Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Alabama closes voter registration 15 days before Election Day. The state does not allow automated or same-day, but does offer online voter registration. Although Alabama purges voters from lists after four years of nonvoting, it had a very low number of purges conducted in 2020. Felony disenfranchisement continues until terms of parole and probation are met, fines and restitution paid, and application for voter restoration accepted, except for certain crimes. A moderate number of Alabama 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 - MEDIUM
Alabama has a non-strict photo ID law. The state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states to improve the accuracy of voter rolls. A moderate number of voters in 2020 reported concerns about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Alabama has no early voting. Excuse-required absentee ballot voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Alabama is the only state that mandates only the voter can return a completed absentee ballot in-person or by mail. Absentee ballots are excuse-only, mailed to the voter only by request, and with no pre-paid postage. There are no drop boxes. Alabama law in 2021 shortened the window to apply for an absentee ballot and banned curbside voting, decreasing accessibility.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW
Alabama had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a moderate rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The state does not allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. There is no codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies and no signature verification program. Alabama requires a copy of voter ID to be returned with each ballot. For absentee ballots, two adult witnesses or a notary are required to sign the return envelope verifying the validity of the signature. All absentee ballots must be received by noon on Election Day. Alabama scored among the bottom three states in this index.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Alabama allows employees to take one unpaid hour of leave to vote. State law permits disabled and/or elderly voters to move to the front of voting lines and provides some accessible voting machine options, but prohibits curbside or outdoor voting including processes by which poll workers bring ballots to voters outside the polling place. Although there was a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites, there was a high number of reports from Alabama voters in 2020 about access issues, such as long lines, inadequate signage, delayed opening or early closing of polling sites, mishandling of polling site ballots, and concerns about voting equipment.

Index 7: Equipment, Security and Auditing - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Alabama has a statewide voter-verified paper audit trail. All counties use hand marked paper ballots, offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs, and test the equipment according to federal standards and accreditation. Although Alabama election security systems received very high overall ratings in 2018, there are no audits conducted during any part of the election process to double-check for machine recording errors.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Although Alabama has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the state legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but bills in 2022 sought to penalize election officials for their decisions. Newly enacted 2022 law bars election officials from accepting private funding for election-related expenses or voter education, voter outreach, or voter registration programs.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that Alabama voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. There were a moderate number of reports from Alabama voters about political intimidation and disinformation in-person and online, electioneering, and poll worker misconduct. State law does not prohibit obstructing or hindering voters at polling sites nor criminalizing voter intimidation and false election speech. Alabama does not mandate training for all poll workers.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, information only
Alabama 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, Alabama is one of the ten most Republican states, with an average GOP voting margin of 26.6% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state's population grew by 5.1% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Like the majority of states, Alabama is less racially diverse than the country as a whole. Alabama’s white population decreased from 67% in 2010 to 63% in 2020 due to an increasing number of residents identifying as multiracial. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.