

**ECU**

END CITIZENS UNITED  
ACTION FUND



LET AMERICA VOTE  
ACTION FUND

2022 State Democracy

*Report Card*



## INTRO

Every generation since our country's founding has had to fight to create a "more perfect union." Today, the idea that our founders imagined is facing unprecedented attacks. For the first time in our nation's history, we did not have a peaceful transition of power. Instead of settling our differences at the ballot box through accessible and transparent elections, there are rising threats of violence and sabotage. Our fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote" is under attack.

Since 2021, states across the country have enacted 72 bills that restrict voter access or election administration and lawmakers are using extreme partisan gerrymandering to dilute the power of voters of color. Partisan politicians are launching politically-motivated fake election reviews to undermine the public's faith in elections and putting in place the groundwork to overturn and sabotage future elections. Election administrators and poll workers are being threatened with violence, harassment, and firings for simply doing their jobs. Dark money groups across the political spectrum continue to flood state houses and Congress with millions in campaign spending to influence elections and policy and block progress on issues so many Americans care about.

With an absence of setting national voting standards, statehouses are the frontlines of the battle to protect our democracy. For that reason, End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund is launching a State Democracy Scorecard to provide an overall assessment of the health of each state's democracy and concerns about what the 2022 elections could mean for the country's future.

While other organizations and analyses have created scorecards that looked at voting and anti-corruption issues as discrete policy areas, this is the first to combine them into an overall grade.

## KEY FINDINGS

Below you'll find each state's scores\* for these areas, as well as any cause for concern with regard to the state backsliding on key metrics. **Based on this analysis, we see these key trends nationally:**

1. There is a stark divergence between states improving access to voting and those restricting access to the ballot, leading us toward a two-tier democracy in which where you live determines the strength of your power in our democracy. While most of the public reporting has focused on the states putting up barriers to the ballot, it's important to highlight others that have expanded voting options since the 2020 election.
2. Very few states have taken action to address the corrupting influence of dark money, which has grown dramatically in the 12 years since the Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. FEC* decision. This Bipartisan problem continues to get worse each cycle, leaving Americans unaware of the wealthy donors and special interests trying to influence their vote. Even many states that have increased access to voting have not adequately strengthened campaign finance and ethics laws, leaving voters in the dark about the biggest donors trying to influence their vote.
3. Some states are taking action to protect against election sabotage—attempts to undermine or overturn elections—but overall, they are not doing enough to protect against some of the worst threats. The outcome of the 2022 election could make things significantly worse, as many statewide candidates have denied the accuracy of the 2020 election and pledged to overturn future elections if their preferred candidate loses.

\*While End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund fully supports statehood for the 700,000+ citizens of Washington, D.C. and believe Congress should pass the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, we did not include it in this scorecard.

## METHODOLOGY

---

This scorecard analyzes three key areas of good governance:



### Voting Laws

Ensuring safe, convenient options for voting without unnecessary and arbitrary barriers is a key component of an open and accountable democracy. Following best practices for ballot access, each state is scored on its rules that either encourages voter participation or restrict it.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

Elected officials should work for their constituents, not wealthy donors who fund their campaigns. We scored each state on the rules they have in place to prevent corruption and reduce special interest influence in the political process.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

Equal representation and integrity of the electoral process are critical to making sure diverse voices and communities have a voice in the process. We scored each state on how well they protect against racial and partisan gerrymandering that has been used to dilute the power of historically marginalized communities, as well as their attempts to fight back—or allow—partisan attempts to overturn or undermine election integrity.

Categories for inclusion and scoring decisions were made based on conversations with key experts, data pulled from existing research, independent analysis, and our understanding of the best practices states can implement to create a democracy that's open and accountable to its citizens.

A complete breakdown of data sources and how the scores were calculated is [available here](#).

## ABOUT END CITIZENS UNITED / LET AMERICA VOTE ACTION FUND

End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund is a leading anti-corruption and voting rights organization committed to getting big money out of politics and protecting the freedom to vote. We work to end our rigged political system by electing democracy champions, passing meaningful legislative reforms, and elevating these issues in the national conversation. We work in partnership with legislative champions and key allies to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United v. FEC decision, end the unlimited and undisclosed money in politics, and protect and expand the freedom to vote.

# ALABAMA



## SUMMARY

Alabama's democracy scored the worst out of all states. It has some of the harshest voting laws, weakest ethics and campaign finance laws, and is extremely susceptible to democracy subversion.

Overall:



Rank: #50/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

49 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

TIED-42 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

48 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 60/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Alabama's voting laws restrict the freedom to vote across the board. The only criteria the state received full points on is offering online voter registration.
- Alabama can expand the freedom to vote by removing barriers to voter registration, permitting no-excuse absentee and early voting, fixing its restrictive voter ID law, and restoring the right to vote for formerly incarcerated citizens.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Alabama is one of only five states with no contribution limits for individuals, PACs, and corporations, allowing big-money interests to wield lots of power.
- Alabama is one of only 12 states that does not have rules restricting coordination between campaigns and independent spending groups.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Last year, the Alabama legislature passed an extreme racially gerrymandered congressional map. While a federal court struck down the map for violating the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court allowed the map to remain in place for the 2022 election and will hear the case next term.
- Attorney General Steve Marshall signed onto an amicus brief supporting Texas' effort to block certification of the 2020 election.
- Alabama is one of only nine states that do not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections, though a new bill allows the secretary of state to pilot one in some counties in 2022.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Republican statewide candidates continue to falsely claim the 2020 election was illegitimate and have expressed openness to subverting democracy going forward.

# ALASKA

## SUMMARY

Alaska has one of the healthier democracies with top 5 rankings for its campaign finance and anti-corruption laws. Alaska has also shown to be a state willing to adopt pro-democracy reforms and has been one of the leading states attempting to stop the influence of big money.



Overall:



Rank: #14/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

C

TIED-22 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

A

5 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

B

TIED-11 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 219.8/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Alaska's voting laws include several model practices like automatic voter registration, adequate early voting periods, and giving voters several ways to verify their identity.
- The state could improve access to the ballot by implementing same-day registration, removing barriers to voting absentee, and automatically restoring voting rights to individuals who are no longer incarcerated.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Alaska has some of the country's best campaign finance and ethics law, including low contribution limits for individuals and PACs, a ban on direct corporate giving, strong coordination rules, and an independent ethics agency.
- Alaska could implement a campaign public financing program to strengthen its campaign finance and ethics law score and empower its voters and candidates from underrepresented groups.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Alaska has done one of the best jobs protecting against democracy subversion. To improve its score, Alaska could consider additional protections for election workers who have come under attack since the 2020 election.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Alaska is the second state to use a ranked choice voting system, a reform that may lead to a more representative democracy.

# ARIZONA



## SUMMARY

Arizona has one of the weaker democracies in the country. While Arizona ranks average in protecting the freedom to vote and for its campaign finance and anti-corruption laws, it's one of the worst states for combating democracy subversion.

Overall:



Rank: #32/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**C**

TIED-28 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

17 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

TIED-40 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 144.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Arizona does not offer automatic voter registration, same-day registration, or automatic restoration of voting rights to individuals impacted by the justice system.
- The state offers no-excuse absentee voting, but passed legislation in 2021 that could remove nearly 340,000 Arizona voters from the state's mail-in ballot list.
- A federal judge halted the rollout of a new election law that opponents said would purge valid voters right before the November election.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Arizona's campaign finance and ethics laws are middle of the road, and the state recently missed a chance to improve them when the Arizona Supreme Court barred a ballot initiative from this year's ballot that would have reformed the state's laws.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Seven months after Arizona certified the results of the 2020 election, Arizona Senate Republicans hired the Cyber Ninjas to conduct a sham partisan election review that cost taxpayers millions of dollars and threatened the integrity of Arizona's elections.
- In 2021, a bill that would give the legislature the power to overturn an election was introduced in the state legislature, a clear election sabotage threat.
- The Republican-led legislature stripped Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs of her power to oversee election-related crimes and gave it to a Republican official.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

The 2022 Republican governor and secretary of state candidates have continued to spread false claims about the 2020 election and may be a threat to future elections.

Local election officials are resigning at alarming rates due to threats fueled by conspiracies and misinformation over the 2020 election results.

### Bright Spot

As Secretary of State, Katie Hobbs helped expand early voting, curbside voting, and secure ballot drop boxes for the 2020 election so that people didn't have to choose between their freedom to vote and their health and safety.

# ARKANSAS



## SUMMARY

Arkansas has one of the weakest democracies in the country, with the freedom to vote being particularly restricted. The one bright spot is Arkansas' campaign finance and ethics laws, which are relatively strong.

Overall:



Rank: #41/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

TIED-47 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

TIED-10 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

43 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 118.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Arkansas has the third worst score for voting rights with unnecessary barriers to voter registration and limited options to cast ballots.
- In 2021, Arkansas passed additional restrictive voting laws to limit the ability to receive and return mail ballots and made its voter ID law more restrictive.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Arkansas has strong contribution limits for individuals and PACs, and prohibits direct spending by corporations in elections.
- Arkansas has weak rules surrounding coordination between campaigns and independent political groups.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- In 2021, Arkansas passed several election laws that allow partisan actors to remove professional election officials and seize complete control of election administration.
- The state legislature racially gerrymandered its congressional map by splitting its most diverse county into three different districts. Arkansas could implement an independent redistricting commission to ensure fair maps.
- Attorney General Leslie Rutledge supported Texas' lawsuit to block the certification of the 2020 election results.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Four new restrictive voting laws were reinstated by the Arkansas Supreme Court after a lower court had previously struck them down, and will remain in place until the Court reconsiders the matter.

# CALIFORNIA

## SUMMARY

California has one of the strongest democracies in the country with top scores in both protecting the freedom to vote and combating democracy subversion. To improve its low score for campaign finance and ethics laws, California could reduce the influence of big money in politics by setting lower campaign contribution limits.



Overall:



Rank: #4/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**A**

TIED-6 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

24 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**A**

3 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 246.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- California has a nearly perfect score in protecting the freedom to vote. It would have a perfect score if it joined the Election Registration Information Center, which helps ensure voting rolls are accurate.
- In 2021, the state passed legislation to make voting by mail permanent for every registered voter in California.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- California has strong rules against coordination, requirements for reporting contributions to independent spenders, enforcement of ethics rules by an independent ethics agency, and disclosure requirements for digital advertisements.
- California has high contribution limits for individuals, PACs, and corporations, opening the door to undue influence from big money donors and special interests.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- California recently passed legislation to protect voters from intimidation and has advanced legislation to protect election workers from harassment.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

In 2022, the legislature advanced the Stop Foreign Influence in California Elections Act, prohibiting foreign influenced corporations from spending in California elections. Prioritizing passing this bill in future legislative sessions would help protect the integrity of California's elections.

# COLORADO

## SUMMARY

When it comes to democracy policies and practices, Colorado ranks as the top state in the country, with perfect scores on voting and election subversion matters and some of the country's strongest laws to limit the influence of money in its politics.

CO

Overall:



Rank: #1/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

A

TIED-1 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

A

3 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

A

TIED-1 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 283/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Colorado is among the gold standard for ensuring everyone has safe, convenient access to the ballot.
- Voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots through the mail after the state implemented a universal vote by mail policy nearly a decade ago.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Denver voters approved a small-donor public financing program that will go into effect for the first time in the 2023 election.
- Colorado has low contribution limits, but it could improve its score with stronger requirements for reporting contributions to independent spenders and disclosing political ads on internet-based media.
- In 2021, state legislators introduced and considered legislation to remove foreign-influenced corporate money from Colorado elections, but the bill ultimately did not proceed.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Colorado has passed significant legislation to protect election workers, safeguard against insider threats to voting equipment and election systems, and prohibit voter intimidation.
- The state quickly dealt with a case where election officials tried to leak election information.
- In this year's primaries, Colorado voters rejected candidates running on extreme anti-democracy platforms.

# CONNECTICUT

## SUMMARY

Connecticut has one of the healthiest democracies in the country with above average scores in all three categories. Connecticut's campaign finance and ethics laws are particularly strong.



Overall:



Rank: #6/50

### GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**B**

TIED-16 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

2 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**B**

TIED-15 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 238/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ Connecticut has strong voting laws and recently expanded the freedom to vote by automatically restoring voting rights for individuals once they are no longer incarcerated and expanding automatic voter registration.
- ✘ Connecticut could increase access to the ballot by adopting no-excuse absentee voting and early in-person voting.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ Connecticut has the 2nd best score for its campaign finance and ethics laws with strong contribution limits, a prohibition on direct political spending by corporations, strong rules preventing coordination between campaigns and independent spenders, and an effective independent ethics agency.
- ✔ Connecticut is 1 of 5 states with a successful, statewide public campaign financing program.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ✘ Connecticut has an above average score for combating democracy subversion. Still, it could improve by implementing an independent redistricting commission to ensure voters choose their politicians and by advancing legislation to protect voters from intimidation and election workers from harassment.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Voters will have the chance this November to decide if the state should amend the state constitution to allow for early voting. Voting rights advocates are pushing for a state level Voting Rights Act.

# DELAWARE

## SUMMARY

Delaware has a relatively healthy democracy with an above average score in all three categories. Delaware made progress protecting the freedom to vote this year, but has room for improvement across the board.



Overall:



Rank: #17/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**B**

TIED-19 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

TIED-15 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**B**

TIED-18 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 208.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- In 2022, Delaware passed same-day voter registration and vote-by-mail.
- To expand the freedom to vote, Delaware could ensure that individuals' voting rights are automatically restored after they are no longer incarcerated.
- In 2020, Delaware had one of the longest average wait times (32.5 minutes) for voters to cast their ballot in person.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Delaware has low contribution limits for individuals and PACs and has strong disclosure requirements for digital ads.
- Delaware could strengthen its transparency rules by requiring disclosure of issue-ad spending.
- To empower regular Delaware voters, the state could establish a campaign public finance program.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Delaware could implement an independent redistricting commission to ensure voters choose their politicians.
- Delaware switched to electronic voting machines with paper ballot requirements in 2020, a step that bolsters election security. Still, the legislature could further improve by passing statutory requirements that machines use voter-verifiable paper ballots.

# FLORIDA

## SUMMARY

Florida has one of the weaker democracies in the country even though Florida voters have tried to pass measures that would improve the freedom to vote. In the wake of the 2020 election, Florida has taken several steps to make the state more vulnerable to democracy subversion.



Overall:



Rank: #34 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

9 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

46 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 132 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 🗳️ Last year, Florida passed a voter suppression law that creates unnecessary barriers to the ballot box.
- 🗳️ After Florida voters overwhelmingly voted to restore voting rights for formerly incarcerated Floridians, the legislature passed a bill to disenfranchise those individuals until they have paid all court fees—a complicated process that even the government can't provide accurate information about.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Florida is in the top 10 states for its campaign finance and ethics laws and 1 of 5 states with a statewide public campaign financing program.
- 📄 Florida could do more to curb the power of corporate and special interests. For example, Florida Power & Light has excessive influence over legislation, spending millions on lobbying and operating an exclusive lounge for legislators and lobbyists.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🗳️ The Florida Supreme Court locked in Gov. Ron DeSantis' highly gerrymandered redistricting map for this election.
- 🗳️ Attorney General Ashley Moody signed onto Texas' lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election at the United States Supreme Court.
- 🗳️ Florida has passed legislation to increase voter and election worker intimidation, including creating a new office for it, even though voting fraud is exceedingly rare.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

In May, Gov. DeSantis appointed state Rep. Cord Byrd as secretary of state, Florida's top election official. Rep. Byrd continues to allege that the 2020 election was illegitimate, which raises concerns about his ability to conduct elections fairly.

Gov. DeSantis also created an "election police" force that is arresting people that state government officials said were eligible to vote.

# GEORGIA

## SUMMARY

Georgia received the 4th lowest overall score of all states, receiving low grades in all three categories.



Overall:



Rank: #47/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-34 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

47 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

47 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 90.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Voting in Georgia became more difficult after the state passed an omnibus restrictive voting bill (SB 202) last year.
- In 2020, the state had one of the longest average wait times to cast a ballot and it has a strict voter identification law.
- Georgia offers automatic voter registration, online voter registration, no-excuse absentee voting, and early in-person voting.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Georgia has the 4th lowest score of all states for its Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws.
- The state has high contribution limits and gave big donors more power by passing a law in 2021 to allow unlimited contributions to some candidates.
- Georgia is one of 12 states that does not require adequate disclosures for digital ads.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Georgia passed racial and partisan gerrymandered maps, but could implement an independent redistricting commission to ensure fair maps instead.
- While voter fraud is exceedingly rare, Georgia passed a law allowing a state bureau to investigate election crimes, likely increasing voter and election worker intimidation.
- Georgia has created undue risks of criminal penalties for election workers and voters, and shifted election authority from local election officials to the state legislature—creating opportunities for partisan politicians to subvert the process.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Under SB 202, the Georgia legislature has begun taking over local election boards in predominantly Black communities.  
Georgia's Secretary of State has used the office to target political opponents.  
Investigations are ongoing into a group of conspiracy theorists' attempt to breach Georgia's voting systems last year.

### Bright Spot

Democrats in the state legislature have used their voice to speak out against extreme anti-voting laws.

# HAWAII

## SUMMARY

Hawaii has one of the strongest democracies in the nation (5th overall). The state's laws receive some of the highest scores for protecting the freedom to vote and combating democracy subversion, but more can be done to improve its campaign finance laws.



Overall:



Rank: #5 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

19 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**A**

4 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 243.3 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 Hawaii has a nearly perfect score for laws protecting the freedom to vote.
- 👎 If the state joined the Election Registration Information Center—which helps ensure voting rolls are accurate—and expanded early in-person voting, it would have a perfect score.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Hawaii improved its campaign finance laws by bringing dark money into the light. The new law requires certain nonprofits to disclose the names of people giving more than \$10,000.
- 👍 The state passed ethics reforms for the legislature after former legislators were caught in a bribery scandal related to Hawaii's wastewater management.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👍 Hawaii has the 4th highest state score for combatting democracy subversion, with nearly a perfect score.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

In 2022, Hawaii passed Ranked Choice Voting with implementation in 2023. Hawaii is the fourth state to pass this legislation, which could lead to a more representative democracy.

The Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission is looking at reforms in other states and will **present its findings** on campaign finance reform to the legislature.

# IDAHO

## SUMMARY

Idaho is in the bottom half of states and is considering more ways to weaken its democracy. The state's Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws are particularly weak.



Overall:



Rank: #33 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**C**

TIED-22 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

49 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**C**

TIED-27 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 138 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

Idaho has average voting laws with some model provisions like same-day registration. However, Idaho lawmakers are looking for ways to increase barriers to voting in the state, including ending same-day registration and restricting assistance for returning absentee ballots.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

Idaho's campaign finance and ethics laws are the 2nd weakest in the nation with no restrictions against the lobbying revolving door, no independent ethics agency, and poor rules restricting coordination between campaigns and independent spenders.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

Idaho has some protections against democracy subversion, including an independent redistricting commission, but Idaho passed legislation after 2020 to make it harder to vote, which could be a warning sign for future election subversion.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

The Idaho GOP party advanced several troubling resolutions this year, including prohibiting Idahoans from registering as Republicans if they donate to or vote in other parties' elections and declaring that President Biden is an illegitimate president.

# ILLINOIS

## SUMMARY

Illinois' overall democracy is above average and scores a perfect score for its voting laws. The state has significant room for improvement to its campaign finance and ethics laws.



Overall:



Rank: #19/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-1 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

TIED-45 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**B**

20 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 199.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Illinois has a perfect score for its voting laws and has continued to improve access to the ballot by easing voter registration and voting by mail, expanding the use of ballot drop boxes, and improving accessibility for voters with disabilities.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Illinois has significant room for improvement in its campaign finance and ethics laws.
- In the wake of a bribery scandal, Illinois passed an ethics reform bill in 2021 that takes minor steps to close the lobbying revolving door and improve the state's independent ethics agency. It is a step in the right direction, but more can be done.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Illinois has adequate protections against democracy subversion but could implement an independent redistricting commission to ensure that the state has fair maps.
- The state could also require that paper ballots be voter-verifiable.

# INDIANA

## SUMMARY

Indiana has one of the weakest democracies in the nation. Indiana has considerable work to do to strengthen its democracy, especially its campaign finance and ethics laws, which are the worst in the country.



Overall:



Rank: #46/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

50 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

32 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 98.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Indiana has some of the weakest voting laws in the country with a restrictive voter ID law, a prohibition on no-excuse absentee voting, and barriers to voter registration.
- Indiana's poor voting laws led to the longest average wait time (42.1 minutes) to cast a ballot in the nation in 2020.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Indiana has the worst campaign finance and ethics laws in the nation.
- The state allows unlimited contributions from individuals and PACs and large direct contributions from corporations.
- Indiana has poor to nonexistent rules around coordination, reporting contributions to independent spenders, digital ad disclosure, and gift restrictions.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- The Indiana legislature passed racial and partisan gerrymandered maps that deny voters fair representation. Indiana could adopt an independent redistricting commission to ensure the state has fair maps.
- Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita supported Texas' lawsuit to block certification of the 2020 election results and the state legislature passed a resolution opposing federal legislation to improve democracy across the country.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Diego Morales, the Indiana Republican candidate for secretary of state, has falsely claimed that the 2020 election was illegitimate, raising concerns over his ability to monitor fair and free elections in the state

# IOWA

## SUMMARY

Iowa sits in the middle of the pack for the health of its democracy. However, recent laws passed to restrict the right to vote raise concerns that it is moving in the wrong direction.



Overall:



Rank: #31/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**C**

25 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

TIED-30 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

35 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 145.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- While Iowa's voting laws have some model practices same-day registration, no-excuse absentee voting, and early voting, the state passed legislation restricting early voting and shortening polling place hours on Election Day.
- Iowa passed legislation that moves voters to "inactive" status after not voting in one election, which risks their being wrongfully purged from voting rolls.
- Iowa requires burdensome steps for voters to verify their identity when casting their ballot.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Iowa is one of only five states with no contribution limits for individuals and PACs, allowing big money interests to wield disproportionate power.
- Iowa has a weak independent ethics agency and lax rules around gift restrictions and coordination between candidates and independent spenders.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Iowa has a unique redistricting process, but the state legislature ultimately adopts district lines. Weaknesses in Iowa's redistricting process were displayed this year as the Republican controlled state legislature rejected the initially proposed fair maps and instead passed maps that would favor Republican politicians, not voters.
- Iowa was one of the first states to pass a bill criminalizing election officials for helping voters. The new law creates felony penalties if election officials expand voting access or do not sufficiently implement new aggressive voter-roll purging provisions.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has stood by former President Trump as he repeats lies about the 2020 election being stolen and voter fraud.

# KANSAS



## SUMMARY

Kansas has one of the weakest democracies in the nation and is at risk for further decline. Kansas' democracy is trending in the wrong direction with the 2nd worst rating on combating democracy subversion.

Overall:



Rank: #43 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-34 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

18 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

49 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 111.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 🚫 Kansas has weak voter registration laws, a restrictive voter ID law, and disenfranchises individuals impacted by the justice system.
- 🚫 In 2021, Kansas passed restrictive voting laws that put barriers in the way of Kansans' ability to register to vote and vote absentee.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Kansas has slightly above average campaign finance and ethics laws with reasonable contribution limits and an effective independent ethics agency.
- 👎 Kansas could implement rules to prevent improper coordination and require better disclosure for digital political ads.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🚫 The Kansas legislature passed a congressional map, that is a racial and partisan gerrymander. Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed the congressional gerrymander, but the legislature used its Republican supermajority to override the veto.
- 🚫 Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt—the Republican nominee for governor—supported Texas' lawsuit to block certification of the 2020 election results and the state legislature passed a resolution opposing federal democracy legislation.
- 🚫 Kansas passed a new law unduly criminalizing election workers for assisting voters.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach—who has spread disinformation about voter fraud for years—is the Republican nominee for Attorney General, raising red flags that he could use the office to restrict voting rights and subvert democracy.

# KENTUCKY

## SUMMARY

Kentucky has one of the weakest democracies in the country, particularly due to its voting laws and lack of policies to combat democracy subversion. While Gov. Andy Beshear has tried to put a check on the legislature's efforts to pass anti-democratic legislation, his veto has been overridden.



Overall:



Rank: #37/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

13 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

45 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 128.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 🔴 Kentucky has some of the weakest voting laws in the country with no automatic or same-day registration, a prohibition on no-excuse absentee voting, and limited early voting.
- 🔴 Kentucky is 1 of just 10 states that does not automatically restore voting rights for individuals who have completed their entire criminal sentence.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 🟢 Kentucky has above average campaign finance and ethics laws with good contribution limits for individuals and PACs and a ban on direct contributions from corporations. The state also has strict rules around the lobbying revolving door and an effective independent ethics agency.
- 🟡 To improve its campaign finance and ethics laws, Kentucky could establish disclosure requirements for digital ads, create a public campaign finance program, and improve its gift restrictions.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🔴 Kentucky's risk of democracy subversion is high as it has passed measures to restrict the right to vote, unduly criminalize election workers, oppose federal legislation to improve democracy across the country, and shift election authority from independent election workers to the partisan state legislature.
- 🔴 The state does not require verifiable paper ballots, an election security best practice.
- 🔴 The Kentucky legislature passed gerrymandered legislative and congressional maps. Gov. Beshear vetoed the gerrymanders, but the Republican-controlled legislature used their veto-proof majority to override the veto.

# LOUISIANA

## SUMMARY

Louisiana's democracy scores in the bottom 20 states for each of the three categories. Although the state's voting laws are weak, the state has not enacted a sweeping restrictive voting law as many other states have since the 2020 election, due to Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards' check on the state legislature.



Overall:



Rank: #39/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

D

TIED-37 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

D

37 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

D

TIED-33 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 124/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Louisiana has very weak voting laws, including no automatic or same-day registration, a prohibition on no-excuse absentee voting, limited early voting, and the state disenfranchises Louisianans for a period of time after they are no longer incarcerated.
- Although the Republican controlled state legislature passed legislation this year that would have made it easier to purge voters wrongfully, Gov. Edwards vetoed the bill.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Louisiana has some of the country's weakest campaign finance and ethics laws, with inadequate rules to prevent coordination between campaigns and independent spenders, and inadequate disclosure rules for digital advertisements.
- The state has high contribution limits for direct donations to candidates. A bill that would have raised contribution limits even higher failed this year.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- The state legislature passed a racially gerrymandered congressional map. While Gov. Edwards vetoed the gerrymander, the legislature overrode his veto and the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the new map to remain in place for now.
- Attorney General Jeff Landry supported Texas' lawsuit to block certification of the 2020 election results and the state legislature passed a resolution opposing federal legislation to improve democracy across the country.
- Louisiana is the only state with a completely paperless election administration, a serious election security concern.
- Louisiana is 1 of only 9 states that does not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections.

# MAINE

## SUMMARY

Maine has the 3rd healthiest democracy in the nation, including a perfect score for its voting laws. Its campaign finance laws and steps to combat democracy subversion are also strong.



Overall:



Rank: #3/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**A**

TIED-1 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

6 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**B**

11 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 254.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 Maine is 1 of 5 states with a perfect score for its voting laws.
- 👍 In 2021, Maine passed expansive voting legislation that enacts online voter registration by 2023, allows college students to use student IDs to register to vote, and permanently adopts election measures implemented during the pandemic.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Maine has the 6th strongest campaign finance and ethics laws in the country with strong rules against coordination and low contribution limits for individuals and PACs.
- 👍 Maine passed bipartisan legislation to ban corporations from contributing directly to candidates, protecting the state's elections from potential corruption.
- 👍 Maine has one of the strongest campaign public financing programs, widely used by statewide and legislative candidates from both major parties.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👍 Maine passed a strong law last year to protect poll workers from increasing threats.
- 👎 Maine is 1 of only 9 states that does not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections. Legislation was advanced last year that would establish independent audits in the state, which would be crucial in light of state Rep. Heidi Sampson's attempt to have an Arizona-type partisan review of the 2020 election.
- 👎 While Maine could enact an independent redistricting commission to ensure the state has fair maps going forward, the state legislature worked on a bipartisan basis to draw fair maps for the next decade.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Former Maine Gov. Paul LePage, the Republican candidate for governor, has made false claims about the 2020 election a core element of his campaign, raising concerns about his willingness to subvert democracy if elected.

# MARYLAND



## SUMMARY

Maryland has one of the healthiest democracies with top-15 scores in each of the three categories. The Maryland legislature has made strengthening democracy a priority in recent years with advancements in voting, campaign finance, and ethics laws.

Overall:



Rank: #10 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

TIED-15 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 228.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 Maryland has a near perfect score for its voting laws, only losing points for its early voting period and 2020 average voting wait time (16.4 minutes). If Maryland extended its early voting period, it could reduce its average waiting time for voting on Election Day.
- 👍 Maryland passed several bills to improve voting freedom, including expanding mail-in voting, increasing the number of early voting centers, and ensuring voting materials are accessible to students and military voters.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Maryland has strong coordination rules, reasonable contribution limits for PACs, a matching fund program for some offices, and strict disclosure rules for digital ads.
- 👎 The state could improve its laws by banning direct contributions from corporations, restricting the lobbying revolving door, and strengthening reporting requirements for contributors to independent spenders.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👎 Maryland has had numerous battles over its redistricting process and should create an independent redistricting commission.
- 👍 Maryland has strong election security laws requiring voter verifiable paper ballots.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Dan Cox, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, is a 2020 election denier who helped organize events around the January 6 insurrection.

### Potential Advances

**Legislation** was introduced this year to extend the state's matching funds program to general assembly candidates and to implement a state-level DISCLOSE Act to end dark money spending. While both measures failed, they should be advanced in the future.

# MASSACHUSETTS

## SUMMARY

Massachusetts has one of the healthiest democracies in the nation with top 10 scores for its voting laws and campaign finance and ethics laws. Massachusetts could take additional steps to ensure it is protected against democracy subversion.



Overall:



Rank: #Tied-8/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

4 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**C**

TIED-23 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 231/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 Massachusetts has a nearly perfect score for its voting laws with same-day registration as the only measure that it currently does not have.
- 👎 This year, Massachusetts passed a law to make no-excuse absentee voting permanent, but a provision that would have established same-day registration was ultimately removed from the legislation."



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Massachusetts has some of the strongest campaign finance and ethics laws with strict rules around contribution limits, including prohibiting direct contributions from corporations. The state also has strong rules preventing improper coordination and an effective independent ethics agency.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👎 Massachusetts could adopt an independent redistricting commission to draw districts to ensure that the state has fair, representative maps.
- 👎 While voter-verifiable paper ballots are currently used across the state, it is not required by law. The Massachusetts legislature could pass legislation requiring their use to ensure that the best practice is continued going forward.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### ⚠️ Warning Signs

GOP gubernatorial candidate Geoff Diehl has repeated the false claim that the 2020 election was rigged.

# MICHIGAN

## SUMMARY

Despite efforts by state lawmakers to pass restrictive election-related legislation, strong leadership from Michigan's top government officials has allowed the state to continue to offer expansive voting and registration options, as well as administer safe and secure elections. However, there is much room for improvement among the state's campaign finance regulations.



Overall:



Rank: #16 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-6 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

36 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**B**

TIED-11 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 213 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- The state's already-expansive voting laws led to record turnout in 2020 and high turnout in this year's primaries, with over 1.1 million absentee ballots casted and 3,000 people registering to vote on Election Day.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Michigan's low overall score and rank resulted from several categories where it has long had lax regulations, including around contribution limits, digital ad disclosure, and lobbyist revolving door policies.
- Democrats in the legislature have introduced bills that would improve the score in this category, but they have been blocked by Republicans.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Gov. Whitmer has vetoed several restrictive voting and election administration laws that passed the state legislature in 2021 and 2022. This will help ensure there are no major issues related to election interference or vote processing and reporting.
- Michigan's maps were created by an independent redistricting commission for the first time after the commission was passed by a ballot initiative in 2018.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Legislative efforts to allow for pre-processing of mail ballots and formalizing election administration guidance from the Secretary of State's office to local election officials are stalled by Republicans in the state legislature.

GOP Secretary of State candidate Kristina Karamo and Attorney General candidate Matt DePerno have claimed the 2020 election was fraudulent, meaning Michigan's next election chief and top law enforcement official could be election-conspiracy theorists.

### Potential Advances

The Promote the Vote 2022 ballot initiative will be on the November ballot. This initiative would codify several good reforms in the state constitution to further protect Michigan voters' right to vote and provide for safe, secure and fair elections, as well as largely combat another potential ballot initiative that would implement voting restrictions.

### Bright Spot

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Attorney General Dana Nessel ensured that voters could cast ballots safely and securely in the middle of a pandemic during the 2020 election and have sought to protect election workers from threats.

# MINNESOTA

## SUMMARY

Minnesota has a healthy democracy with above average scores in all 3 categories. Minnesota boasts one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation, and could continue to expand voting access in the state to ensure it remains at the top going forward.



Overall:



Rank: #15 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**B**

TIED-16 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

21 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 215.3 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Minnesota has same-day registration, a long early voting period, and multiple ways for voters to verify their identities, leading to one of the highest voter turnouts.
- Minnesota could enact automatic voter registration and improve voting rights restoration laws to strengthen its voting laws.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Minnesota could improve its campaign finance and ethics laws by lowering its contribution limits, improving its protections against the lobbying revolving door, and strengthening its coordination rules and gift restrictions.
- Minnesota prohibits direct contributions from corporations to candidates.
- Minnesota has a widely used public campaign finance refund program that refunds donors up to \$50 per year of political contributions.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Secretary of State Steve Simon launched a website called Minnesota Election Facts where voters can get clarity on common misinformation about how elections are run and votes are counted. Sec. Simon also signed onto a letter with other secretaries of state to urge congress to pass federal legislation to protect our democracy.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Kim Crockett, the Republican candidate for secretary of state, continues to deny the results of the 2020 election and spread misinformation about voter fraud. If Crockett were to be elected as Minnesota's chief election officer, there would be serious concerns around democracy subversion and election sabotage.

### Bright Spot

In 2020, Minnesota was the state with the highest voter turnout in the country with 79.96% of eligible voters casting a ballot in the November election.

# MISSISSIPPI

## SUMMARY

Mississippi has the second worst democracy in the nation and the worst voting laws in the nation. It receives a failing grade in every category. Mississippi has resisted making any improvements to its democratic system.



Overall:



Rank: #49/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

50 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

TIED-45 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

44 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 66.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Mississippi has the worst voting laws in the country with almost no model practices.
- The state even resisted pandemic-era voting expansions like vote-by-mail and early voting; it was the only state to offer Election Day as the only voting option in 2020.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Mississippi has poor campaign finance and ethics laws across the board, only receiving full scores for its independent ethics agency and disclosure requirements for digital ads.
- A loophole in Mississippi ethics laws allows politicians to enrich themselves with cash from their campaign accounts.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Mississippi is 1 of only 9 states that does not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections.
- Mississippi passed a racially gerrymandered congressional map, but a panel of federal judges refused to rule on its constitutionality. Mississippi should adopt an independent redistricting commission to ensure fair, nondiscriminatory maps.
- Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch signed onto Texas' lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election, and the legislature passed a resolution opposing federal legislation to improve our democracy.

# MISSOURI

## SUMMARY

Missouri has one of the weakest democracies in the nation, with the 2nd worst voting laws overall. Missouri has also taken steps to weaken its democracy in recent years by restricting voting laws and passing a Republican-legislature advocated ballot initiative that dismantled a voter-approved independent redistricting commission.



Overall:



Rank: #36 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

TIED-48 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

14 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

31 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 128.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Missouri has some of the worst voting laws in the country, with prohibitions on no-excuse absentee voting, no early voting, and barriers to voter registration.
- This year, Missouri passed a new restrictive voter ID law that will be in effect for 2022 elections.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Missouri has average campaign finance and ethics rules, including a ban on direct contributions from corporations—although new rules open the doors for some businesses to contribute directly. The state could improve by creating coordination rules and requiring disclosures on digital ads.
- In 2018, voters enacted a constitutional amendment via ballot initiative that created a two year waiting period before former state legislators could register as lobbyists and lowered contribution limits.
- Missouri passed a law to protect dark money this year.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt signed onto Texas' lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election at the United States Supreme Court.
- Although voters approved the creation of an independent redistricting commission in 2018, state Republicans successfully pushed to have the reform rolled back in 2020.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Voting rights organizations are challenging Missouri's new restrictive voting laws in court, including the voter ID law and restrictions on assisting voters who need help casting their ballots such as disabled voters or voters with limited English proficiency.

# MONTANA

## SUMMARY

Montana finishes in the middle of the pack for the health of its democracy but has a strong score for its campaign finance and ethics laws. Montana has prioritized reducing the influence of dark money and special interest groups, but like other states with Republican legislatures, the freedom to vote has come under attack.



Overall:



Rank: #22 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

C

TIED-30 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

A

TIED-7 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

C

30 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 183.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Montana has some voting best practices, including no-excuse absentee and early voting, but could improve by ensuring that voters aren't wrongfully purged from voter rolls and making voter registration more accessible.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Montana has been one of the leading states in the fight to bring dark money into the light with its donor disclosure requirements.
- Montana's strong contribution limits restrict individuals and PAC donations to only \$710 per election to a statewide candidate, and prohibit corporate donations.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen signed onto Texas' lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election.
- Montana enacted legislation that shifts election authority to the state legislature.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Mike Lindell, MyPillow CEO and prominent 2020 election denier, received a meeting with [Attorney General Knudsen](#) and other state legislators to discuss false claims around the 2020 election. Two county Republican parties in Montana also [passed resolutions](#) casting doubt on the integrity of the 2020 election results.

Montana passed four restrictive voting laws in 2021 that undermined youth voting and eliminated same day registration, but an ongoing court challenge will determine whether or not they take effect this election.

# NEBRASKA

## SUMMARY

Nebraska has average voting laws and protections against democracy subversion, but has some of the worst campaign finance and ethics laws in the nation. While Nebraska has not passed laws to restrict the right to vote or undermine elections since 2020, the state does have an attorney general who supported overturning the 2020 election.



Overall:



Rank: #29 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

C

TIED-30 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

F

44 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

C

TIED-23 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 149.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Nebraska has significant room for improvement for its voting laws and could implement measures to make registration easier, such as automatic and same-day voter registration.
- The state requires a 2-year waiting period before formerly incarcerated people can regain their right to vote, disenfranchising Nebraskans who have served their time.
- Nebraska offers no-excuse absentee voting as well as a month of early voting, allowing voters flexibility surrounding when and how to cast their ballots.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Nebraska is 1 of only 5 states that allows unlimited direct contributions from individuals, PACs, and corporations.
- Nebraska has inadequate rules to prevent coordination between candidates and independent spenders, and has no protections against the lobbyist revolving door.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson signed onto Texas' lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election, and the legislature passed a resolution opposing federal legislation to protect our democracy

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

This November, Nebraskans will vote on a ballot initiative that would create a restrictive voter ID requirement in the state.

# NEVADA



## SUMMARY

Nevada has one of the strongest democracies in the nation with strong voting laws and protections against democracy subversion. The state has room for improvement with its campaign finance and ethics laws.

Overall:



Rank: #Tied-8/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**A**

TIED-6 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

28 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**A**

TIED-5 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 231/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 Nevada's voting access laws are very strong. If the state improves its average wait time to vote, which was just over 15 minutes in the 2020 election, the state would have a perfect score.
- 👍 In 2021, the state enacted permanent vote-by-mail and passed a law that made it easier for Native American reservations to request ballot drop boxes.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👎 Nevada could improve its campaign finance and ethics laws in several areas, particularly by establishing strong rules around independent spenders.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👍 Nevada has a near perfect score for combating democracy subversion, with its one weakness around redistricting. The legislature draws the maps in Nevada, which led to partisan battles this redistricting cycle. The state should enact an independent redistricting commission to ensure fair maps and that redistricting is free of partisanship.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Senate candidate Adam Laxalt tried to block certification of the 2020 election results, Secretary of State candidate Jim Marchant continues to spread false information that the 2020 election was stolen, and Attorney General candidate Sigal Chattah has significant ties to the criminal conspiracy to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

## SUMMARY

New Hampshire has one of the weakest democracies in the country, rating below average in every category. Although the then-Democratic held state legislature passed several laws in 2019 to improve the freedom to vote, Gov. Chris Sununu vetoed all of the pro-voter laws.



Overall:



Rank: #40 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

26 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

39 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 123.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- New Hampshire has weak voting laws and does not allow for no-excuse absentee voting, early voting, or even online voter registration, which particularly disadvantages young voters.
- Although the state has same-day registration, New Hampshire passed a law this year creating barriers for Granite Staters to vote using same-day registration.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- New Hampshire has weak campaign finance and ethics laws with no rules to prevent coordination between campaigns and independent spenders, no protections against the lobbyist revolving door, and no disclosure requirements for digital ads.
- New Hampshire passed an anti-transparency law that prevents disclosure of donors to nonprofits involved in political activities, allowing for increased dark money.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- New Hampshire is 1 of only 9 states that does not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections.
- In 2020, Gov. Sununu vetoed legislation that would have created an independent redistricting commission. This year's redistricting was dominated by attempts at partisan gerrymandering. The Granite State's democracy would be fairer if an independent commission were in charge of drawing maps.
- The New Hampshire legislature passed a resolution opposing federal legislation that would improve our democracy.

# NEW JERSEY



## SUMMARY

New Jersey has near top scores in campaign finance and ethics laws, protections against democracy subversion, as well as strong voting laws, where it has made steps forward in recent years.

Overall:



Rank: #7 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**B**

TIED-14 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

TIED-10 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**A**

8 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 237 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ New Jersey has almost all of the model voting laws, but does not currently offer same-day voter registration.
- ✔ Last year, New Jersey passed two laws to expand early voting and ensure voters have access to drop boxes for absentee ballots.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ New Jersey has strong campaign finance and ethics laws with strong coordination rules and an effective independent ethics agency.
- 👎 New Jersey should strengthen its laws for disclosures of contributions to independent expenditures.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👎 New Jersey uses a hybrid commission to draw its political districts. While this is better than the state legislature drawing their own maps, an independent redistricting commission is a better way to ensure fair maps are drawn.
- ✔ New Jersey has increased protections against voter intimidation.
- 👎 While the state has required voting machines with paper ballots for a decade, insufficient funding has led to some counties using voting machines without paper trails. A new law passed should improve New Jersey's use of paper ballots.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

A proposal called the "Elections Transparency Act" was introduced this year but ultimately failed. While it would have improved dark money disclosure regulations, it also doubles contribution limits and may weaken the state's pay-to-pay laws.

There is currently litigation over the design of New Jersey's primary ballots, which voting rights advocates say unfairly boosts candidates backed by county parties.

# NEW MEXICO



## SUMMARY

New Mexico sits in the top half of states for the health of its democracy. While the state has solid voting laws and protections against democracy subversion, it could strengthen its campaign finance and ethics laws.

Overall:



Rank: #21/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**B**

TIED-16 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

TIED-33 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**B**

17 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 195.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ New Mexico has strong voting laws, with automatic and same-day registration, ample early voting, and no-excuse absentee voting.
- ✔ New Mexico has implemented many of its expansive voting laws in recent years, which should address the long average wait times (22.4 minutes) for voting.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ In 2019, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law legislation creating an ethics commission to increase accountability for elected officials and other government employees.
- ✘ Corporations can donate directly to candidates in high amounts, which oil and gas companies use to exert influence over politicians.
- ✔ Public financing systems are available for statewide judicial candidates and local candidates in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ✘ The state legislature draws new legislative and congressional maps, which has led to partisan fights over the redistricting process. The state is currently considering an amendment to the constitution that would establish an independent redistricting commission, an important step for fair maps.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver pushed for the passage of the New Mexico Voting Rights Act this year, which would have expanded voting access, automatically restored voting rights for individuals who have served their time, and created additional protections for Native voters. The bill did not pass, but should be moved forward in the future.

# NEW YORK



## SUMMARY

New York has made great strides in recent years by passing positive, and sometimes even groundbreaking, democracy reforms, resulting in the state's overall high score and ranking.

Overall:



Rank: #20/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

C

TIED-22 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

C

22 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

B

TIED-11 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 197.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ This summer, New York passed the most expansive state-level Voting Rights Act yet.
- ✔ Last year, the state passed legislation automatically restoring voting rights for all New Yorkers who are not in prison.
- ✘ In 2021, New Yorkers rejected constitutional amendments to enact same-day voter registration and universal absentee voting, leaving the state without these policies.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ In 2020, New York state enacted a small donor public financing program based on New York City's long standing program, which in 2021 set records for participation.
- ✘ While New York passed a law in 2019 to limit LLC contributions, numerous companies have since used multiple LLCs under their control to skirt the limits.
- ✔ New York has a two-year cooling off period for former lawmakers to become lobbyists, and the state this year created a new panel to regulate ethics and lobbying.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ✔ Gov. Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James were both strong advocates for federal voting rights, ethics, and campaign finance legislation.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Future Advances

After failing to do so for years, the state Election Board said it has begun to enforce a 2019 law meant to limit corporate dark money in New York's elections.

# NORTH CAROLINA



## SUMMARY

North Carolina sits right near the middle with its overall democracy score, though that score would be much lower if not for Gov. Roy Cooper's vetoes of harmful legislation across all three categories. A handful of related lawsuits will determine if the state moves in either the right or wrong direction.

Overall:



Rank: #26 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**C**

TIED-30 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

40 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**B**

TIED-18 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 163 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 The state offers a long early voting period, and allows clerks to offer it on weekends.
- 👎 An appeals court ruling restored voting rights to tens of thousands of North Carolinians serving punishments for felony convictions but who are not currently incarcerated.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 North Carolina prohibits direct contributions from corporations to political candidates, as well as from lobbyists during the legislative session.
- 👎 Last year, Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed legislation that would have provided further protections for dark money groups to hide their donors.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 👎 Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed legislation that would have curtailed the power of North Carolina election boards and officials, as well as legislation that would have limited absentee voting.
- 👍 Gov. Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein were both strong advocates for federal voting rights, ethics, and campaign finance legislation.
- 👎 The state supreme court held that a gerrymandered map by the state legislature was unconstitutional, so a special-master drawn plan will be used this year.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Legal challenges continue to the state's redistricting maps for future elections, including a pending case before the U.S. Supreme Court that has the potential to upend election law by validating the "independent state legislature theory."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Republican lawmakers could join a lawsuit defending a state voter ID law, but it is still unsettled if the law violates federal law.

North Carolina and national Republicans sued to block the State Board of Elections from extending the fall absentee-ballot receipt deadline.

# NORTH DAKOTA

## SUMMARY

North Dakota has several good and expansive voting policies. However, its overall score was brought down by its lax campaign finance laws, efforts by state leaders to subvert democracy, and discriminatory voter ID laws and redistricting maps that discriminate against the state's Native American population.



Overall:



Rank: #27/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**B**

13 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

TIED-38 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 159.3/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- North Dakota received top scores for its early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, voter list maintenance and protections, and voting rights restoration policies.
- Last year, the state passed changes to curtail its absentee voting practices.
- Native Americans continue to fight the state's discriminatory voter ID laws; in 2020, the state settled with two tribes, easing some burdens the laws placed on tribes.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- North Dakota bars corporations from making direct contributions to candidates, but allows unlimited contributions from individuals and PACs.
- North Dakota has no mandatory waiting period before former lawmakers can register as lobbyists, though voters did recently pass a ban on lobbyist gifts.
- State lawmakers have killed past attempts to close loopholes that allow multicandidate committees and independent expenditures to hide their donors.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem supported a failed lawsuit led by Texas to block certification of the 2020 election results, while Secretary of State Alvin Jaeger and the state legislature both opposed federal voting rights and ethics legislation.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Two lawsuits claiming North Dakota's new legislative districts as racially gerrymandered will likely not be settled or affect the political map by this year's election.

# OHIO

## SUMMARY

Ohio's current mixed bag of good and bad policies reflects its middle-of-the-road grades across the board. However, its recent gerrymandered redistricting and potential restrictive voting reforms could soon move the state very much in the wrong direction.



Overall:



Rank: #25 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

C

TIED-28 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

C

25 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

C

25 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 164.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Ohio has no-excuse absentee voting and an extensive early voting period.
- Ohio has a restrictive voter ID law, and has limited registration options.
- Ohio's "use-it-or-lose-it" provision that lets officials drop voters seen as inactive almost led to it incorrectly removing 40,000 people from the rolls in 2019.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Ohio prohibits direct contributions from corporations to political candidates, but allows individuals and PACs to give over \$13,700.
- In 2020, the Speaker of the State House and several lobbyists were arrested for a dark money bribery scheme; the scandal led to Ohio being named the most corrupt state in the country. Legislative efforts to address the issue have all stalled out.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Ohio has some strong election security measures in place like paper ballot trails.
- Last year, the state legislature passed a resolution declaring their opposition to federal voting rights, campaign finance, and ethics legislation.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

A GOP plan pending in the legislature would restrict absentee voting and drop boxes, shorten early voting, and create stricter voter ID laws, among other harmful changes.

Ohio's ongoing redistricting process has seen maps implemented despite being ruled illegal partisan gerrymanders, and state lawmakers ignoring court deadlines.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose has perpetuated harmful myths about voter fraud.

# OKLAHOMA

## SUMMARY

Oklahoma has been home to many of the emerging and troubling democracy subversion and restrictive voting trends that have emerged since the 2020 election, giving it the lowest score of any state in this category, and plummeting its overall score to one of the lowest in the country.



Overall:



Rank: #48 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**F**

45 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**B**

20 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**F**

50 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 84.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 🗳️ Oklahoma offers early and mail-in voting options, though both are somewhat limited.
- 🗳️ The state has strict requirements for removing voters for inactivity, which led to over 110,000 voters being removed last year.
- 🗳️ In 2020, voters had one of the longest average wait times to vote in the country.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Oklahoma's contribution limits are in line with the federal standard, while the state also prohibits direct contributions from corporations.
- 🗳️ Oklahoma has no cooling-off period for former legislators to become lobbyists, and the Legislature overruled the Ethics Commission's attempt to implement one.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🗳️ This year, Oklahoma passed among the worst election interference laws in the country, including new criminal penalties on election officials and allowing the state legislature to seize control over election administration. It also passed new restrictions on absentee voting and new triggers to make it easier to remove voters from voter rolls.
- 🗳️ Attorney General John O'Connor supported Texas' failed lawsuit to block 2020 election certification, while the state legislature last year passed a resolution declaring that federal voting rights and ethics legislation was "unconstitutional."

## LOOKING FORWARD

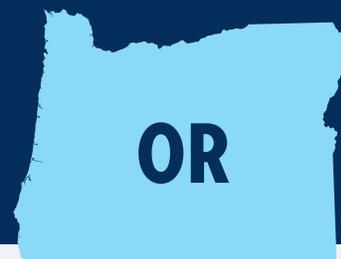
### Warning Signs

More than a dozen candidates who ran up and down the ballot in the state's GOP primaries this year repeated lies about widespread voter fraud and the 2020 election.

# OREGON

## SUMMARY

Oregon's strong voting and election security laws are somewhat offset by its lack of contribution limits and an independent redistricting process. However, both items are likely to be on the ballot in 2024, giving Oregon voters a chance to shore up these two lacking areas in the state's democracy.



Overall:



Rank: #13 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**A**

TIED-9 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

29 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**A**

TIED-5 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 224 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ Oregon has long been a leader in increasing voter access, including passing a pioneering "motor voter" automatic voter registration law in 2015 and also being the first state to conduct its elections completely using mail-in ballots.
- 👎 Oregon only missed a perfect score due to its lack of same-day voter registration.
- ✔ This year, state lawmakers passed a bill to expand its online voter registration option.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ Oregon's two year cooling off period before former state legislators can lobby the state government is among the nation's strongest protections against corruption.
- 👎 Oregon is one of only five states that does not have any contribution limits. Ballot initiatives to address this issue were blocked this year for not meeting requirements.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ✔ This year, Oregon passed a law protecting election workers from threats.
- ✔ Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum both were active proponents of federal voting rights, campaign finance, and ethics legislation.
- 👎 Oregon's redistricting process is done by the state legislature, and attempts to get an initiative on the ballot this year to create an independent redistricting commission were blocked by the state Supreme Court over technical matters.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Oregon pro-democracy groups have already filed an initiative they will try to get on the 2024 ballot to cap campaign contributions and shed light on dark money.

Supporters of another ballot initiative to create an independent redistricting commission also plan to start the process to get it on the November 2024 ballot.

# PENNSYLVANIA



## SUMMARY

Pennsylvania sits in the middle of the pack on the health of its democracy and has room for improvement in all three categories.

Overall:



Rank: #24/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

C

TIED-26 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

C

TIED-30 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

C

22 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 168.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✓ Pennsylvania ranks 26th for protecting the freedom to vote after making progress in 2019 by passing no-excuse absentee voting and extending voter registration.
- ✗ Pennsylvania could improve voter registration by adopting automatic voter registration and same-day registration.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✗ Pennsylvania ranks 30th for its campaign finance and ethics laws and is 1 of only a few states to allow unlimited contributions from individuals and PACs to candidates.
- ✗ Pennsylvania could improve its ethics laws to prevent improper gifts to politicians and ensure that candidates cannot use campaign funds for personal use.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ✗ Pennsylvania ranks 22nd in democracy subversion protections, and was one of just 5 states that engaged in a partisan election review after the 2020 election.
- ✓ Pennsylvania implemented fair maps this year drawn by the courts due to partisan divides in the state government. To ensure fair maps are passed in the future, it should adopt an independent redistricting commission.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano took part in events leading to the January 6th insurrection and attempted to decertify the 2020 election. The Pennsylvania governor has significant power over elections and appoints the secretary of state.

In 2021, Republicans in the Pennsylvania legislature attempted to pass legislation to restrict the freedom to vote, but were stalled by the governor's veto power.

### Potential Advances

This year, a good government bill stalled that would have banned gifts from lobbyists and special interests. This could be pursued in future sessions to fight corruption.

### Bright Spot

Attorney General Josh Shapiro stood up to multiple frivolous attempts by Trump campaign allies to subvert and overturn 2020 election results in Pennsylvania.

Gov. Tom Wolf recently signed an executive order expanding voter registration by making information and application forms available in many more state offices.

# RHODE ISLAND



## SUMMARY

Rhode Island is already buoyed by its top score in the country for its stellar campaign finance and ethics laws and recently passed legislation expanding voting rights and codifying election security measures. This has given the state a high grade for the overall state of its democracy.

Overall:



Rank: #12/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**C**

TIED-19 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

1 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**C**

TIED-18 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 226/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- 👍 This year, Gov. Dan McKee signed into law the Let RI Vote Act, which makes it easier to vote by mail and affirms no-excuse absentee voting options for any voter.
- 👍 After implementing early in-person voting in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic, the state has now made a 20 day early voting period permanent.
- 🗳️ Rhode Island has automatic and online voter registration, but not same-day.
- 👍 The state was the first one to restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated people.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Rhode Island's top score comes from its low contribution limits, strong independent expenditure and digital ad reporting requirements, good coordination laws, and strong oversight that this year alone caught several campaign finance violations.
- 👍 Rhode Island offers a matching funds program for statewide candidates.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🗳️ Rhode Island's redistricting process is done through the state legislature with maps drawn by its long-time consultant, but Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea did launch a state legislative district comparison tool to bring new transparency to the process.
- 👍 New legislation codified good election security practices the state has been using.
- 👍 Attorney General Peter Neronha was a proponent of federal democracy legislation.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### ⚠️ Potential Warning Sign

New legislation allows some voters to cast their ballots over the internet, despite concerns about the practice raised by election officials and experts.

# SOUTH CAROLINA



## SUMMARY

South Carolina's new voting and election security bill was a mixed bag of reforms, leaving the state still in the bottom third of the country in those areas. The state ranked much better in the campaign finance and ethics category thanks to several strong policies.

Overall:



Rank: #35 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

TIED-43 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

23 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

36 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 129.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- South Carolina now has two weeks of early voting after a new bill was passed this year, although the bill does create several additional hurdles for mail-in voting.
- South Carolina does not offer automatic or same-day voter registration options.
- In 2020, voters had to wait an average of 34.1 minutes to vote - the second-longest time in the country.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- South Carolina has strong laws around coordination between outside groups and candidates, an independent ethics agency, and online ad disclosure.
- South Carolina currently has fairly low contribution limits for individuals and PACs, though some state Republican lawmakers want to raise those limits.
- In 2018, a State Grand Jury found that Attorney General Alan Wilson's inaction impeded an investigation into corruption at the South Carolina Statehouse.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- The new election bill passed this year also included many "voter integrity" measures, including giving the Legislature more control over the State Election Commission.
- Attorney General Alan Wilson signed onto an amicus brief supporting Texas' failed lawsuit that tried to contest the 2020 election results.
- South Carolina passed maps adjusting its state House district lines after a civil rights lawsuit alleged the original maps discriminated against Black communities.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Despite concerns about the practice raised by election officials and experts, new legislation allows some voters to cast their ballots over the internet.

# SOUTH DAKOTA

## SUMMARY

From voting policies found to violate federal laws and disenfranchise voters, to weakening already lax campaign finance laws, to state government leaders joining disinformation efforts around election fraud, South Dakota ranks near the bottom of all three categories.



Overall:



Rank: #44 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**F**

TIED-43 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

TIED-42 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**D**

36 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 110/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ South Dakota offers no-excuse absentee voting and an extensive early voting period.
- ⚠ The state does not have automatic, same-day, or online registration options, but now is making several voter registration improvements due to a recent settlement agreement with Indigenous nations.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ Public officials cannot register as lobbyists for two years after their term ends, making for one of the strongest cooling off periods in the country.
- ⚠ While individuals have contribution limits, PACs can donate unlimited sums.
- ⚠ In March 2021, Gov. Kristi Noem signed into law a bill that makes disclosure of donors to dark money political groups illegal in South Dakota.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ⚠ Former South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg signed onto a failed lawsuit that tried to contest the 2020 election results, while South Dakota Secretary of State Steve Barnett actively opposed federal voting rights and ethics legislation.
- ⚠ State House Republicans, spurred by baseless claims of election fraud, passed a bill to require partisan reviews of ballots and voting equipment, but it died in the Senate.
- ⚠ Redistricting of state legislative lines is done by the Legislature.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

A federal district judge ordered the Lyman County Commission to come up with an election plan for November that does not violate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's federal voting rights, but the County has said it cannot do so until 2024 - leaving the matter still unsettled for the 2022 election.

# TENNESSEE

## SUMMARY

This year, state lawmakers responded to a string of scandals by passing much-needed campaign finance and ethics reforms. However, the state has moved in the wrong direction when it comes to voting rights, redistricting, and election subversion.



Overall:



Rank: #42/50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

46 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

TIED-33 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

TIED-33 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 117/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Tennessee has over two weeks of early voting.
- Tennessee's restrictive voting laws include no automatic or same day registration, very limited absentee voting, a photo ID requirement, and limits on voting rights restoration.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- PACs and corporations can contribute three-times more to candidates for statewide office than individuals.
- Tennessee has strong laws around independent expenditure requirements and online ad disclosure, and this year further improved its disclosure requirements by passing a bill to force donor disclosure for dark money political groups.
- The new bill was in response to several corruption scandals involving state lawmakers, including one being federally indicted for a political kickback scheme and another being federally indicted on campaign finance charges.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Attorney General Herbert Slatery III supported a lawsuit contesting the 2020 election results; Secretary of State Tre Hargett actively opposed federal legislation to protect the freedom to vote; and Gov. Bill Lee said Jan. 6th was not an "insurrection."
- The state's new gerrymandered congressional maps carved up Nashville into separate districts, disenfranchising voters of color and favoring Republicans.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Lawmakers passed a bill endorsed by Secretary of State Hargett that could give him the power to force unnecessary and potentially partisan election reviews.

# TEXAS



## SUMMARY

A state with a long tradition of restrictive voting laws, Texas has passed some of the most aggressive anti-voter laws since 2020. It also continues to have overall weak campaign finance regulations and lacks enforcement of corruption issues.

Overall:



Rank: #45 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**F**

TIED-43 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

35 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**F**

42 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 108.8 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Texas already had among the nation's strictest laws around voter registration options and absentee voting, and that was before Gov. Greg Abbott signed SB1 into law last year; this legislation severely restricts how and when voters cast ballots, particularly with voting methods disproportionately used by voters of color.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Texas allows unlimited contributions by individuals and PACs to candidates for state and local office.
- A recent law aimed at cracking down on the revolving door of lobbyists has been found to have several loopholes, and a recent investigation found that action is rarely ever taken against public officials for corruption and crime.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- From Attorney General Ken Paxton's failed efforts to block certification of the 2020 election results, to SB1's new harsh criminal penalties threatening election officials for minor technical infractions, to a congressional redistricting map labeled as perhaps "the worst gerrymander in the country," the last few years have seen Texas public officials take among the most dramatic efforts in the nation to undermine democracy.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

SB1's negative impacts have already been felt by Texas voters and are likely to only increase in the November election. The state rejected 12% of mail-ballots in its March primary - compared to less than 1% in the 2020 November election.

At least 27 Texas Republican candidates now vying for statewide and federal office continue to repeat misinformation that the 2020 election was rigged - more than any other state in the country - and are running on platforms of tightening voting rules.

### Bright Spot

While they serve in the extreme minority, Democratic state legislators have taken dramatic steps in opposition to the anti-voting laws, including breaking quorum outside the state to delay passage of SB1.

# UTAH

## SUMMARY

Utah has long been a national leader with its absentee voting policies, but partisan politics and misinformation following the 2020 elections have put this practice at risk and have blocked needed campaign finance regulations and reversed recent redistricting reforms approved by voters.



Overall:



Rank: #30 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

C

21 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

F

48 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

C

TIED-27 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 148.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Utah became the fourth state and only Republican-led state to conduct “all-mail” elections, and, in 2020, 92% of votes were cast by mail.
- Utah automatically restores voting rights for formerly incarcerated felons.
- Utah has same day and online voter registration, but not automatic voter registration.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Utah is one of only five states with no contribution limits of any kind - and attempts to impose limits have been overwhelmingly thwarted by the legislature.
- In 2021, House lawmakers killed a bill to increase transparency in the state’s political spending by improving clarity in campaign finance reporting.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- This year, the Statehouse considered 35 “election security” proposals, and ultimately passed laws further restricting voter ID rules, requiring 24-hour surveillance at ballot drop boxes, and making it easier for people to opt out of mail voting.
- Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes signed onto a failed Texas lawsuit that tried to overturn the 2020 election results.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Despite its long history of embracing absentee voting, some state lawmakers tried to pass a bill to end the state’s mail-in voting system, furthering doubt, misinformation, and opposition to the state’s vote-by-mail policy.

After Utah voters passed a ballot initiative in 2018 to implement an independent redistricting commission, Utah’s legislature now faces a lawsuit for not adopting the maps from the independent commission and instead adopting a gerrymandered map.

# VERMONT

## SUMMARY

Vermont has been one of the few places in the country since the 2020 elections to expand voting access in a bipartisan fashion, and now has among the strongest voting laws in the nation. The state recently failed to advance a bill that would have greatly improved its campaign finance policies, leaving it with much room for improvement in that area.



Overall:



Rank: #11/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-1 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**C**

27 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**B**

TIED-15 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 228.5/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ Vermont is one of just five states to receive a perfect score for its voting policies and practices.
- ✔ Last year, the Democratic-majority legislature and Republican Gov. Phil Scott worked together to pass a bill that represents the largest expansion of Vermont voter access in decades, including sending absentee ballots to all active voters.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ Vermont has relatively strong contribution limits when it comes to giving to state and local candidates.
- 👉 Vermont established a public funding system in 1997, but it only applies to elections for governor and lieutenant governor and has largely been underutilized.
- 👉 In 2021, the state Senate passed a bill to ban corporate contributions, increase transparency, and improve its public financing system, but it stalled in the House.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🚫 Vermont's state legislative districts are drawn by the Legislature rather than an independent commission.
- ✔ Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan has been an advocate for federal legislation to safeguard democracy, while Secretary of State Jim Condos has led the effort to protect Vermont's elections and push back on misinformation.

# VIRGINIA

## SUMMARY

Virginia continues to have among the most lax campaign finance laws in the country, but has recently made great strides to improve its voting, election administration, and but has recently made great strides to improve its voting and election administration policies. However, these changes could potentially be short lived as Gov. Glenn Youngkin and Virginia Republicans are backing efforts to roll back many of these positive changes.



Overall:



Rank: #18 / 50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**B**

TIED-14 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**F**

41 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**A**

7 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 207.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- ✔ In 2021, the Virginia Voting Rights Act was signed into law.
- ✔ Virginia's strong voting laws include automatic, same day, and online voter registration, as well as an early voting period that begins 45 days before an election.
- ⚠ Virginia is one of three states in which the constitution disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions, but grants the governor the authority to restore voting rights.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- ✔ Virginia has relatively strong disclosure requirements for digital ads.
- ⚠ Virginia has among the weakest contribution regulations in the country as one of only five states with no contribution limits for individuals, PACs, and corporations.
- ⚠ This year, Virginia state lawmakers blocked legislation that would have prevented candidates from using campaign funds for personal expenses.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- ⚠ This year, Virginia Senate Democrats defeated a broad range of Republican-sponsored restrictive voting measures, including ones to shorten early voting, ban absentee drop-off boxes, end same day voter registration, and end the permanent absentee voter list.
- ✔ Virginia recently passed bills to protect against voter intimidation and misinformation.
- ⚠ Gov. Glenn Youngkin has flirted with election conspiracies and sowed doubt about voting equipment and results.

# WASHINGTON



## SUMMARY

Washington scored the 2nd highest overall score of all states, with a perfect score on voting rights and democracy subversion protections.

Overall:



Rank: #2/50

## GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS  
LAWS

**A**

TIED-1 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

TIED-7 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION  
PROTECTIONS

**A**

TIED-1 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 279/300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- With a perfect score, Washington is the gold standard for voting access.
- In 2021, Washington passed legislation to automatically restore voting rights for individuals convicted of a felony once they are no longer incarcerated.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Washington is tied for the 7th best score for its campaign finance and ethics laws.
- Washington could improve its score by banning corporations from donating directly to candidates.
- Seattle offers a Democracy Vouchers program for municipal elections, increasing the power of small donors and elevating candidates from underrepresented backgrounds.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Washington is tied for the best score for democracy subversion protections.
- Washington's independent redistricting commission enacted fair maps, allowing voters to choose their politicians, instead of the other way around.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Potential Advances

Gov. Jay Inslee has voiced support for legislation that would levy criminal penalties against elected officials and candidates who lie about election results knowing that the lie could lead to violence.

# WEST VIRGINIA

## SUMMARY

West Virginia has been ahead of the curve on certain voting policies like automatic voter registration and has overall strong campaign finance policies. While the state has not passed any major restrictive voting or election administration bills, comments and actions from top statewide officials questioning the 2020 election results are worrisome.



Overall:



Rank: #23 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**C**

TIED-26 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**A**

TIED-10 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**C**

29 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 174.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- In 2016, West Virginia became just the third state to enact automatic voter registration after previously enacting electronic, online, and preregistration options.
- West Virginia does not have no-excuse absentee voting or same day registration.
- West Virginia is one of several states that have purged their rolls more aggressively in recent years, raising concerns that eligible voters could be disenfranchised.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- West Virginia's state legislature passed a bill in 2019 that raised contribution limits, but they still remain relatively strong with donations from individuals and PACs capped at \$2,800 and corporate donations prohibited.
- The state enacted in 2010 a public funding program for state Supreme Court races, but weak disclosure laws have allowed dark money to pour into these elections.
- West Virginia has an independent ethics agency, but could implement stronger laws around the gifts elected officials are allowed to accept.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- The state legislature has not passed any major restrictive voting laws since the 2020 elections, but did pass a bill this year that restricts election administration.
- West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey joined a lawsuit thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court that tried to contest the 2020 election results, while the state's Governor and Secretary of State also questioned the 2020 election results.
- The state legislature is responsible for drawing redistricting maps after bills to implement an independent redistricting commission failed to advance.

# WISCONSIN



## SUMMARY

Wisconsin has been home to some of the most extreme controversies and attempts to decertify the 2020 election and undermine future ones. Gov. Evers' veto has stopped some of these efforts, but the potential combination of an aggressive and far-right state supreme court, and gerrymandered state legislature has Wisconsin's democracy on danger alert.

Overall:



Rank: #28 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

C

TIED-30 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

C

TIED-30 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

C

26 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 156 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Wisconsin offers good same day and online voter registration options, but has limited absentee voting and early in-person voting options.
- Wisconsin is one of only 8 states with a strict photo ID policy in order to vote.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Wisconsin prohibits contributions from corporations, but has very weak contribution limits for PACs, which now make up nearly 60% of all contributions.
- Last year, Democratic state lawmakers introduced a "Campaign Integrity" package of good campaign finance reforms, but these have not moved in the state legislature.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Since the 2020 election, GOP state lawmakers have advanced more than a dozen restrictive voting-and election-related bills. All have been vetoed by Gov. Evers.
- The state Supreme Court chose a legislative redistricting plan drawn by GOP state lawmakers, likely giving the party a further unrepresentative advantage in elections.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

Wisconsin's legislature is unrepresentative of the will of the voters, due to extreme partisan gerrymandering, giving the Republican caucus a nearly veto-proof majority. Fair maps would make the legislature more representative and responsive to Wisconsin's views and needs.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled this summer to limit ballot drop boxes and absentee voting return options.

GOP gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels has embraced debunked claims about the 2020 election and said he is open to efforts to decertify the results.

A judge ordered the Wisconsin Elections Commission to rescind its guidance directing clerks to fill in missing information on absentee ballot envelopes, increasing the likelihood that more ballots will be rejected.

### Bright Spot

Gov. Evers' veto pen: An extremely gerrymandered legislature has passed dozens of anti-voting and anti-democracy bills that Evers has vetoed to protect people's access to the ballot.

# WYOMING



## SUMMARY

In all 3 categories, Wyoming has some strong policies, but many others drive down its standing. While lawmakers have made minor improvements this year to voting and campaign finance laws, much more can be done in these areas.

Overall:



Rank: #38 / 50

## GRADES

### VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

**D**

TIED-34 OF 50

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

**D**

TIED-38 OF 50

### DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

**D**

TIED-37 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 125.5 / 300

## BEHIND THE GRADES



### Voting Rights Laws

- Wyoming's no-excuse absentee voting policies resulted in a record number of voters—nearly half—using this method in the 2020 elections.
- Legislators further improved absentee voting by passing a bill to allow for the pre-processing of ballots before Election Day.
- Wyoming is among a small group of states that does not offer online voter registration and it also does not offer automatic voter registration.



### Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Wyoming overall has strong contribution limits, including a maximum of \$2,500 for statewide candidates that is lower than the federal standard.
- Legislators passed two good campaign finance bills this year, including one to improve disclosure requirements for dark money groups.



### Democracy Subversion Protections

- Wyoming was one the 19 states to pass a restrictive voting law in 2021.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Warning Signs

A new restrictive voter ID law passed in 2021 is being **challenged in court** as unconstitutional for requiring voters to show an ID both when they register and vote.

Election denier Chuck Gray **won** the Republican primary for Secretary of State and is running unopposed in the general election. Gray has said he would ban ballot drop boxes because he believes they are used for cheating.



**VOTING RIGHTS LAWS**  
(100 Points)

**Does the state have automatic voter registration? (10 points)**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
10 points	0 points

**Sources**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Automatic Voter Registration](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Automatic Voter Registration](#)

**Does the state have same-day voter registration? (10 points)**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>Same-day voter registration is allowed during early voting, but not on Election Day</b>	<b>No</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Same Day Voter Registration](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Voter Registration Deadlines](#)

**Does the state have online voter registration? (10 points)**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
10 points	0 points

**Sources**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Online Voter Registration](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Online Voter Registration](#)

**Does the state protect against improper voter purges? (10 points)**

**Does the state purge inactive voters and not provide adequate notice before removing voters?**

<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
5 points	0 points

**Source**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Voter List Accuracy](#)

**Is the state a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
5 points	0 points

**Source**  
Movement Advancement Project, [Membership in Electronic Registration Information Center](#)

**Does the state have no-excuse absentee voting? (10 points)**

<b>Yes, without additional and excessive ID/witness/notary requirements</b>	<b>State allows for no-excuse absentee voting, but has additional and excessive voter ID/witness/notary requirements</b>	<b>No</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [States with No-Excuse Absentee Voting](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Additional Steps to Return Mail Ballot](#)

**Does the state have early voting? (10 points)**

<b>The state has 14 or more days of early voting</b>	<b>The state has 13 to 1 days of early voting</b>	<b>The state does not have early voting</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [Early In-Person Voting](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Early Voting Period](#)

**Does the state require voters to verify their identity to vote? (10 points)**

<b>State voter verification process does not include requiring voters to show an ID or sign an affidavit to vote</b>	<b>Photo ID requested, but if voter does not have ID, voter verification process does not require the voter to take any additional steps</b>	<b>Non-photo ID required, and additional steps required of the voter if the voter does not have ID</b>	<b>Photo ID required, and additional steps required of the voter if the voter does not have ID</b>
10 points	5 points	2 points	0 points

**Sources**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [Voter ID Laws](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Voter ID Requirements for In-Person Voting](#)

**Has the state passed expansive voting legislation or taken executive action protecting or expanding voter access since 2020? (10 points)**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes, but impact is minor or mixed</b>	<b>No</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**

Voting Rights Lab, [State Voting Rights Tracker](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Voting Laws Roundup: May 2022](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Voting Laws Roundup: December 2021](#); Press Release, Whitmer Signs Executive Directive to Boost Voter Registration, [Michigan.gov](#)

**Does the state restore voting rights for individuals with felony convictions after they have served their time? (10 points)**

<b>Never disenfranchise or have automatic restoration after incarceration</b>	<b>Automatic restoration after completion of sentence</b>	<b>Never/rarely restored or not automatic restoration</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [Felon Voting Rights](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Voting Rights for Formerly Incarcerated People](#)

**How long did voters in 2020 have to wait to cast their ballot in person? (10 points)**

<b>Voters waited fewer than 15 minutes on average to cast a ballot</b>	<b>Voters waited between 15 and 20 minutes on average to cast a ballot</b>	<b>Voters waited over 20 minutes on average to cast a ballot</b>
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Sources**

Movement Advancement Project, [In-Person Voting Wait Time & Line Length](#)



## CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

(100 Points)

### Does the state have adequate individual contribution limits? (10 points)

Individuals may contribute up to \$2,900 for statewide office	Individuals may contribute up to \$5,800 for statewide office	Individuals may contribute over \$5,800 for statewide office
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Source**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [State Limits on Contributions to Candidates 2021-2022 Election Cycle](#)

### Does the state have adequate PAC contribution limits? (10 points)

PACs may contribute up to \$5,000 for statewide office	PACs may contribute up to \$10,000 for statewide office	PACs may contribute over \$10,000 for statewide office
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Source**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [State Limits on Contributions to Candidates 2021-2022 Election Cycle](#)

### Does the state have adequate corporate and union contribution limits? (10 points)

Corporate donations are prohibited	Corporations may contribute up to \$2,900 for statewide office	Corporations may contribute over \$2,900 for statewide office
5 points	2.5 points	0 points
Union donations are prohibited	Unions may contribute up to \$2,900 for statewide office	Unions may contribute over \$2,900 for statewide office
5 points	2.5 points	0 points

**Source**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [State Limits on Contributions to Candidates 2021-2022 Election Cycle](#)

### Does the state restrict coordination between campaigns and independent expenditure committees? (10 points)

Yes, the state has detailed rules defining what qualifies as coordination between candidates and independent expenditure committees	The state recognizes coordination between independent expenditure committee and most coordinated actors, and the state does not specify the conduct and campaign spending that may qualify as coordination	The state recognizes coordination between independent expenditure committee and candidates only, and the state does not specify the conduct and campaign spending that may qualify as coordination	No
10 points	5 points	2.5 points	0 points

**Source**

Coalition for Integrity, [State Campaign Finance Index 2022](#)

**Does the state require reporting of contributions to independent spenders, and the sources behind those contributions? (10 points)**

**Does the state require reporting of contributors to independent spenders?**

Yes	Some donors to independent expenditures are required to be disclosed or some information related to contributors is not required	No
7 points	3.5 points	0 points

**Does the state require reporting of the beneficial owners of LLCs that contribute to entities that make independent expenditures?**

Yes	Beneficial owners are only disclosed in certain circumstances	No
1.5 points	0.75 points	0 points

**Does the state require reporting of the funders of 501(c) groups that contribute to independent spenders?**

Yes	Contributors to 501(c) groups are only disclosed under limited circumstances	No
1.5 points	0.75 points	0 points

**Source**

Coalition for Integrity, [State Campaign Finance Index 2022](#)

**Does the state have adequate laws to prevent the lobbyist revolving door? (10 points)**

State bans politicians from serving as lobbyists for 2 or more years after leaving office	State bans politicians from serving as lobbyists for fewer than 2 years	State does not prevent politicians from serving as lobbyists for any period of time
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Source**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [Revolving Door Prohibitions](#)

**Does the state have an effective independent ethics agency to enforce ethics laws? (10 points)**

**Does an independent ethics agency have jurisdiction over the executive branch, including elected officials, appointed officials, and executive branch employees?**

Yes, all executive branch officials and employees are under the jurisdiction of the ethics agency	Some executive branch officials and employees are under the jurisdiction of the ethics agency	No independent ethics agency or it does not have jurisdiction over executive branch officials and employees
2 points	1 point	0 points

**Does an independent ethics agency have jurisdiction over members of the state legislature?**

Yes, all members of the legislature are under the jurisdiction of the ethics agency	Some members of the legislature are under the jurisdiction of the ethics agency or some of the ethics rules apply to legislators	No independent ethics agency or it does not have jurisdiction over members of the legislature
2 points	1 point	0 points

**Does the independent agency have the power to initiate its own investigations?**

Over the executive branch?			Over the legislative branch?		
Yes	The ethics agency has limited powers to conduct its own investigations	No	Yes	The ethics agency has limited powers to conduct its own investigations	No
1 points	0.5 points	0 points	1 points	0.5 points	0 points

Does the state have an effective independent ethics agency to enforce ethics laws? (10 points)					
Does the independent ethics agency have the ability to hold public hearings?					
Over the executive branch?			Over the legislative branch?		
Yes	The ethics agency has limited powers to hold public hearings	No	Yes	The ethics agency has limited powers to hold public hearings	No
1 points	0.5 points	0 points	1 points	0.5 points	0 points
Does the independent ethics agency have subpoena power?					
Over the executive branch?			Over the legislative branch?		
Yes	The ethics agency has limited subpoena powers	No	Yes	The ethics agency has limited subpoena powers	No
1 points	0.5 points	0 points	1 points	0.5 points	0 points
<b>Source</b> Coalition for Integrity, <a href="#">2020 S.W.A.M.P. Index</a>					

Does the state require adequate disclosure of political advertisements on internet based media? (10 points)		
The state requires the disclosure of payors of political advertisements/electioneering communications of at least \$500 and requires adequate disclosure of information related to payor	The state requires disclosure on political advertisements/electioneering communications but has some exceptions, or does not require adequate disclosure of information or excluding communications where more than \$500 is spent	The state does not require the disclosure of political advertisements/electioneering communications on Internet-based media
10 points	5 points	0 points
<b>Source</b> Coalition for Integrity, <a href="#">State Campaign Finance Index 2022</a>		

Does the state have an effective, widely used public financing program for campaigns? (10 points)			
The state has a comprehensive, widely used public financing program for statewide and legislative elections.	The state has a public financing program, but not for all elections	Localities within the state have public financing programs	The state and localities do not have any public financing programs
10 points	5 points	2.5 points	0 points
<b>Sources</b> National Conference of State Legislatures, <a href="#">Public Financing of Campaigns: Overview</a> ; Demos, <a href="#">Public Funding for Electoral Campaigns</a>			

Does the state have adequate restrictions on politicians receiving gifts? (10 points)			
Are executive branch officials and legislators prohibited from accepting gifts in aggregate of \$250 or more from high-risk sources (lobbyists, lobbyists' principals, government contractors)?			
Yes	Yes, but there are some loopholes	Some gifts may be received in excess of \$250 and there are loopholes	No
3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Are executive branch officials and legislators prohibited from accepting gifts in aggregate of \$250 or more from individuals other than high-risk sources?			
Yes	Yes, but there are some loopholes	Some gifts may be received in excess of \$250 and there are loopholes	No
3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points

Does the state have adequate restrictions on politicians receiving gifts? (10 points)		
Are executive branch officials and legislators required to disclose gifts received?		
Yes	Only required to disclose gifts in excess of \$250, only required to disclose gifts from certain sources, or only certain officials are required to disclose gifts	No
4 points	2 points	0 points
<b>Source</b> Coalition for Integrity, <a href="#">2020 S.W.A.M.P. Index</a>		



## DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

(100 Points)

Does the state have an independent redistricting process? (10 points)		
How are state legislative maps drawn?		
The state has a non-partisan independent redistricting commission	The state has a hybrid redistricting commission with some degree of non-partisan input	The state's legislature draws redistricting maps
5 points	2.5 points	0 points
How are congressional districts drawn?		
The state has a non-partisan independent redistricting commission	The state has a hybrid redistricting commission with some degree of non-partisan input	The state's legislature draws redistricting maps
5 points	2.5 points	0 points
<b>Sources</b> Ballotpedia, <a href="#">State-by-State Redistricting Procedures</a> ; Movement Advancement Project, <a href="#">Independence of State Congressional Redistricting Process</a> ; Princeton Gerrymandering Project, <a href="#">State-by-State Reforms</a>		

Are the state's new redistricting maps fair for partisanship? (10 points)			
What is the state legislative redistricting map's efficiency gap?			
0-5%	5.1-10%	10.1%+	Does not have efficiency gap score
5 points	2.5 points	0 points	Incomplete
What is the congressional redistricting map's efficiency gap?			
0-5%	5.1-10%	10.1%+	Does not have efficiency gap score
5 points	2.5 points	0 points	Incomplete
<b>Sources</b> Campaign Legal Center, <a href="#">PlanScore</a> ; Princeton Gerrymandering Project, <a href="#">Redistricting Report Card</a> ; Five Thirty Eight, <a href="#">2021-22 Redistricting Tracker</a>			

**Does the state conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of elections? (10 points)**

**Does the state conduct traditional or risk-limiting post-election audits?**

Yes	No
10 points	0 points

**Did the state conduct a partisan, fraudulent election review of the 2020 election results?**

Yes	No
5 points	0 points

**Source**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Post-Election Audits](#); Brennan Center, [Partisan Election Review Efforts in Five States](#)

**Does the state have a paper ballot trail requirement? (10 points)**

Yes, and it is voter verifiable	Yes, but no requirement for voter verification or not statutorily required; or paper ballots are not required in the state, but are used in practice	No
10 points	5 points	0 points

**Source**  
National Conference of State Legislatures, [Voting System Paper Trail Requirement](#)

**Did the state pass election worker, voter, & third-party protections or criminalization measures since 2020? (10 points)**

Passed measures to increase protections and/or impose positive criminalization	Nothing passed or the impact of measures passed is unclear (unless evidence of strong existing laws)	Passed measures to decrease protections and/or implement negative criminalization
10 points	0 points	10 points

**Sources**  
Movement Advancement Project, [Democracy Maps: Laws Protecting Election Officials Against Threats](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Democracy Maps: Election Officials Face Threats Of Undue Criminal Penalties/Fines](#); States Newsroom, [New and elevated election-related crimes since 2020](#)

**Has the state passed restrictive voting legislation since 2020? (10 points)**

No	Advanced in the state legislature but was vetoed by the Governor	Minor restriction(s) enacted	Significant restriction(s) enacted
20 points	15 points	10 points	0 points

**Sources**  
Voting Rights Lab's [State Voting Rights Tracker](#); Voting Rights Lab's [State of State Election Law 2022 Mid-Year Review](#); Brennan Center For Justice's [Voting Laws Roundup: December 2021](#)

**Did the state's attorney general sign onto an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the Texas-led anti-certification failed lawsuit contesting the 2020 election results? (10 points)**

No	Yes
10 points	0 points

**Source**  
U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#)

**Has the state passed legislation since 2020 shifting election authority to the legislature? (10 points)**

No	Yes, but legislation was blocked and/or vetoed	Yes
10 points	5 points	0 points
<b>Sources</b> Voting Rights Lab's <a href="#">State Voting Rights Tracker</a> ; Movement Advancement Project's <a href="#">Democracy Maps: State Legislature Interference In Elections</a>		

**Has the state passed pro- or anti-HR1/federal legislation measure(s) since 2020 or have state leaders signed letters in support or in opposition to HR1/federal legislation? (10 points)**

Passed pro-HR1/federal legislation measure(s) and/or signed pro-letter(s)	Passed pro-HR1/federal legislation measure or signed pro-letter	Did Nothing or equal amount of pro- and anti-measures/letters	Passed anti-HR1/federal legislation measure or signed anti-letter	Passed anti-HR1/federal legislation measure and signed anti-letter
10 points	5 points	0 points	5 points	10 points
<b>Sources</b> Voting Rights Lab's <a href="#">State Voting Rights Tracker</a> ; <a href="#">Democracy Letter to Congress</a> ; <a href="#">Letter: Need for Federal Legislation to Safeguard Democracy</a> ; <a href="#">Letter: Secretaries of State Expressing Opposition to H.R. 1</a>				

**STATE-SPECIFIC SOURCES**

- AL:** Washington Post, [What the Supreme Court decision in Alabama means for racial gerrymandering](#); Associated Press, [Alabama joins Texas in election lawsuit challenging Biden victory](#)
- AK:** Brennan Center For Justice, [Attacks Against Election Officials Are Taking a Toll](#); Anchorage Daily News, [Alaska becomes second state to approve ranked-choice voting as Ballot Measure 2 passes by 1%](#)
- AZ:** NPR, [Arizona Republicans Enact Sweeping Changes To State's Early Voting List](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Nonwhite Voters at Higher Risk of Being Dropped from Arizona's Mail Ballot List](#); Democracy Docket, [Arizona Passes Restrictive Proof of Citizenship Law](#); Tucson Sentinel, [Free and Fair Elections Act won't be on the ballot after last-minute math changes](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [The Growing Election Sabotage Movement](#); NPR, [Arizona Republicans Strip Some Election Power From Democratic Secretary Of State](#); NBC News, [Kari Lake, Trump-backed election denier, wins GOP primary in Arizona governor's race](#); AZ Mirror, [Mark Finchem is the latest in a wave of election deniers moving toward controlling elections](#); Axios, [Arizona election officials resign over threats about 2020](#)
- AR:** Brennan Center For Justice, [The Election Sabotage Scheme and How Congress Can Stop It](#); KATV, ABC 7, [Activist call Arkansas redistricting maps racial gerrymandering: GOP disagrees](#); U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#); Democracy Docket, [Arkansas Judge Strikes Down Four Voter Suppression Laws](#)
- CA:** Assemblymember Marc Berman, District 24, [California to Continue Mailing Voters Ballots Before Every Election](#); Assemblymember Alex Lee, District 25, [Bill to Protect the Integrity of California Elections from Foreign Influence Passes Out of Elections Committee](#)
- CO:** The Fulcrum, [How Colorado became the model for running an election by mail](#); The Denver Post, [In crowded city races, Denver's new fair election fund will face first test](#); Coalition for Integrity, [States With Anti-Corruption Measures for Public Officials \(S.W.A.M.P.\) Index](#); Coalition for Integrity, [2018-2020 Comparison Chart](#); Colorado Politics, [Griswold leads effort to block foreign money from influencing elections](#); Map Search, [Laws Protecting Election Officials Against Threats](#); NPR, [Colorado clerk is indicted for election tampering and misconduct](#); The Denver Post, [Colorado election deniers did not fare well in the primary](#)
- CT:** Brennan Center For Justice, [Unlocking the Vote in Connecticut](#); Ballotpedia, [Connecticut Allow for Early Voting Amendment \(2022\)](#); Fox 61, [Civil Rights groups, leaders call for passage of bill that protects against voting discrimination](#)
- FL:** Politico, [Florida Power & Light operates an exclusive, invite-only lounge for lawmakers and lobbyists](#); Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#); NPR, [Florida lawmakers back the creation of an election crimes investigative office](#); Salon, [Ron DeSantis' handpicked "radical far-right" secretary of state will oversee his race](#); Politico, [Defendants targeted in DeSantis' voter fraud crackdown were told they could vote](#)
- GA:** Open Secrets, [A little known Georgia campaign finance law will allow select candidates to collect unlimited campaign cash](#); NBC News, [Georgia legislators pass bill to allow state police to investigate voter fraud](#); GPB News, [How Does Georgia's Election Board Takeover Law Work? Not Quickly](#); Prospect, [Seeking Republican Love, Raffensperger Goes After Voter Registration Groups](#); The Daily Beast, [Subpoenas Probe GOP Mission to Breach Georgia Voting System](#)
- HI:** AP News, [Hawaii lawmakers pass some reforms after bribery scandal](#); Honolulu Civil Beat, [Hawaii Will Add A Few Voter Centers For This Year's Primary. Are More Needed?](#); The Maui News, [Bill to address political corruption, other crimes](#); KITV, ABC 4, [Commission looks to get big money out of politics in Hawaii](#)
- ID:** Idaho Capital Sun, [GOP legislators introduce two new bills to change Idaho's voting procedures](#); Idaho Capital Sun, [Idaho GOP convention committee approves rule to limit 'crossover voting'](#); KTVB 7, [Idaho Republicans poised to reject 2020 election results](#)
- IL:** Illinois Policy, [Illinois State Lawmakers Get A Little More Ethical, But A Lot More Is Needed](#)
- IN:** U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#)
- IA:** Des Moines Register, [Gov. Kim Reynolds signs law shortening Iowa's early and Election Day voting](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [The Election Sabotage Scheme and How Congress Can Stop It](#); AP News, [Iowa's GOP leaders stand by Trump as he repeats false claims](#)
- KS:** U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#); Kansas Reflector, [Election officials risk criminal charges under 31 new GOP-imposed penalties](#); The Topeka Capital-Journal, [Kris Kobach wins primary race for Kansas attorney general. His comeback isn't complete yet](#)

CONTINUED...

- LA: Office of the Governor, [NOTICE: Bills Vetoed by Gov. Edwards](#); Louisiana Illuminator, [Proposal would increase campaign donation limits in Louisiana](#); Louisiana Illuminator, [Louisiana Legislature overrides Gov. Edwards' veto of congressional map](#); U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#)
- ME: Campaign Legal Center, [Maine Enacts Law Prohibiting Direct Corporate Contributions To Candidates](#); PBS NewsHour, [Maine passes law protecting poll workers facing increased threats since the 2020 election](#); Maine Public, [The Big Lie Characters Behind Maine Republican Lawmaker's Push For Arizona-Style Election Audit](#)
- MD: Maryland Matters, [As Other States Move to Restrict Voting, the Maryland General Assembly Passed Bills to Expand Access](#); Common Cause, [2022 Legislative Review](#)
- MA: The Boston Globe, [Mass. Lawmakers agree to make vote-by-mail permanent, balk at same-day registration](#)
- MI: University of Michigan-Dearborn, [What's going on with voting rights in Michigan?](#); AP News, [Record 5.5M voted in Michigan: highest percentage in decades](#); MLive, [Here's where voter turnout was highest, lowest in Michigan primary election](#); Axios, [Smooth night at the counting site](#); Voting Rights Lab, [The State of State Election Law 2022 Mid-Year Review](#); WWMT, News Channel 3, [Smooth and successful: Secretary of State reports no major issues in August primary](#); Promote the Vote 2022, [Promote the Vote 2022](#); Detroit Free Press, [GOP-backed Secure MI Vote turns in more than half a million signatures](#)
- MN: Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, [Elections and Voting](#); The Office of the Secretary of State, [Secretary Merrill Joins 12 Secretaries of State in Supporting H.R. 1 the For the People Act](#); Huffpost, [Election Denier Kim Crockett Wins Minnesota GOP Secretary Of State Primary](#)
- MS: Mississippi Today, [Mississippi does not have to change law to make voting hard. It already is.](#); Daily Journal, [Mississippi politicians continue to enrich themselves with campaign funds, documents show](#); Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#)
- MO: AP News, [Missouri enacts photo voter ID law before November elections](#); St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [Missouri proposal would allow more businesses to contribute money to candidates](#); Ballotpedia, [Missouri Amendment 1, Lobbying, Campaign Finance, and Redistricting Initiative \(2018\)](#); Missouri Independent, [New Missouri law shields nonprofit donor identities, allows LLCs to give to candidates](#); Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#); Missouri Independent, [Missouri's new voter ID law faces lawsuit claiming it's unconstitutional](#); ACLU Missouri, [Civil Rights Groups Challenge Missouri Voting Restrictions](#)
- MT: Montana Free Press, [District court blocks new voting laws](#); The Fulcrum, [Montana's tough donor disclosure law survives at Supreme Court](#); Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#); Legislative Services Divisions Montana, [HB 429](#); Montana Free Press, [Election fraud argument gets an audience with Montana's Department of Justice](#); Daily Montanan, [The denial of reality is spreading across Montana](#)
- NE: Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#); Des Moines Register, [Nebraska voters could weigh in on new voter ID laws this November](#)
- NV: Nevada Current, [Nevada tribes taking advantage of improved voting access](#)
- NH: Boston, [New Hampshire provisional ballot law challenged in court](#); Campaign Legal Center, [New Hampshire Law Highlights Downsides of State-Level Anti-Transparency Legislation](#)
- NJ: CNN, [New Jersey lawmakers approve bills expanding voting rights as GOP-led states move to restrict access](#); Office of The Attorney General, [Acting Attorney General Platkin Issues Updated Guidance on Law Enforcement Involvement in Election Activities and Protections Against Unlawful Voter Intimidation](#); North Jersey, ['Huge strides' on voting in New Jersey in recent years](#); Politico, [Legislature taps the brakes on massive campaign finance bill](#); NJ Spotlight News, [Challengers win right to fight 'party line' ballots](#)
- NM: Carlsbad Current Argus, [Oil and gas puts \\$1.1 million into New Mexico politics. What does that money buy?](#); The NM Political Report, [Redistricting legislation gets first hearing](#); Office of the Governor, [Governor, Secretary of State introduce New Mexico Voting Rights Act](#)
- NY: New York State, [Governor Hochul Signs Landmark John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York Into Law](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Voting Rights Restoration Efforts in New York](#); NPR, [New Yorkers vote against a potential expansion of ballot access for the state](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Guide: New York State's Small Donor Public Financing System](#); Sludge, [Small Donors Hit Record Highs in New York City's Public Campaign Financing Program](#); The City, [Hochul Campaign Donors Blow Past Corporate Contribution Limits](#); Spectral News 1, [New York's new ethics panel takes shape with familiar face](#); Democracy Letter to Congress, [Democracy Letter to Congress](#); State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, [Urgent Need for Federal Legislation to Safeguard Democracy](#); FiveThirtyEight, [What Redistricting Looks Like In Every State](#); New York Focus, [State Board of Elections Begins Enforcing Campaign Finance Disclosure Laws](#)
- NC: AP News, [Thousands of North Carolina felons can now register and vote](#); National Conference of State Legislatures, [States that Prohibit Campaign Contributions During Legislative Sessions](#); NC Gov. Cooper, [Governor Vetoes Senate Bill 636](#); Campaign Legal Center, [North Carolina Bill Would Be a Detriment To Transparency](#); WFAE 90.7, [NC Gov. Cooper vetoes bill barring donations to run elections](#); WCNC, [Cooper vetoes Republican-backed bill that would limit mail-in voting in NC](#); Democracy Letter to Congress, [Democracy Letter to Congress](#); State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, [Urgent Need for Federal Legislation to Safeguard Democracy](#); Politico, [North Carolina Supreme Court strikes down GOP-drawn congressional map](#); Democracy NC, [Federal Court Adopts Special Master's N.C Legislative Redistricting Plan](#); Chapelboro 97.9 The Hill, [NC Supreme Court OKs Speeding Up Redistricting Arguments](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Moore v. Harper](#); Scotus Blog, [North Carolina Republican lawmakers win right to intervene in court and defend state's voter-ID law](#); Chapelboro 97.9 The Hill, [Court Opens Door To Voiding N. Carolina Voter ID Amendment](#)
- ND: The Fulcrum, [How the least populous states have overhauled their election systems](#); Argus Leader, [Native Americans continue to fight discriminatory voter ID laws in North Dakota](#); Native American Rights Fund, [North Dakota Agrees to Court-Ordered Relief Easing Voter ID Laws For Native Americans On Reservations](#); The Bismarck Tribune, [North Dakota lobbyist gift ban takes effect; ethics bills set in Legislature](#); Inforum, [How North Dakota's campaign finance laws allow groups to conceal donors, spending](#); U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#); House Concurrent Resolution No. 3047, [A concurrent resolution urging Congress not to adopt H.R. 1 of the 117th Congress](#); Alabama Secretary of State, [Alabama Secretary of State Leads 15 Other Secretaries in Expressing Opposition to H.R. 1](#); Inforum, [Redistricting lawsuits will not change North Dakota's legislative map this year](#)
- OH: The New York Times, [Ohio Was Set to Purge 235,000 Voters. It Was Wrong About 20%](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Bribery Charges in Ohio Illuminate the Dangers of Dark Money](#); The Columbus Dispatch, [Ohio Democrats and Republicans seek more transparency for dark money politics](#); Voting Rights Lab, [Comprehensive Bill Search](#); The Columbus Dispatch, [In Ohio, new efforts to tighten voter ID laws, cut early voting days underway](#); Associated Press, [Ohio GOP misses disputed deadline for new US House map](#); Ohio Capital Journal, [Federal court implements Statehouse maps twice declared unconstitutional by Ohio Supreme Court](#); Akron Beacon Journal, [Frank LaRose's conflicted messaging on voter fraud disgraces Ohio's election success](#)
- OK: Tahlequah Daily Press, [Election officials say voter 'purges' don't happen here](#); Enid News & Eagle, [More legislators become lobbyists](#); Brennan Center For Justice, [Voting Laws Roundup: May 2022](#); Voting Rights Lab, [The State of State Election Law 2022 Mid-Year Review](#); U.S. Supreme Court, [Texas v. Pennsylvania, Amicus Brief](#); Voting Rights Lab, [Comprehensive Bill Search](#); KOSU, [Lies, conspiracy theories prominent in many GOP races in Oklahoma](#)
- OR: OPB, [Oregon Democrats pass bill to expand online voter registration](#); Oregon Capital Chronicle, [Oregon Supreme Court won't clear way for voters to consider campaign finance limits](#); Movement Advancement Project Research, [Laws Protecting Election Officials Against Threats](#); Democracy Letter to Congress, [Democracy Letter to Congress](#); Oregon Capital Chronicle, [Independent redistricting advocates look to 2024 after Oregon Supreme Court ruling](#); OregonLive, [Oregon good government groups will try again in 2024 to cap campaign contributions, shed light on 'dark money'](#)
- PA: Governor Tom Wolf, [Governor Wolf Signs Historic Election Reform Bill Including New Mail-in Voting](#); The Philadelphia Inquirer, [The Pa. governor's race will shape voting laws – and maybe the 2024 election](#); WESA 90.5 FM, [Gift ban, other good-government changes stall in Pa. despite promises from leadership](#)

CONTINUED...

- RI:** State of Rhode Island, Governor Dan McKee, [Governor McKee Signs 'Let RI Vote Act'](#); The Providence Journal, [Early voting embraced by Rhode Islanders during pandemic, approved by lawmakers afterward](#); Uprise RI, [BOE finds 'multiple violations of campaign finance law' during Audit of PVD City Council candidate](#); Boston Globe, [R.I State senators Morgan and Paolina must pay fines for campaign finance violations](#); WPRI, [RI state rep fined \\$6K for campaign finance violation](#); RI Gov, [Gorbea Launches New Redistricting Tool to Easily Compare Current and Proposed Rhode Island Legislative Districts](#); Cranston Herald, [Rhode Island is a national leader in elections cyber security](#); State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, [Urgent Need for Federal Legislation to Safeguard Democracy](#); StateScoop, [Rhode Island governor signs bill allowing internet voting](#)
- SC:** Governing, [South Carolina Election Law Aims to Boost Voting Integrity](#); The Post and Courier, [Some SC Lawmakers think it's time to allow more money in state campaigns, not less](#); AP News, State Grand Jury: [Attorney General impeded corruption probe](#); South Carolina Attorney General, Alan Wilson, [AG Alan Wilson's statement on Texas election lawsuit](#); The Texas Tribune, [U.S. Supreme Court throws out Texas lawsuit contesting 2020 election results in four battleground states](#); Legal Defense Fund, [South Carolina Passes New Redistricting Maps Following Civil Rights Legal Challenge](#)
- SD:** Native American Rights Fund, [South Dakota Systematically Failed To Provide Mandatory Voter Registration Services](#); Sludge, [Noem Bill Would Make Dark Money Disclosure Illegal](#); Argus Leader, [South Dakota signs on to Texas lawsuit challenging president election results](#); The Texas Tribune, [U.S. Supreme Court throws out Texas lawsuit contesting 2020 election results in four battleground states](#); Alabama Secretary of State, [Alabama Secretary of State Leads 15 Other Secretaries in Expressing Opposition to H.R. 1](#); AP News, [SD House passes election audit bill amid false fraud claims](#); SDPB Radio, [Lyman County says it cannot comply with Voting Rights Act in November](#)
- TN:** News Channel 5 Nashville, [REVEALED UPDATE: Tennessee passes legislation to require disclosure of 'dark money' spending](#); Axios Nashville, [Former Tennessee House Speaker Glen Casada, top aide indicted](#); 90.3 WPLN News, [Tennessee state senator federally indicted on campaign finance charges](#); Attorney General, Herbert H. Slatery III, [AG Slatery Joins Amicus Brief Supporting Texas Election Lawsuit](#); The Texas Tribune, [U.S. Supreme Court throws out Texas lawsuit contesting 2020 election results in four battleground states](#); Alabama Secretary of State, [Alabama Secretary of State Leads 15 Other Secretaries in Expressing Opposition to H.R. 1](#); Chattanooga Times Free Press, [Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee says Jan. 6 was not an 'insurrection,' calls hearings a distraction](#); The Tennessean, [Tennessee lawmakers gerrymandered Nashville because they could. It isn't right. | Opinion](#); Voting Rights Lab, [Comprehensive Bill Search](#); Tennessee Lookout, Stockard on the Stump: [Secretary of State backs future election audits](#)
- TX:** Texas Tribune, [Gov. Greg Abbott signs Texas voting bill into law, overcoming Democratic quorum breaks](#); New York Times, [Texas Senate Passes One of the Nation's Strictest Voting Bills](#); Texas Tribune, [Law to crack down on lobbyists ensnares two former Texas House members](#); Texas Observe., [In Texas, Corrupt Politicians Face Little Accountability](#); CBS News, [Texas bar seeks to punish state Attorney General Ken Paxton for election lawsuit](#); Movement Advancement Project, [Election officials face threats of undue criminal penalties / fines](#); FiveThirtyEight, [Texas may have the worst gerrymander in the country](#); ABC News, [The reality of Texas' new voting law sets in as some voters have trouble casting ballots](#); Texas Tribune, [More than 12% of mail-in ballots were rejected in Texas under new GOP voting rules, final tally shows](#); San Antonio Current: Report, [27 Republican primary winners in Texas continue spout Trump's lies about a stolen election](#).
- UT:** ABC News, [Deep-red Utah embraced voting by mail. Then came 2020.](#); The Daily Utah Chronicle, [Shadley: Utah Needs Campaign Finance Candidates](#); The Salt Lake Tribune, [Utah House lawmakers kill campaign finance disclosure bill](#); Twitter, [Utah Attorney General](#); Texas Tribune, [More than 12% of mail-in ballots were rejected in Texas under new GOP voting rules, final tally shows](#); DesertNews, [Utah bill to end default mail-in voting fails in raucous hearing](#); Salt Lake Tribune, [Attorneys for Utah want to push pause on a lawsuit claiming Utah's congressional maps are illegal gerrymandering](#); Salt Lake Tribune, [Redistricting process results in bad blood between Utah lawmakers and anti-gerrymandering group](#)
- VT:** Associated Press, [Vermont Republican Governor Signs Bill to Make Voting Easier](#); The University of Vermont, [Vermont Legislative Research](#); Vermont's Voice, [Senate Passes Campaign Finance Reform Bill](#); Princeton Gerrymandering Project, [Vermont](#); State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, [Urgent Need for Federal Legislation to Safeguard Democracy](#); Vermont Secretary of State, [Facts Matter- The Truth About Vermont Elections](#)
- VA:** NPR, [Virginia is Poised to Approve Its Own Voting Rights Act](#); Brennan Center for Justice, [Voting Rights Restoration Efforts in Virginia](#); The Virginian-Pilot, [Virginia House GOP Members Defend Killing Bill to Outlaw Use of Campaign Money for Personal Expenses](#); Associated Press, [Virginia State Democrats kill slew of GOP Voting Bills](#); The Washington Post, [On the 'Big Lie', Glenn Youngkin Wants to Have it Both Ways](#)
- WA:** Brennan Center For Justice, [Voting Rights Restoration Efforts in Washington](#); The Washington Post, [A Democratic governor wants to criminalize the 'big lie.' Be skeptical.](#)
- WV:** Brennan Center for Justice, [West Virginia Third State to Pass Automatic Voter Registration](#); Brennan Center for Justice, [VRM in the States: West Virginia](#); Brennan Center for Justice, [West Virginia's Large-Scale Purge Raises Concerns Among Voters](#); Bowles Rice, [Changes to State Campaign Finance Law Go Into Effect](#); The Register-Herald, [Supreme Court Public Campaign Finance Bill Signed](#); Sludge, [Dark Money Pours Into West Virginia Ahead of State Supreme Court Election](#)
- WI:** Up North News, [Wisconsin Democrats Introduce Bills to Get Big Money Out of Politics](#); The New Yorker, [Will Wisconsin's Republicans Make Voting Meaningless, or Just Difficult?](#); Wisconsin Public Radio, [Wisconsin Supreme Court Chooses Maps Drawn by Republicans in New Redistricting Decision](#); NPR, [The Wisconsin Supreme Court says Ballot Drop Boxes Aren't Allowed in the State](#); CNBC, [Trump-Backed Tim Michels Wins the GOP Nomination for Governor in Wisconsin](#)
- WY:** Oil City News, [Wyoming Crossover Voting Ban Dies, Other Election Legislation Prevails](#); Wyoming Public Radio, [Laramie Lawyers Challenge Wyoming's New Voter ID Law in Court](#); Wyoming Public Radio, [In a Tight Race, Chuck Gray Comes Out as Winner for Secretary of State Republican Nomination](#)