Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
The District of Columbia offers automatic, online, and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration. The district does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. There were zero total voting list purges conducted in 2020. Youth can preregister to vote beginning at age 16. Incarcerated individuals never lose their right to vote while under custody of the district. The District of Columbia was ranked among the five best states in this index.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
The District of Columbia requires no photo ID to vote. It is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which seeks to help states improve accuracy of voter rolls. Few voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election to report concerns with voter ID requirements or being absent from the voter rolls/databases. No laws were enacted in 2021 to impose restrictions nor are any pending in 2022.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
The District of Columbia offers in-person early voting beginning 7 days before Election Day, ending the Saturday before. In-person absentee ballot voting is available 15 days before Election Day and ends the day before. Weekend voting is only on Saturday.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
The District of Columbia has a no-excuse absentee ballot option. During the 2020 elections, the district provided proactive mailing of ballots and prepaid postage in response to the pandemic, but these were not codified in 2021 or 2022. DC offers accessible electronic absentee or vote-by-mail ballots to voters with disabilities, the right to apply to be added to the permanent absentee voter list, and robust ballot return options. There are no restrictions on who can return the ballot on behalf of the voter.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - HIGH
The District of Columbia had a low percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. There is a district ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The district allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, accepts ballots within 7 days after postmarked no later than Election Day, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and has a signature verification program. It does not have prepaid postage.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
The District of Columbia allows employees to take up to two hours paid leave to vote. The district offers curbside voting, allows the transfer to another polling location if the assigned site is inaccessible due to the voter’s disability, and provides high quality accessible voting machines options. In 2020, the District of Columbia had a good ratio of poll workers to polling sites (second highest in the nation) and a low number of reports from voters about access or safety issues at polling sites. The district ranked among the highest jurisdictions in this index.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
The District of Columbia 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. The district tests the equipment according to full federal certification standards, and uses E Poll Book technology districtwide, which helps reduce discrepancies. Its election security systems received good overall ratings in 2018. DC uses traditional and risk limiting audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors, including before election certification, but has no statutorily required post-election audit.
Although the District of Columbia has established the statutory right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by city government. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic nor are any pending in 2022.

Public opinion surveys showed that District of Columbia voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. Although the district had a high number of demonstrations and a few riots during the last week of the general elections, there were very few reports about voter intimidation or safety issues at the polling sites. District law requires all poll workers to be trained, prohibits weapons at polling sites, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. There are no laws to address voter intimidation and false election speech.

The District of Columbia, while not a state, has the equivalent of a Democratic trifecta, as well as a triplex - the mayor, attorney general, and secretary of state are from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, DC is the most Democratic jurisdiction in the country, with an average Democratic voting margin of 86.8% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the jurisdiction's population grew by 14.6% (tied for 7th fastest with Florida and Washington) compared to the national average of 7.4%. The District of Columbia is one of the most racially diverse jurisdictions in the country. DC has seen its black population drop from a high of 70% in 1980 to 43% in 2020. The district has one non-voting delegate in Congress.