Connecticut

State Rank: 27
Overall Score: MEDIUM

Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Connecticut offers automatic, online, and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration. The state does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. There were zero total purges conducted in 2020. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release and 2021 state law bans prison gerrymandering. A high number of Connecticut voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration. 2022 law requires confidentiality of certain information required for registration.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Connecticut has a non-strict non-photo voter ID law. The state is 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. No laws were enacted in 2021 or 2022 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Connecticut currently has no early voting, but a constitutional amendment to allow it is on the ballot for 2022. Excuse-required absentee ballot voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Connecticut offers excuse-only absentee ballot voting. 2022 law expands eligibility to apply for an absentee ballot regarding disability, illness, and caregiving, and more changes are pending the outcome of a ballot referendum. There is no proactive mailing of ballots applications to voters without request nor prepaid postage to return the ballot. State laws passed in 2021 include making the availability of drop boxes permanent, creating an online application portal, and providing electronic absentee ballots to voters with visual impairments. There are anti-voter restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Connecticut: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws recently passed or enacted in Connecticut: 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 Connecticut: DemocracyMovement.us
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW
Connecticut had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a low rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The state does allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. It does not have a signature verification program nor a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. All mailed ballots must be received by Election Day; hand-delivered ballots must be received by the day before.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Connecticut allows employees to take up to 2 hours unpaid leave to vote. Although the state provides low quality accessible voting machine options, Connecticut does allow curbside voting, delivery of ballots to another location if the assigned polling site is inaccessible, and moving disabled and/or elderly voters to front of the line. Laws passed in 2021 eliminate the bar on mentally incompetent people registering to vote, provide electronic absentee ballots to those with visual impairments, and allow voters to receive assistance in voting booths if they need it. There were a moderate number of reports from voters in 2020 with concerns about COVID-19 protocols, long lines, mishandling of ballots, and voting equipment. The state had a low ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020. Connecticut was among the top third of states that invested in the 2020 election to improve processes while being cost effective.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Connecticut has a statewide verified paper audit trail. All voting centers use hand marked paper ballots and offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs. Connecticut tests the equipment according to federal standards. Its election security systems received good overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors before ballots are counted and during the statutorily required post-election period.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH

Although Connecticut has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 or 2022 on this topic.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM

Public opinion surveys showed that Connecticut voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the medium low media integrity ratings. There was a high number of reports from voters with concerns about disinformation and election certification, and a moderate number about intimidation and electioneering at polling sites. State law requires training for all poll workers and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. There are no state laws which criminalize voter intimidation and false election speech, prohibit obstructing or hindering voters, nor ban weapons at polling sites.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only

Connecticut is one of 13 states that has a Democratic 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, Connecticut is one of the 10 most Democratic states, with an average Democratic voting margin of 16.9% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 0.9% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Connecticut is less racially diverse than the rest of the country. Connecticut saw its white population drop from 71% to 63%. Also, the state has the 6th highest median age at 41. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.