Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Georgia closes voter registration 29 days before Election Day. The state allows automated and online voter registration, but not same-day. Georgia purges voters from lists after nine years of nonvoting and no response to state notice of pending removal. There was a moderate number of total purges conducted in 2020. Youth can pre-register to vote close before they turn 18 years of age. Felony disenfranchisement continues until terms of parole or probation are complete. A high number of Georgia 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
Georgia has a 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. In 2020, a very high number of voters reported concerns about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database. In 2021, the state enacted harsher voter ID laws and imposed stricter signature requirements for mailed-in ballots. More restrictive state legislation was pending in early 2022, but did not pass. Georgia scored second to the bottom of all states in this index.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Georgia offers early voting 19 days before Election Day, which ends the Friday immediately prior to a primary, election, or runoff. Weekend voting is Saturday only. No-excuse absentee ballot voting is available.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - HIGH
Georgia had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking service, but it is not statutorily required. The state allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, has a signature verification program, and offers for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. Ballots are due Election Day. The voter has until 3 days after the election to submit voter ID with an affidavit confirming the ballot was theirs in order to cure the ballot.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Georgia allows employees to take up to 2 hours of unpaid leave to vote. State law permits disabled and/or elderly voters to move to the front of voting lines or be reassigned to a more accessible voting center, but limits curbside voting and does not provide quality accessible voting machine options. Although there was a high ratio of poll workers to polling sites, there was a high number of reports from voters in 2020 about long lines, inadequate signage, delayed opening or early closing of polling sites, mishandling of polling site ballots, shortage of ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. The state was ranked next to last in the investments made in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective. In 2021, Georgia passed laws criminalizing volunteers for assisting voters and creating barriers for voters in need of assistance.
Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Georgia 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 uses E Poll Book technology statewide, which helps reduce discrepancies. The state's election security systems received good overall ratings in 2018. Georgia uses traditional and risk limiting audit methods to double-check for recording errors before election certification and during the statutorily required post-election period. Overall, Georgia has an excellent auditing procedure in place and was ranked among the top five states in this index.

Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW
Although Georgia has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. State laws passed in 2021 shift election authority and emergency powers; usurp the role of state election officials; interfere with local elections; interfere with litigation filed by the state; and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes. State bills pending in 2022 sought to penalize election officials for their decisions, conduct an audit of the 2020 election results, and prohibit private funding of election administration. Legislation that did pass in 2022 charges the Georgia Bureau of Investigations with identifying and investigating potential violations of election to facilitate questioning or changing the results of an election. Georgia ranked at the bottom of all states in this index.
Georgia 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, Georgia is one of nine states that have the most competitive elections (average voting margin under 4%), with a slight tilt toward Republicans. The state has an average GOP voting margin of 2.4% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 10.6% (tied for 11th fastest with Oregon) compared to the national average of 7.4%. Georgia is one of the nine most racially diverse states. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 59.7% to 51.9%, the lowest percentage ever in state history (previously whites were 53% in 1890). Georgia is projected to be one of four states to have a majority minority population in the next ten years (along with Arizona, Florida, and New Jersey). With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that Georgia voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. The state had a significant number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. Georgia law requires all poll workers to be trained, prohibits weapons at the polling site, criminalizes intimidation and false election speech, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. However, there was a high number of reports from voters about political intimidation and disinformation in-person and online, as well as concerns about election certification. There were also reports of poll worker misconduct, police presence, and physical safety concerns at the polling sites, including confirmed threats made to election workers in 2020. Georgia was one of the lowest ranked states in the index.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Georgia 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, Georgia is one of nine states that have the most competitive elections (average voting margin under 4%), with a slight tilt toward Republicans. The state has an average GOP voting margin of 2.4% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 10.6% (tied for 11th fastest with Oregon) compared to the national average of 7.4%. Georgia is one of the nine most racially diverse states. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 59.7% to 51.9%, the lowest percentage ever in state history (previously whites were 53% in 1890). Georgia is projected to be one of four states to have a majority minority population in the next ten years (along with Arizona, Florida, and New Jersey). With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.

State Index Score Card

- Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Georgia: VOTE411
- Learn about voting laws recently passed or enacted in Georgia: 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 Georgia: DemocracyMovement.us