**Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW**

Pennsylvania closes voter registration 15 days before Election Day. The state does not provide automated or same-day voter registration, but does offer it online. Pennsylvania does not purge voters from lists for nonvoting, unless there is reason to believe of a change in address with no effort to correct. There was a moderate number of purges conducted in 2020. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. A high number of Pennsylvania 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 - MEDIUM**

Pennsylvania requires no photo ID to vote. 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 about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database. 2022 legislation passed proposes a constitutional amendment that would require that a voter present valid government-issued ID prior to voting in-person and by mail, and that any voter who does not possess such identification would be issued one for free upon request and verification of their identity.

**Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW**

Pennsylvania offers early in-person voting 50 days before Election Day, ending the first Tuesday prior to the day of the election. There is no weekend voting. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.
Pennsylvania had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a moderate rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The state does not allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, has no signature verification program, nor a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. Absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Pennsylvania has no law allowing employees to take any type of paid or unpaid leave to vote. Although the state does not offer curbside voting, voters who have a disability or are elderly and assigned to an inaccessible polling place may request an alternative site. The state offers some accessible voting machines options. State law passed in 2021 criminalizes volunteers for assisting voters. There was a high number of reports from Pennsylvania voters in 2020 about access issues for those with disabilities, COVID-19 protocols, public safety, 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. Pennsylvania scored second to last among all states in this index.
Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW

Although Pennsylvania has established the statutory right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but bills pending in 2022 sought to shift election emergency powers, usurp the role of state elections, penalize the decisions of election officials, empower reviews of other elections, allow an audit of the 2020 election results, and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes. 2022 law that did pass prohibits private funding of elections and enforces the prohibition with a new misdemeanor, but also creates an election administration grant program for counties which meet specific conditions regarding election conduct, such as preprocessing mailed ballots.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Pennsylvania has a statewide voter-verified paper audit trail. The state uses a combination of hand marked paper ballots and electronic voting machines, offering Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs. Pennsylvania tests its equipment according to federal accreditation guidelines. Its election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. Pennsylvania uses traditional and risk limiting audit methods to double-check for recording errors before election certification and during the statutorily required post-election period. 2022 legislation passed proposes a constitutional amendment that would require legislation for the auditor general to audit elections and election results, and to provide that an independent auditor conduct such auditing in years when the auditor general is on the ballot.

Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW

Although Pennsylvania has established the statutory right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but bills pending in 2022 sought to shift election emergency powers, usurp the role of state elections, penalize the decisions of election officials, empower reviews of other elections, allow an audit of the 2020 election results, and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes. 2022 law that did pass prohibits private funding of elections and enforces the prohibition with a new misdemeanor, but also creates an election administration grant program for counties which meet specific conditions regarding election conduct, such as preprocessing mailed ballots.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that Pennsylvania voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. The state had a high number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. There was a high number of reports from voters about political intimidation, electioneering, and disinformation online and in-person, as well as concerns about election certification. Pennsylvania voters were targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. Confirmed threats were made to election officials. There was also a high number of reports from voters about poll worker misconduct, police presence, and public safety at the polls. State law criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech at polling sites and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. The state does not mandate training for all poll workers, ban weapons, nor prohibit obstructing or hindering voters at the polls. Pennsylvania scored last of all states in this index.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Pennsylvania is one of five states that has a split trifecta – the governor and the legislature – with a Democratic triplex - the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Pennsylvania is one of two states that are at the tipping point (average voting margin under 0.5%), with a slight tilt toward Democrats. The state has an average Democratic voting margin of 0.2% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.4 compared to the national average of 7.4%. Pennsylvania is less racially diverse than the rest of the country. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 81% to 75%. With the U.S. Census results, Pennsylvania will be one of seven states to lose a representative in Congress.