Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Rhode Island closes voter registration 30 days before Election Day. The state offers automatic and online voter registration, but not same-day. Youth can pre-register to vote beginning at age 16. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. Voters may be removed from voting lists if possible address change is suspected with no response to state notice or no vote is cast in the next two general elections. There was a moderate number of purges conducted in 2020. A low number of Rhode Island 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
Rhode Island has a non-strict photo voter ID law. The state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states improve accuracy of voter rolls. No laws were enacted in 2021 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Rhode Island offers early in-person voting beginning 20 days before Election Day, ending the day before. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
As of 2022, Rhode Island offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. There is no proactive mailing of ballots applications to voters without request, but voters may request an absentee ballot electronically through an online portal with online forms available in any language required by voting rights laws. There are no restrictions who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need, and postage is prepaid to return the ballot. 2022 law allows accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities or in the military and mandates the availability of drop boxes.
Rhode Island had 100% of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a 0% rejection rate – the only state in the country. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. 2022 law authorizes election administrators to preprocess returned ballots beginning 20 days before Election Day, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and has a signature verification program requiring that the signature to be used for comparison is the one on file in the state voter registry. Voters have until 7 days after Election Day to correct a deficiency. Absentee ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day. 2022 law eliminates the requirement that absentee ballot envelopes be notarized or witnessed, and instead just requires the voter's signature on the absentee ballot or absentee ballot application envelope.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
ERhode Island has no law allowing employees to take any paid or unpaid leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options. Although it does not allow curbside voting, those with disability and mobility issues can be moved to the front of the line, a different polling site can be identified if the original is inaccessible, and voters who are blind, visually impaired, or disabled may apply for a braille or tactile mail ballot. There were very few reports by voters in 2020 about access and safety issues, such as mishandling of polling site ballots and voting equipment. The state had a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020. Rhode Island ranked in the top third of all states on how well they invested in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective. 2022 laws require the secretary of state to provide a public hotline with voting information in multiple languages, and that adds long-term residents of nursing homes to the list of voters eligible to receive an absentee ballot application automatically for every election.
Although Rhode Island has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but legislation pending in early 2022 could increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.

**Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - MEDIUM**

Rhode Island has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, but it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but legislation pending in early 2022 could increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM

Public opinion surveys showed that Rhode Island voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. The state had a moderate number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. There were very few reports from voters with concerns about election certification and poll worker misconduct. State law requires all poll workers be trained and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. Rhode Island has good state campaign disclosure laws.

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

Rhode Island is one of 13 states that has a Democratic 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, Rhode Island is one of the 10 most Democratic states, with an average Democratic voting margin of 18.2% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 4.3% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Rhode Island is less racially diverse than the rest of the country as a whole. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 76% to 69%. Rhode Island’s Latino population at 16.6% is larger than all other minorities groups in the state combined. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.