and 2012. The state's consistently strong performance is due, in part, to some of the highest turnout and registration rates in both 2008 and 2012, and to offering all voting information lookup tools in both years.

In addition, Wisconsin allows Election Day registration and consequently issues and rejects a very small number of provisional ballots.

The state also dramatically improved its data reporting between 2008 and 2012. The state faced tremendous barriers to collecting data from its 1,852 election jurisdictions, yet its concerted effort to create an online Web form that municipalities can use to submit data has been lauded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and by the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration](#) in its 2014 report.¹

The state's approach had almost immediate results and allowed its Government Accountability Board, which runs its elections, to capture not only 99.9 percent of the data needed for this index, but also data on election costs in all 1,852 jurisdictions.

This data completeness also made it possible to assess Wisconsin's rate of registrations rejected, an indicator for which the state did not provide sufficient data in 2008. The state's 2012 rate was far below the national average, further improving Wisconsin's overall score.

Room for improvement

Despite its status as a high performer, Wisconsin could do even better. The state rate of nonvoting due to disability- or illness-related reasons jumped in 2012. This warrants more research into the causes and possible solutions.

Additionally, the state had a slight increase in the number of unreturned military and overseas ballots, and it had one of the highest rates in 2012. More research is needed to better understand the factors creating the increase and high rate.

Endnote

- 1 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Wisconsin's Data Collection Tool," Election Data Dispatches (Feb. 21, 2012), <http://www.pewstates.org/research/analysis/wisconsins-data-collection-tool-85899377119>; and Presidential Commission on Election Administration, *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration* (January 2014), 70, <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf>.

For further information, please visit:

pewstates.org/epi

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