

# Report Card on State Elections

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## Overview

This Report Card compares states on 16 aspects of their elections.

The goal is to encourage everyone to think about how to make our elections better, so we can all vote and trust the results.

1. The first topics cover **campaigns**: gerrymandering and political contributions.
2. The next topics cover **turnout**: total, youth, minorities. It reflects access and appealing candidates.
3. The next topics cover **access to voting**: early voting on weekends, making mail voting easy, with good methods to avoid fraud.
4. The last topics cover election integrity, which are official efforts to **check for errors and disclose** them.

These four areas have 16 detailed topics, and each is worth five points. State totals range from 16 to 59 and a third of states get each grade from A to C. You can choose other weights and see new scores by making changes in a [spreadsheet](https://votewell.net/card.xlsx) at [votewell.net/card.xlsx](https://votewell.net/card.xlsx)

While every state can do better, the best scores are in Colorado, Rhode Island, and Michigan. Two of them have nonpartisan redistricting commissions, two have public campaign finance for the governor's race, all three have paper ballots, and make mailed ballots easy to use. Staff hand-tally good samples of ballots, to check a few contests.

The worst scores are in Oklahoma, Indiana and New Hampshire. These states let machines tally results and do not check those tallies. Registration lists are not thoroughly maintained, voters cannot cure problems with mailed ballots and have limited access to weekend voting. Partisan legislatures draw voting boundaries. Turnout is low in Oklahoma and Indiana. Still, these states look good on some items. Oklahoma and New Hampshire have largely hand-marked paper ballots. Oklahoma limits political contributions to an average of \$675 per candidate per year. Minority turnout in Indiana is 90% of white turnout, a testament to their desire to vote.

Where readers have concerns about these and other states, they will often see those issues in the scores for that state. For example Colorado designs audit samples to be big enough for only 2 contests per county and has low minority turnout. Rhode Island has partisan redistricting, does not require early voting to be open on weekends and only audits one contest. Michigan only audits one contest, and audits it too late to affect results. All three have low youth turnout.

### Alphabetical Index to State Grades - Big numbers are better.

Alabama 23 C	Connecticut 36 B	Louisiana 23 C	New Jersey 45 A	Tennessee 24 C
Alaska 35 B	Delaware 44 B	Maine 40 B	New Mexico 36 B	Texas 37 B
Arizona 47 A	Dist.of Columbia 46 A	Maryland 41 B	New York 40 B	Utah 46 A
Arkansas 28 C	Florida 50 A	Massachusetts 48 A	North Carolina 33 C	Vermont 41 B
California 50 A	Georgia 41 B	Michigan 55 A	North Dakota 19 C	Virginia 33 C
Colorado 59 A	Hawaii 54 A	Minnesota 42 B	Ohio 54 A	Washington 46 A
	Idaho 35 B	Mississippi 20 C	Oklahoma 16 C	West Virginia 44 A
	Illinois 49 A	Missouri 40 B	Oregon 44 A	Wisconsin 34 C
	Indiana 17 C	Montana 52 A	Pennsylvania 32 C	Wyoming 21 C
	Iowa 39 B	Nebraska 24 C	Rhode Island 55 A	
	Kansas 42 B	Nevada 44 B	South Carolina 27 C	
	Kentucky 36 B	New Hampshire 18 C	South Dakota 27 C	



**Action:** When you look at your state, do you want improvements? There are many ways to start. It will take people, time and thought. Find [groups](#) in your state working for better elections. Working in groups is one of our oldest and strongest approaches, [cited by de Tocqueville](#) as a reason why the US avoided the extremism of the French Revolution.

Talk with friends. Write [letters](#) to the editor. Tell your state [legislators](#). In some states, people can put [initiatives](#) on the ballot.

If you have time in the day, apply to [work](#) in the election office or at the polls, so you gain credibility and see the process from the inside. Election offices hire and train temporaries for each election. Or you can [observe](#) as a volunteer. If you have even more time, get a [paid or unpaid](#) government [internship](#) in any office to see how government works, or volunteer for a candidate, or run for office, from city council up: Campaigns publicize your concerns, and winning office lets you vote on budgets, policies and appointments. Filing [deadlines](#) are 4-12 months before the election, so start now. Many groups [train](#) candidates.

## Definitions of Columns in Chart

Detailed sources are at the end of the appendix table and include: US Elections Project, Census Bureau, Ballotpedia, National Conference of State Legislators, Vote at Home Institute, Election Assistance Commission, Verified Voting, Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press, National Council of Secretaries of State. All calculations are in a [spreadsheet](#).

Improvements require more than government action:

## Campaigns

**Avoiding Gerrymanders (2021):**

- 5 = Nonpartisan or bipartisan commissions draw congressional and state legislature district boundaries.
- 4 = Nonpartisan staff draw boundaries so districts are competitive and statewide results match votes
- 3 = Congressional boundaries are partisan, while local boundaries are nonpartisan.
- 2 = Partisan officials draw boundaries under nonpartisan rules.
- 0 = Partisan boundaries.



**Campaign Contribution Limits (2021):** States vary in how much they limit contributions to candidates for state office. Timing also varies, whether limits apply to each year, each election, or total for a 4-year cycle. For comparability the appendix table shows total contribution limit over 4 years, average for state senate and house or assembly candidates. This item does not reflect limits on contributions to federal candidates, which are the same in all states.

- 1-5 = Score is proportional to limits of \$2,000 to \$124 per year per candidate, or 4-year total of \$8,000 (score=1) to \$497 (score=5). Candidates who take public money in AZ, CT, ME have low limits, which are included in the average.
- 1 = Limit is \$2,000 or more per year per candidate per donor, or 4-year total \$8,000 or more.
- 0 = No limit on contributions to campaigns for state elections.

**Publicly Financed Campaigns (2020):** Rules and amounts vary widely

- 5 = Offered to candidates for legislature, Governor, and sometimes other offices
- 3 = Offered to candidates for Governor and sometimes other statewide offices, but not legislature
- 2 = Offered to candidates for supreme court justice (NM and WV), and Utility Commissioners (NM)
- 0 = None

## Turnout

**% Turnout (2020):** Shows what percent of eligible citizens came out to vote in the November 2020 election. The count of eligible citizens excludes felons to the extent of each state's rules. Score from zero to 5 is proportional to turnout from 55% in OK to 80% in MN. High turnout depends on good candidates, an easy voting system with few barriers, and public trust.

**18-24 Turnout (2020):** Turnout among people 18 to 24 as a percent of turnout for ages 25 or more. This reflects the candidates' appeal to youth, barriers facing young voters and their mistrust of the system.

5 = Youth turnout rate is about the same as older people's turnout rate in DC, MD and NJ. Then proportional down to

0 = Youth turnout rate is half of older people's turnout rate in OK.

**Minority Turnout (2020):** As a percent of turnout among non-Hispanic whites. It reflects candidates' appeal, barriers facing minority voters, and their mistrust of the system. Numbers for youth and ethnicity are from a November 2020 Census Bureau [survey](#) which asks citizens about age, ethnicity and whether they voted.

5 = Minority turnout rate is about the same as the white turnout rate in DE, MD, MS, RI and WV. Then proportional down to

0 = Minority turnout rate is half of white turnout rate in ND.

**Access to Voting** (includes [Georgia](#) changes [3/25/2021](#), and will update as other states change [centerforcommonground.org](#) )

**Access to Weekend Voting (2021):** (All states offer early voting on *weekdays*)

1-5 = States require 1-5 weekend days of early voting. Extra point if at least one Sunday is required, helping people who observe their Sabbath on Saturday.

0 = No weekend days required, though some places offer it.

**Access to Voting by Mail (VBM)** (see special topic below):

5 = State mails VBM application to all registered voters.

4 = State mails ballot to all registered voters.

3 = Voter can request ballot, and does not need a specific reason.

1 = State does not check signatures on VBM, removing a bit of security.

0 = Voter needs a specific reason to vote by mail.

**Days to Cure (2020):** When officials reject a mailed ballot, many states let voters cure the problem, by giving a signature or a clearer signature:

5 = Voters have a week or more after election day to cure.

2-4 = Cure deadline is 2-6 days after election day.

1 = Voters must cure by election day.

0 = No cure allowed, though [court](#) may consider this a lack of due process.

**VBM List Quality (2020):** Officials reliably update the list they use to mail ballots (vote by mail, VBM) with address changes and deaths, as measured by the National Vote at Home Institute.

**VBM Check: % Rejected (2018):**

5 = State checks signatures and accepts up to 99%.

3 = State accepts over 99%, more lax than expert signature reviews, who accept up to [90%](#) of true signatures.

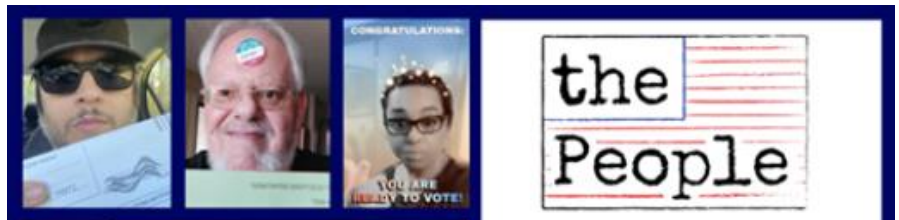
0 = Envelopes are accepted based on tracking numbers and postmark, without proof of identity.

## Checking Election Results

**Good Paper Trail? (2022):**

5 = All voters have hand-marked paper ballots, except up to 10% marked by computer for voters with disabilities or overseas.

4 = Computers mark more than 10% of ballots. (Voter enters choices in computer, which prints ballot, Computer is called a Ballot Marking Device, BMD. They [can be audited](#) but are not.)



0-3 = Lack paper trail for all or some voters, higher scores for states where more voters have paper trail.

### **Hand Tally Audits (2020):**

- 5 = Staff hand count a sample of ballots.
- 4 = Staff re-run a sample of ballots on different machines.
- 3 = State omits many ballots from the audit.
- 1 = Staff re-run ballots on the same machines as the election.
- 0 = No audit of computer results.

### **Good Audit Sample (2020):** ([Discussion](#) of statistical and other approaches)

- 5 = Statistical sample.
- 3 = Some precincts or machines, but not enough to be statistically reliable for small contests.
- 2 = Audit unusable, since available too late for candidates to get recount or correction.
- 1 = Big omissions or sample has only a handful of machines
- 0 = No audit

### **Audit All Contests? (2020)**

- 5 = Audit all contests on the sampled ballots.
- 1-3 = Audit one to six contests, with extra point if some are randomly chosen.
- 0 = No audit

### **Public Can Recount with Copies (2020):**

- 5 = Election offices keep images, at least in many counties, & can release, so the public can check any of the counts. People's names are never attached, just the anonymous ballots.
- 4 = Yes public can get copies of ballots; unknown if ballot images are kept.
- 3 = Legal rules are unclear.
- 2 = Legal rules unclear. Firm policy against release.
- 1 = States not allowed to release paper copies, and status of electronic copies is unknown.
- 0 = States have decided to release neither paper nor electronic copies.

## **Other State Report Cards on Election Issues:**

[2021-Apr](#) Center for Election Innovation & Research

[2008-2018](#) MIT Election Lab

[2021-Mar](#) Nonprofit Vote

[2018](#) Center for American Progress

[2020-Nov](#) Brookings

[2015](#) Center for Public Integrity

[2020-June](#) Sightline

[2008](#) Brennan, Common Cause, Verified Voting

[2020-May](#) Vote at Home Institute

## **Special Topics**

### **Special Topic on Eligibility of Felons**

Opinions and [rules](#) vary widely about letting people vote after conviction for crimes, and whether they must pay [fines](#) or restitution before voting again.

- In 7 states some or all convicted felons who are **incarcerated** can vote: AL ([except](#) listed [crimes](#)), AK ([except](#) listed [crimes](#)), CA (in [jails](#), not prisons), DC (all), ME (all), MS ([except](#) listed [crimes](#)), VT (all).
- In 20 states people can register to vote as soon as they leave prison: CA, CO, HI, IL, IN, MD, MA (except election offenses), MI, MT, NV, NJ, NH, ND, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT, VA ([granted individually](#) by governor).
- In 23 states people can register to vote after they **finish parole or probation**: AK (listed [crimes](#)), AZ (first offenders), AR, CT, DE (other than murder, bribery, sex), FL (except murder or sex), GA, ID, IA (except some homicide or sex), KS, LA (5 years maximum except election offenses or fraud), MN, MO, NM, NC, OK, SC, SD, TX, WA, WV, WI, WY (nonviolent first offenders).
- In 11 states people **cannot register after parole or probation**, or have a long delay, unless the court or governor makes an exception: AL (listed [crimes](#)), AZ (repeat offenders), DE (murder, bribery, sex), FL

(murder or sex), IA (some homicide or sex), KY, MA (election offenses), MS (listed [crimes](#)), NE (2-year delay), TN, WY (violent or repeat offenders).

- In 26 [states](#) **finances and/or restitution** must be paid in addition to other criteria above. ([Study](#) in 2019 by Georgetown Law said 30 states. CA, NJ, NC, VA have changed policies since then.)
  - In 21 states which restore votes after parole or probation (the 23 above except OK, [NC](#)), nonpayment can delay the end of parole or probation. Three of these states have special rules: CT (must pay [fines](#) after federal & out-of-state convictions), IA (payment plan is acceptable), WA (suspend vote if miss 3 [payments](#)/year after in-state conviction).
  - In 5 of the states which need approval by the governor or court, nonpayment prevents approval: AL, KY, MS (listed [crimes](#)), NE, TN (must also pay any child support).

### Special Topic on Partisan Election Managers

Elections are [managed](#) by town, county and state officials. Town and county officials are usually partisan. So are chief state election officials (usually Secretaries of State), No matter how non-partisan they try to be, it is easy for voters and candidates in another party to mistrust them. Besides these managers, at the end of the process there are sometimes separate canvassing boards, which are not yet covered here.

#### State election managers:

- 4 states have bipartisan boards supervising elections
  - HI: 8 members, half appointed by each party, choose [9<sup>th</sup> member](#) and hire state election director
  - IL: [8 members](#), half nominated by top elected official in each of top 2 parties
  - NY: [4 members](#), 2 from each major party, with 2 executive directors
  - WI: [6 members](#): 3 from each of biggest 2 parties, appointed 2 by legislative leaders, 1 by governor
- 5 states have boards where one party has a majority
  - MD: [5 members](#), 3 from majority party, 2 from minority party
  - NC: [5 members](#), up to 3 from one party
  - OK: [3 members](#), nominated by 2 biggest parties
  - SC: [5 members](#), at least 1 from each of top 2 parties
  - VA: [3 members](#), 2 from majority party, 1 from minority party
- 7 states have a partisan Secretary of State and a board: AK, GA, IN, KY, RI, WV.
- 26 states have a partisan elected Secretary of State or Lieutenant Governor: AL, AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, ID, IA, KS, LA, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OH, OR, SD, UT, VT, WA, WY.
- 8 states have an official appointed by the partisan Governor or legislature: DE, FL, ME, NH, NJ, PA, TN, TX.

#### Local election managers:

- 22 states have a single manager in each jurisdiction, usually elected on a partisan basis.
- 10 states have bipartisan boards; one party may have a majority.
- 18 states have 2 officials or an official and a board.

### Special Topic on Voter ID

Opinions vary widely and rules vary somewhat about requiring identification for voting. This topic is not in the report card scores, because there is no consensus on which approaches should score high or low.

[The first time](#) people register in a state, there are requirements in federal law:

- If they register in person, they must provide the *number* of their driver's license, or if they have none, the last 4 digits of their social security *number*, or if they have neither, the state assigns a unique number [[52USC§21083\(a\)\(5\)](#)]. The jurisdiction will check that name and number match in government databases, and might ask to see ID, but there is no federal requirement to show ID for in-person registrations, or voting.

- If they don't register in person, then the first time they vote, federal law requires them to show ID at the polling place, or enclose a copy with their first mailed ballot. The ID must be a photo ID or government document, utility bill or bank statement showing name and address [[52USC§21083\(b\)\(2\)](#)].

**Voting by Mail.** A few states require **ID** with the application or the ballot:

- AL and AR require voters to enclose a copy of an ID when they vote by mail.
- WI requires a copy of an ID when name or address changes.
- OK, MS, MO require a statement sworn before a notary (or other official), and the notary might need to see the ID.
- SD requires a notarized statement or copy of the ID.
- GA, KS, MN, OH require the *number* of the ID.

**Voting in Person**

- In **24 signature-cure states**, voters who come to polls without ID, can vote provisionally. Their signature will be checked later against the signature on file from their voter registration or other source. These voters don't need to take any further action if the signature matches:
  - **14 states do not require a photo ID**, though they do require an ID, so it can be a utility bill, bank statement, or sometimes a signed affidavit by themselves or by other voters: AK, CO, CT, DE, IA, KY, MO, MT, NH, OK, UT, VA, WA, WV.
  - **10 states require a photo ID**: AR, AL, FL, HI, ID, LA, RI, SC, SD, TX.
- In **9 strict states**, voters who come to polls without ID, can vote provisionally, and must take their ID to an election office within a few days.
  - **3 states do not require a photo ID**, though they do require an ID, so it can be a utility bill, bank statement, etc: AZ, ND, OH.
  - **6 states require a photo ID**: GA, IN, KS, MS, TN, WI.
- **18 Non-ID states** do not require voter ID at the polls.
  - **5 states check the signature** at the polling place matches the signature on file. If they don't match, voters can vote provisional ballots, which will get more signature-checking in the office: NV, NJ, NY, OR, PA. NY also checks voter's physical description.
  - **13 states check the name** is on the registration list. Some of these states check address too: CA, DC, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NE, NM, NC, VT, WY. Some of these states have extra rules. Staff check birthdate in MD, [MI](#), NM. They can choose to check birthdate in MN. Staff obtain signature in IL, MI, NE, NC, but don't check it. [MI](#) asks for picture ID; voters who have none or did not bring it can sign an affidavit and vote normally.

**Value of Voter IDs.** A 2015 Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) [study](#) found few instances of voter fraud which ID laws would prevent, and very limited data. On availability of IDs, they cited a study saying 15% of whites and 19% of blacks did not have IDs which would satisfy voter ID requirements, and that getting one cost \$14 to \$59. GAO estimated that adopting ID laws in Kansas and Tennessee reduced turnout among people under 24, recent registrants and African-Americans, not Hispanics or Asian-Americans

Lack of data is not surprising, given the intermittent, dispersed nature of voting, which is hard for law enforcement to monitor or develop expertise in. Brennan Center in 2017 [analyzed](#) a Heritage Foundation national database and found 488 instances of all kinds of election fraud from 2007-2017. Three quarters of the database involved ineligible people voting or attempting to vote, which suggests 64 voter fraud cases detected per 2-year election cycle.

**Getting an ID** must usually be done in person, with long waits. It can be hard for people who don't have their birth certificate or don't have rent or utilities in their own name. People who have changed names in marriage or divorce need to find or get certified copies of the court documents ordering their name changes, sometimes from distant courts.

**Public Attitudes and History.** In April 2021 [76%](#) of people supported requiring an ID to vote, including 93% of Republicans, 61% of Democrats, 66% of blacks, 77% of Hispanics, and 78% of whites. Among Democrats, 65% of blacks and 54% of whites supported ID requirements; samples were too small to show other groups by party. The [first](#) voter ID law was in SC in 1950. The first strict laws were in GA and IN in 2005.



## Special Topic on Voting by Mail

Opinions on voting by mail (VBM) vary widely, since people put different weight on convenience and the ability of election administrators to handle VBM accurately. The report card takes a middle path, to measure voters' access to voting, while keeping it as secure as possible. The term VBM here includes all ballots submitted in vote-by-mail envelopes, including those taken to mailboxes, drop boxes or polling places.

The appendix table shows issues affecting accurate VBM. Voters and election officials need to minimize problems, especially by developing ways to verify ballots which would be more reliable than signature reviews.

People [suggest](#) thumbprints, though (like signatures) [checking](#) is [costly](#) and [error-prone](#), hackers can get them from private files to create forgeries, and many people, poor or rich, [dislike](#) providing fingerprints to a government database.

Column B shows states which do not check voter signatures on the envelope which the ballot comes back in. These states rely on the security of the numbering system which they and their printers used when sending out ballots and envelopes. Hackers and accidents in election offices and [ballot](#) printing [companies](#) can threaten the security of those secret numbers.

Column C shows states which check signatures and accept almost all. Handwriting experts, at their [best](#), reject 10-17% of true signatures. Telling 10% of voters to cure their ballot is not acceptable, so states loosen the reviews and their lightly-trained temporary staff reject few signatures, at the cost of accepting more forgeries. States get lower scores on the score card when they are so permissive that they only reject 1% of signatures.

Most states in column D may be too permissive too, especially since these rates include rejections for lack of a signature, as well as non-matching signatures.

States which send *ballots* to everyone on the registration rolls run a risk that ballots of deceased voters can pile up at nursing homes and assisted living, so ballot harvesters can collect and forge them. These states also miss out on getting a recent signature from each voter, as do states which let voters apply online.

States which require a signed application before mailing the ballot have a recent signature on the application, and have time to check it before providing the ballot. Hawaii mails out ballots, and also encourages everyone to send in a new [signature](#). Other states, which use old signatures, disproportionately reject people who have changed names, developed a disability in their hand or eyes, normally use non-Roman characters or print. [Georgia](#) and [Florida](#) have measured rejection rates by type of voter, and found wide variations.

On a wider scale, businesses have signatures of most [consumers](#), so hackers do too, and can forge them on ballot envelopes if they also learn the numbering system, by hacking election offices or printing companies.

The report card gives lower scores for not checking signatures, and better scores for mailing applications to all voters than for mailing actual ballots. Readers can use the spreadsheet to change these values. A separate item addresses whether states maintain the registration list accurately, by removing people who move away or die.

A	B	C	D
VBM <a href="#">Policy</a>	Signatures <a href="#">not Checked</a>	Amazingly Few VBM <a href="#">Rejected</a>	VBM Rejection Rate
<b>Sent application to all</b>	CT	MI 0.6%	OH 1.2%
	DE	NE 0.9%	IL 2.2%
	IA		RI 2.9%
	MD		MA 5.8%
	WI		
<b>Sent ballot to all</b>	VT	OR 0.0%	CA 2.0%
		HI 0.7%	NV 2.1%
		CO 0.8%	NJ 2.9%
		UT 0.9%	DC 3.6%
		WA 1.0%	
<b>Voters must ask for VBM</b>	AK	SD 0.3%	KS 1.1%
	AL	AZ 0.5%	ME 1.1%
	MN	MT 0.4%	FL 1.2%
	MO	ND 0.6%	ID 1.6%
	NC	MS 0.8%	GA 3.1%
	NH	WV 1.0%	KY 6.8%
	NM		AR 7.6%
	OK		NY 13.7%
	PA		
	SC		
VA			
WY			
<b>Voter needs special reason for VBM</b>		IN 0.5%	TX 1.8%
			TN 2.2%
			LA 5.9%

States by Scores	Campaigns			Turnout			Total Score:
	Nonpartisan or Bipartisan Redistricting to Avoid Gerrymanders:	Contribution Limit per Candidate per 4 Years:	Public Campaign \$ for Gov+Legislature:	Turnout: % of Voting-age Citizens: 2020:	Ratio of 18-24 Turnout to 25+ Turnout: 2020:	Ratio of Minority to White Non-Hispanic Turnout: 2020:	
Scoring System, bigger numbers are better	5-Yes, nonpartisan or bipartisan commissions draw districts. 4-Staff 3-Partisan congressional districts, non-partisan local officials 2-Nonpartisan rules for partisan officials 1-No, voting districts drawn by partisans	5-\$497, then scores down to 1 are proportional to higher limits 1-Limit is \$8,000 or more 0-No limit	5-Both governor+legislature 3-Governor, not legislature 2-Justices or other 0-None	0-5-Proportional to turnout	0-5-Proportional to turnout	0-5-Proportional to turnout	16 to 59
A Colorado	Yes	\$600	No	76%	77%	74%	59.3
A Rhode Island	No	\$4,000	Statewide	66%	76%	96%	55.1
A Michigan	Yes	\$2,100	Gov	74%	77%	91%	55.0
A Ohio	Partisan officials	\$39,886	No	67%	73%	87%	54.4
A Hawaii	Yes	\$8,000	Both	58%	67%	85%	53.9
A Montana	Yes: 1 CD	\$540	No	73%	76%	83%	51.6
A Florida	No	\$3,000	Gov+Cabinet	72%	73%	83%	50.3
A California	Yes	\$14,100	No	68%	80%	77%	49.9
A Illinois	No	\$17,400	No	67%	78%	80%	48.7
A Massachusetts	No	\$4,000	Statewide	72%	82%	63%	48.5
A Arizona	Yes	\$16,486	Both	66%	70%	83%	47.4
A Washington	Yes	\$3,000	No	76%	71%	73%	46.2
A Utah	Gov. names tiebreaker	no limit	No	69%	75%	81%	45.7
A Dist.of Columbia	No: 1CD	no limit	No	64%	100%	90%	45.5
A New Jersey	Yes	\$7,800	Gov	75%	96%	91%	45.4
A Oregon	No	no limit	No	76%	73%	73%	44.1
A West Virginia	No	\$8,400	Justices	58%	59%	101%	43.9
B Nevada	No	\$15,000	No	65%	57%	74%	43.8
B Delaware	No: 1CD	\$900	No	71%	77%	97%	43.8
B Kansas	No	\$2,000	No	66%	79%	67%	42.3
B Minnesota	No	\$2,000	Both	80%	88%	82%	41.8
B Vermont	No: 1CD	\$1,820	Gov+Lt.Gov	74%	69%	62%	41.1
B Maryland	No	\$6,000	Gov+Lt.Gov	71%	96%	104%	40.7
B Georgia	No	\$8,400	No	68%	78%	86%	40.6
B Maine	No	\$497	Both	76%	88%	84%	40.5
B Missouri	Staff goals: competitive + fair	\$6,500	No	66%	81%	91%	40.4
B New York	No	\$19,050	No	63%	72%	83%	40.3
B Iowa	Yes	no limit	No	73%	89%	69%	38.8
B Texas	No	no limit	No	60%	65%	77%	37.1
B Kentucky	No	\$6,000	No	65%	86%	87%	36.2
B New Mexico	No	\$15,000	Justices	61%	66%	72%	35.9
B Connecticut	No	\$900	Both	71%	76%	79%	35.7
B Idaho	Yes	\$3,000	No	68%	81%	72%	34.9
B Alaska	Nonpartisan: named by partisan officials: 1CD	\$2,000	No	69%	75%	73%	34.7
C Wisconsin	No	\$2,000	No	76%	73%	68%	34.4
C Virginia	No	no limit	No	73%	70%	79%	32.5
C North Carolina	No	\$16,200	No	71%	74%	92%	32.5
C Pennsylvania	Local races only	no limit	No	71%	70%	89%	32.3
C Arkansas	Partisan officials	\$8,100	No	56%	57%	75%	27.7
C South Carolina	No	\$3,000	No	65%	83%	75%	26.9
C South Dakota	No: 1CD	\$4,000	No	66%	72%	74%	26.6
C Nebraska	No	no limit	No	70%	63%	82%	24.4
C Tennessee	No	\$4,800	No	60%	71%	94%	24.1
C Alabama	No	no limit	No	63%	73%	87%	23.5
C Louisiana	No	\$7,500	No	65%	73%	89%	23.0
C Wyoming	No: 1CD	\$4,500	No	65%	73%	85%	21.3
C Mississippi	No	no limit	No	60%	57%	102%	20.2
C North Dakota	No: 1CD	no limit	NAo	64%	67%	51%	18.9
C New Hampshire	No	\$15,000	No	75%	83%	61%	17.6
C Indiana	No	no limit	No	61%	61%	90%	17.3
C Oklahoma	No	\$2,700	No	55%	49%	65%	16.2
Sources:	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redistricting_commission">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redistricting_commission</a>	<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Elections/Contribution-Limits-to-Candidates-2019-2020.pdf?ver=2019-10-02-132802-117">https://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Elections/Contribution-Limits-to-Candidates-2019-2020.pdf?ver=2019-10-02-132802-117</a>	<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/public-financing-of-campaigns-overview.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/public-financing-of-campaigns-overview.aspx</a>	<a href="http://www.electproject.org/2020g">http://www.electproject.org/2020g</a>	<a href="https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html">https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html</a>	<a href="https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html">https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html</a>	

States by Scores	Campaigns			Turnout			
Nonpartisan or Bipartisan Redistricting to Avoid Gerrymanders:	Contribution Limit per Candidate per 4 Years:	Public Campaign \$ for Gov+Legislature:	Turnout: % of Voting-age Citizens: 2020:	Ratio of 18-24 Turnout to 25+ Turnout: 2020:	Ratio of Minority to White Non-Hispanic Turnout: 2020:	Total Score:	
	<a href="https://ballotpedia.org/State-by-state_comparison_of_campaign_finance_requirements">https://ballotpedia.org/State-by-state_comparison_of_campaign_finance_requirements</a>	<a href="https://ballotpedia.org/Public_financing_of_campaigns">https://ballotpedia.org/Public_financing_of_campaigns</a>					
	<a href="https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/sections/1-1163.33.html">https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/sections/1-1163.33.html</a>						

States by Scores		Access to Early and Absentee Voting or Vote by Mail (VBM)				Total Score: 16 to 59
	Weekend Early Voting: State Minimum:	Access to Vote by Mail (VBM):	Number of Days when Voters Can Cure Signature Problems after Election Day:	Good VBM List Tracks Address Changes & Deaths:	VBM Review: Rejection Rate: 2018:	
Scoring System, bigger numbers are better	1-5-weekend days required, extra point if at least 1 Sunday required 0-No weekend days required	5-No specific reason needed, application sent to all 4-No specific reason needed, ballot sent to all 3-No specific reason needed, voter must ask for VBM 1-No signature checks 0-Needs a specific reason to vote by mail	5-Week or more after election day. 2-5-Two to seven days after election day. 1-Cure by election day. 0-No cure allowed.	5-National Vote at Home Inst. finds good data integrity. 0-Poor data integrity on mailing ballots	5-State rejects over 1% of VBM, though experts would reject at least 10%. 3-State rejects up to 1% of VBM, far less than expert signature reviewers. 0-No signature checks	
<b>A Colorado</b>	2Sat: last 2 Sat	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	8	Yes	0.8%	59.3
<b>A Rhode Island</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	7	Yes	2.9%	55.1
<b>A Michigan</b>	1Sat+/orSun: 8hrs in last weekend	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	0	Yes	0.6%	55.0
<b>A Ohio</b>	5Sat: 8-4 last 4 Sat 8-4. last Sun 1-5	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	7	Yes	1.2%	54.4
<b>A Hawaii</b>	2Sat 8-4:30 last 2 Sat	Broad VBM: Ballot to all+ Signature update from all	7	Yes	0.7%	53.9
<b>A Montana</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: County option to send ballot	0	Yes	0.4%	51.6
<b>A Florida</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	2	Yes	1.2%	50.3
<b>A California</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	8	Yes	2.0%	49.9
<b>A Illinois</b>	2Sat+Sun: 14 hours on last Sat+Sun	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	14	Yes	2.2%	48.7
<b>A Massachusetts</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	0	Yes	5.8%	48.5
<b>A Arizona</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	7	Yes	0.5%	47.4
<b>A Washington</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	21	Yes	1.0%	46.2
<b>A Utah</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	6	Yes	0.9%	45.7
<b>A Dist.of Columbia</b>	1Sat 8:30-7	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	No cure	Yes	3.6%	45.5
<b>A New Jersey</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	15	Yes	2.9%	45.4
<b>A Oregon</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	14	Yes	0.0%	44.1
<b>A West Virginia</b>	2Sat: 9-5 last 2 Sat	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	1.0%	43.9
<b>B Nevada</b>	3Sat: 4+hours each last 3 Sat	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	7	Yes	2.1%	43.8
<b>B Delaware</b>	4Sat+Sun. 8 hrs/day. 7am half the days	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	43.8
<b>B Kansas</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	1.1%	42.3
<b>B Minnesota</b>	1Sat 10-3: last Sat	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	0	Yes	No signature checks	41.8
<b>B Vermont</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Ballot sent to all	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	41.1
<b>B Maryland</b>	2Sat+Sun: last weekend	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	No cure	No	No signature checks	40.7
<b>B Georgia</b>	2Sat 9-5	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	3	Yes	No signature, use ID number	40.6
<b>B Maine</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	1.1%	40.5
<b>B Missouri</b>	No law	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	40.4
<b>B New York</b>	4Sat+Sun 5+hrs both weekends	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	13.7%	40.3
<b>B Iowa</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	0	Yes	No signature checks	38.8
<b>B Texas</b>	No rule	VBM for limited reasons	No cure	Yes	1.8%	37.1
<b>B Kentucky</b>	No law	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	6.8%	36.2
<b>B New Mexico</b>	2Sat: 8hrs each, last 2 Sat	Broad VBM: County option to send applic.	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	35.9
<b>B Connecticut</b>	No law	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	35.7
<b>B Idaho</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	1.6%	34.9
<b>B Alaska</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	34.7
<b>C Wisconsin</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	34.4
<b>C Virginia</b>	2Sat 8-5 last 2 Sat	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	32.5
<b>C North Carolina</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	8	No	No signature checks	32.5
<b>C Pennsylvania</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	<a href="#">No signature checks</a>	32.3
<b>C Arkansas</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	7.6%	27.7
<b>C South Carolina</b>	No law	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	26.9
<b>C South Dakota</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	0.3%	26.6
<b>C Nebraska</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: Applic.sent to all	No cure	No	0.9%	24.4
<b>C Tennessee</b>	3Sat 3 hours each: last 3 Sat	VBM for limited reasons	No cure	No	2.2%	24.1
<b>C Alabama</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	Yes	No signature checks	23.5
<b>C Louisiana</b>	1Sat 8:30-6 M-Sa	VBM for limited reasons	No cure	Yes	5.9%	23.0
<b>C Wyoming</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	No signature checks	21.3
<b>C Mississippi</b>	No law	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	0.8%	20.2
<b>C North Dakota</b>	No rule	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	0.6%	18.9
<b>C New Hampshire</b>	No law	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	No signature checks	17.6
<b>C Indiana</b>	2Sat: last 2	VBM for limited reasons	No cure	No	0.5%	17.3
<b>C Oklahoma</b>	1Sat 9-2	Broad VBM: if Voter asks	No cure	No	No signature checks	16.2
Sources:	<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/early-voting-in-state-elections.aspx#Early%20Voting%20Law%20Table">https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/early-voting-in-state-elections.aspx#Early%20Voting%20Law%20Table</a>	<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-mail-voting-policies-in-effect-for-the-2020-election.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-mail-voting-policies-in-effect-for-the-2020-election.aspx</a>	<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/vopp-table-15-states-that-permit-voters-to-correct-signature-discrepancies.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/vopp-table-15-states-that-permit-voters-to-correct-signature-discrepancies.aspx</a>	<a href="http://www.voteathome.org/policy-star-rankings">www.voteathome.org/policy-star-rankings</a>	<a href="https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/2018_EAV_S_Report.pdf">https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/2018_EAV_S_Report.pdf</a>	

States by Scores	Access to Early and Absentee Voting or Vote by Mail (VBM)					
	Weekend Early Voting: State Minimum:	Access to Vote by Mail (VBM):	Number of Days when Voters Can Cure Signature Problems after Election Day:	Good VBM List Tracks Address Changes & Deaths:	VBM Review: Rejection Rate: 2018:	Total Score:
		<a href="https://www.gpb.org/news/2021/03/26/what-does-georgias-new-voting-law-sb-202-do">https://www.gpb.org/news/2021/03/26/what-does-georgias-new-voting-law-sb-202-do</a>			<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/07/upshot/mail-voting-ballots-signature-matching.html">https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/07/upshot/mail-voting-ballots-signature-matching.html</a>	

States by Scores		Checking Election Results					
	Do Votes Have a Paper Trail? 2022:	Hand Tally Audits to Check Computer Tallies?	Good Audit Sample to Check Computer Tallies?	Audit All Contests? Number of Contests Checked:	Can Public Recount with Copies of Ballots?	Total Score:	
<b>Scoring System, bigger numbers are better</b>	5-All hand-marked paper ballots (hmpb), except up to 10% for disabilities+overseas. 4-Computers mark 10% or more of ballots (bmd) 0-3 Lack paper trail on all or some (dre, noVvpat)	5-Handcount. 4-Re-run on different machines. 3-Big omissions. 1-Re-run on same machines. 0-No checking.	5-Statistical sample. 3-Sample, but not enough for small contests 2-Results too late to get recount or correction. 1-Big omissions or sample has only a handful of machines 0-No audit	5-All contests checked. 1-3-One to six contests checked, extra point for random 0-No checking	5-Keep images, at least in many counties, & release to public. 4-Yes release copies of ballots to public, Unknown if images kept. 3-Unknown release policy. 2-No ballots, Images unknown. 0-No ballots or images released	16 to 59	
<b>A Colorado</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	Statistical	2 have enough sample. Limited info on others	Keep+release images & ballots after recount	59.3	
<b>A Rhode Island</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	Statistical	1	Yes. Unknown if images kept	55.1	
<b>A Michigan</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	5%. After results are final	1	Yes ballots; most don't keep images	55.0	
<b>A Ohio</b>	bmd34% hmpb49%	Hand count	5%	3 random	Keep images in many counties. Release images & ballots after recount	54.4	
<b>A Hawaii</b>	hmpb+vvpat4access	Hand count	10%	?	Unknown release policy	53.9	
<b>A Montana</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	5%	4 random	Yes. Unknown if images kept	51.6	
<b>A Florida</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	1%	1 random	Keep images in many counties+release images+ballots	50.3	
<b>A California</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Exclude ballots tallied after election day	1%	All	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	49.9	
<b>A Illinois</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Audit by using different machine. Exclude VBM+ provisional	5%	All	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	48.7	
<b>A Massachusetts</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	3%	6. 1 is random	Unknown release policy. Not keep images	48.5	
<b>A Arizona</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Exclude provisionals +counties where a party refuses	1%-2%	5 random	No ballots or images	47.4	
<b>A Washington</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Except.can audit just in-person machines	1%-4%	1-3	No ballots or images	46.2	
<b>A Utah</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	1%	All ex.Judge	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	45.7	
<b>A Dist.of Columbia</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	5%	4 random	Unknown release policy	45.5	
<b>A New Jersey</b>	dre72% bmd16%	No audit of dre			Unknown release policy	45.4	
<b>A Oregon</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	3-10%	3	Unknown release policy	44.1	
<b>A West Virginia</b>	bmd67% vvpat29%	Hand count	3%	All	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	43.9	
<b>B Nevada</b>	vvpat on dre	Machines or by hand	2%	All	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	43.8	
<b>B Delaware</b>	bmd	Hand count	2 machines per county. 3 districts in Wilmington	All	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	43.8	
<b>B Kansas</b>	bmd28% hmpb71%	Hand count	1%	3-4	Yes after certification; but 28% DRE	42.3	
<b>B Minnesota</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Exclude primaries	3%	3	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	41.8	
<b>B Vermont</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Audit by using different machine	6 towns. After results are final	All	Yes ballots after 3 months. Image keeping+release unknown	41.1	
<b>B Maryland</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count & independent tally of 100% images	1%-2%. After results are final	?	Keep+release images & ballots after recount	40.7	
<b>B Georgia</b>	bmd	Hand count	Statistical	1	Keep images & release	40.6	
<b>B Maine</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit			No ballots or images	40.5	
<b>B Missouri</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	5%	5	Unknown release policy	40.4	
<b>B New York</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	3%	All	No ballots or images	40.3	
<b>B Iowa</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	?	1	Unknown release policy	38.8	
<b>B Texas</b>	dre20% bmd67%	Hand count	1%	All	Keep+release images & ballots after 22 months. 20% DRE	37.1	
<b>B Kentucky</b>	hmpb. Accessibility by bmd or dre without vvpat	Hand count	3%	?	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	36.2	
<b>B New Mexico</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	Statistical	4	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	35.9	
<b>B Connecticut</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Machines or hand. Exclude early+VBM+prov.	5%. After results are final	3	Law untested. Policy not to release	35.7	
<b>B Idaho</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit unless recount happens			Yes after recount. Unknown if images kept	34.9	
<b>B Alaska</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Exclude small precincts	5%	All	No ballots or images	34.7	
<b>C Wisconsin</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count. Exclude primaries+early+VBM+prov. ballots	5%	4	Yes. Unknown if images kept	34.4	
<b>C Virginia</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Hand count	Statistical. After results are final	?	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	32.5	
<b>C North Carolina</b>	bmd14% hmpb86%	Hand count	Statistical	1	No ballots or images	32.5	
<b>C Pennsylvania</b>	bmd31% hmpb69%	Machines or by hand	2%	All	No ballots or images	32.3	
<b>C Arkansas</b>	bmd	Hand count	Statistical. After results are final	?	No ballots. Availability of images unknown	27.7	

States by Scores	Checking Election Results					
	Do Votes Have a Paper Trail? 2022:	Hand Tally Audits to Check Computer Tallies?	Good Audit Sample to Check Computer Tallies?	Audit All Contests? Number of Contests Checked:	Can Public Recount with Copies of Ballots?	Total Score:
<b>C South Carolina</b>	bmd	No audit			Yes. Unknown if images kept	26.9
<b>C South Dakota</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit			Yes. Unknown if images kept	26.6
<b>C Nebraska</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	Not required			No ballots. Availability of images unknown	24.4
<b>C Tennessee</b>	dre59% bmd27%	No audit of dre			Unknown release policy	24.1
<b>C Alabama</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit			Unknown release policy	23.5
<b>C Louisiana</b>	dre100%,noVvpat	No audit			Yes; but 100% DRE	23.0
<b>C Wyoming</b>	bmd16% hmpb84%	No audit			Yes. Unknown if images kept	21.3
<b>C Mississippi</b>	dre57% hmpb43%	No audit			Yes after canvass; but 57% DRE	20.2
<b>C North Dakota</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit			No ballots. Availability of images unknown	18.9
<b>C New Hampshire</b>	hmpb+bmd4access	No audit			No ballots or images	17.6
<b>C Indiana</b>	dre34% bmd30%	Not required			No ballots. Availability of images unknown	17.3
<b>C Oklahoma</b>	hmpb. Accessibility by dre without vvpat	Not required			No ballots. Availability of images unknown	16.2
Sources:	<a href="https://verifiedvoting.org/verifier/#mode/navigate/map/ppEquip/mapTypes/normal/year/2022">https://verifiedvoting.org/verifier/#mode/navigate/map/ppEquip/mapTypes/normal/year/2022</a>	<a href="https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/">https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/</a>	<a href="https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/">https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/</a>	<a href="http://www.votewell.net/audits.html">http://www.votewell.net/audits.html</a>	<a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ballot-foia.png">https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ballot-foia.png</a>	
		<a href="http://www.votewell.net/audits.html">http://www.votewell.net/audits.html</a>		<a href="https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/">https://verifiedvoting.org/auditlaws/</a>	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/open-government-sections/i-election-records/">https://www.rcfp.org/open-government-sections/i-election-records/</a>	
		<a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/post-election-audits635926066.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/post-election-audits635926066.aspx</a>			<a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20130217200102/http://www.nass.org/index.php?option=com_docman&amp;task=doc_download&amp;gid=95">https://web.archive.org/web/20130217200102/http://www.nass.org/index.php?option=com_docman&amp;task=doc_download&amp;gid=95</a>	