Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Arkansas closes voter registration 30 days before Election Day. The state does not allow automated, same-day, nor online voter registration. Although Arkansas does not purge voters from lists for nonvoting no matter how many years, it had one of the highest unnecessary purge rates of voters among all states in 2020. Felony disenfranchisement continues until the terms of parole or probation are complete. A high number of Arkansas voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration and the handling of provisional ballots.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - LOW
Arkansas has a strict photo voter ID law. The state is NOT a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states improve accuracy of voter rolls. A moderate number of voters in 2020 reported concerns about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database. In 2021, the state enacted harsher voter ID laws and stricter signature requirements for mailed-in ballots. Arkansas ranked last among all states in this index.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Arkansas allows early in-person voting for 14 days, ending the day before Election Day. There is no weekend voting. Excuse-only absentee ballot voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Absentee ballots in Arkansas are excuse-only, mailed to the voter only by request, and with no prepaid postage. State law in 2021 banned drop boxes, limited voting center locations, banned proactive mailing of ballots, and shortened the window to apply for a mail ballot. Arkansas has anti-voter restrictions on who can return the absentee/mailed ballot.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Arkansas: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws being passed or being enacted in Arkansas: State Voting Rights Tracker by Voting Rights Lab
If you or anyone you know encounters problems while voting, call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or 866-687-8683
Learn how to take action to protect voting rights In Arkansas: DemocracyMovement.us
**Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW**
Arkansas had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, but also with a high rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The state allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. Arkansas has no codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. A copy of valid voter identification must be included with each absentee ballot submitted. Mailed absentee ballots must be received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day and hand-delivered ones the Friday before. Arkansas tied with Mississippi for the lowest rank among all states in this index.

**Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW**
Arkansas allows employees to take unpaid leave to vote. State law permits disabled and/or elderly voters to move to the front of voting lines, but does not allow curbside voting nor provide quality accessible voting machine options. Arkansas ranked low among states investing to improve election processes in 2020 while being cost effective and had a low ratio of poll workers to polling sites in that election year. In 2021, Arkansas passed laws criminalizing volunteers for assisting voters and creating barriers for voters in need of assistance.

**Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - LOW**
Arkansas has a statewide voter-verified paper audit trail, uses Ballot Marking Devices for voters with all accessibility needs, and tests the equipment according to full federal certification requirements. The state's election security systems received low overall ratings in 2018. However, Arkansas does conduct some procedural audit methods of its equipment to double-check for machine recording errors after election certification and during the statutorily required post-election period.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW
Although Arkansas has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the state legislature. State laws passed in 2021 shift election authority, interfere with local elections, and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM
Public opinion surveys showed that Arkansas voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. There was a moderate number of reports from Arkansas voters about political intimidation and disinformation in-person and online, as well as concerns about poll worker misconduct in 2020. Arkansas law does prohibit intimidation or interference with voters at the polling sites and all poll workers are required to be trained. The state offers no guidance on the role of law enforcement when present at polling sites nor bans weapons at the sites.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Arkansas is one of 19 states that has a Republican trifecta, as well as a triplex - the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Arkansas is one of the ten most Republican states, with an average GOP voting margin of 27.3% compared to the national average Democratic margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 3.3% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Arkansas is less racially diverse than the country as a whole. During the past decade, the Latino population grew by 50% comprising 9% of the state's total population. Whites are 70% of the population. Blacks remained 15% of the population. With the U.S. Census results, the state will not gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.