Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Missouri closes voter registration 27 days before Election Day. The state does not allow automated or same-day, but offers online voter registration. Missouri purges voters from lists after two years after not voting. There was a moderate number of total purges conducted in 2020. Youth can preregister to vote close before they turn 18. Felony disenfranchisement continues until the terms of parole or probation are complete. A very high number of Missouri voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration and provisional ballots. Missouri ranked last among all states in this index. 2022 law changes voter list maintenance addressing concerns about residency and citizenship status and prohibits compensation for soliciting voter registration applications except by state or local officials or agents.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - LOW
Missouri has a new strict photo ID law that goes in effect after the August 2022 primary when casting a regular or absentee ballot. The state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which seeks to help states improve accuracy of voter rolls. However, a very high number of voters reported concerns in 2020 about voter ID or not being on the voting list or database. 2022 law replaces the affidavit option when no ID is available to cast a regular ballot, requiring instead a provisional ballot which will not be counted unless the voter returns later that day with a government-issued photo ID or if an election official can verify the voter's signature on the outside envelope with the signature on file.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Missouri passed a new law in 2022 creating in-person early voting beginning two weeks prior to Election Day using no-excuse absentee ballots and abiding by Election Day voter ID requirements. Ballots must be submitted at a local election office.
**Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW**

Absentee ballots in Missouri are excuse-only, mailed to the voter only by request, and includes prepaid postage to return the ballot. State law in 2021 limited access to mail voting and reinstated excuse-only absentee ballots after lifting restrictions in 2020 due to the pandemic. Missouri ranked among the bottom five states in this index. 2022 law prohibits vote-by-mail elections, bans drop boxes, and changes and restricts some of the qualified "excuses" to vote absentee. The state has anti-voter restrictions on who can return the absentee/mailed ballot. 2022 law restricts the illness or physical disability excuse for absentee voting to those voters who are incapacitated or confined specifically on Election Day. 2022 law allows voters who are hospitalized, confined during illness or injury, or confined to a care facility on Election Day to have their absentee ballot application and absentee ballot delivered, witnessed, and returned only by someone appointed by the election authority.

**Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW**

Missouri had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. There is a statutory required online ballot tracking program, but only for military and overseas civilians. Locally, voters may contact their local elections official for ballot tracking updates. The state does not allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. It has no signature verification program, nor does it have a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. Absentee ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.
Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Missouri allows employees to take up to 3 hours of paid leave to vote. The state provides some quality accessible voting machines options and has many laws to assist voters with mobility or disability issues, including those in hospitals or nursing homes, as well as the incarcerated. However, there was a very high number of reports from voters in 2020 about access and safety issues at polling sites. Although there was a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020, there was also a high number of reports about long lines, inadequate signage, delayed opening or early closing of polling sites, mishandling of polling site ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. Missouri was ranked among the lowest of states in 2020 to make investments to improve election process while being cost effective.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Missouri has a statewide voter-verified paper audit trail. The state uses hand marked paper ballots, offers Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs, and tests the equipment according to federal standards and accreditation. The state’s election security systems received low overall ratings in 2018. Missouri uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors before election certification and during the statutorily required post-election period. New state law imposes limits on touchscreen voting machines, mandates cybersecurity reviews of election systems every two years, and beginning in 2024 requires hand marked paper ballots only and prohibits the use of electronic vote-counting machines.

Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW
Although Missouri has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. 2022 law prohibits private funding of election administration, allows the legislature to intervene in civil litigation related to election administration, and removes Missouri’s presidential primary, leaving parties to hold caucuses or conventions.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW

Public opinion surveys showed that Missouri voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. There was a high number of reports from Missouri voters about political intimidation and disinformation online, as well as concerns about election certification. State 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. However, there were a high number of reports during the 2020 election of in-person voter intimidation and electioneering at the polling sites, poll worker misconduct, and police presence. Missouri was one of the lowest ranked states in the index.

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

Missouri 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, Missouri, which used to be a national bellwether state, is now a solidly Republican-leaning state, with an average GOP voting margin of 17% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.8% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Missouri is among the least racially diverse states in the country. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.