Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Louisiana closes voter registration 30 days before Election Day. The state does not allow automated or same-day, but offers online voter registration with a deadline of 20 days before Election Day. Louisiana does not purge voters from lists no matter how many years of nonvoting and had a low number of total purges conducted in 2020. Youth can preregister to vote beginning at age 16. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. A high number of Louisiana 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. 2022 law provides opportunities for high school seniors who are 17 or older to register to vote using school computers or paper registration forms.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Louisiana has a non-strict photo voter ID law. The state is NOT a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states to improve the accuracy of voter rolls. A high 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 - HIGH
Louisiana offers early in-person voting 14 days before Election Day, ending seven days before. State legislation was passed in 2021 to further improve access. Weekend voting is Saturday only. Excuse-required absentee voting is available. A 2022 state resolution was passed to establish a task force to study increasing early voting in the state with an emphasis on rural communities.
Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Absentee ballots in Louisiana are excuse-only, mailed to the voter only by request, and with no prepaid postage. The state offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications and provides accessible electronic absentee or vote-by-mail ballots to voters with disabilities. There are restrictions on assistance in the return of a ballot for a voter in need. 2022 law clarifies locations where hand delivery of absentee ballots by a voter can be conducted - registrars' offices and early voting sites, but not drop off boxes - and allows more medical practitioners other than physicians to document a voter's disability that prevents in-person voting.

Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW
Louisiana had a low percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020 compared with the majority of states, with a moderate rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program statutorily required as of 2022 law. The state does not allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. The state has no signature verification program. All absentee ballots, regardless of return method, must be received the day before the election. The absentee ballot return envelope must be signed by a witness. 2022 law directs the secretary of state to create rules for uniform and standardized review and cure or rejection of deficient absentee ballots, and requires preservation of absentee ballot envelopes in case of an official recount.
Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW

Although Election Day in Louisiana is a state holiday, there is no specific law allowing employees to take paid or unpaid leave to vote. Although there is no curbside voting nor quality accessible voting machines options, disabled voters may go to the front of the line at their polling site. Although state law in 2021 expanded voting rights of convicted or detained individuals, there are new laws criminalizing volunteers for assisting voters and creating more barriers to disabled/elderly/language proficiency challenged ones. There was a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020, but also a moderate number of reports from voters about long lines, mishandling of polling site ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. 2022 law expands who may serve as a poll watcher and increases their compensation, allows parish presidents to relocate polling sites in emergencies, and requires that polling place location information be posted online.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - LOW

Louisiana has a voter-verified paper audit trail for some counties. The state uses electronic voting machines, but does not offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs. It does test the equipment according to federal accreditation guidelines. Although the state’s election security systems received high overall ratings in 2018, there are no audits conducted during any part of the election process to double-check for machine recording errors. Overall, Louisiana ranked among the three bottom states in this index.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM

Public opinion surveys showed that Louisiana voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. There was a significant number of reports from Louisiana voters about political intimidation and disinformation in-person and online, as well as poll worker misconduct. State law does not prohibit obstructing or hindering voters at polling sites nor criminalizing voter intimidation and false election speech. Louisiana requires all poll workers to be trained, bans weapons at polling sites, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business.

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

Louisiana is one of six states that has a truly split government. It has neither a trifecta – the governor and the legislature – are from different parties - nor a triplex – the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are not from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Louisiana is a solid Republican state, with an average GOP voting margin of 19.1% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.7% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Louisiana is less racially diverse than the rest of the country. During the past decade, the white population remained 58%. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.