Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Texas closes voter registration 30 days before Election Day. There is no automated, same-day, nor online voter registration. Although Texas does not purge voters from lists for nonvoting, it had one of the highest unnecessary purge rates of voters in 2020. Youth can preregister to vote close before they turn 18. Felony disenfranchisement continues until terms of parole or probation are complete. A very high number of Texas voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration and mishandling of provisional ballots.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - LOW
Texas has a non-strict photo ID law. It is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states improve accuracy of voter rolls. However, a high number of voters reported concerns about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database. New laws in 2021 imposed stricter voter ID mandates and greater signature requirements for mailed-in ballots. Texas scored third to the bottom of all states in this index.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Texas offers early in-person voting beginning 17 days before Election Day and ends it 4 days prior. Voting is available only during weekdays and business hours, except for the last week in highly populated areas. Each county has one main early voting center. New state laws limit early voting hours and eliminate drive-through voting. Excuse-required absentee ballot voting is available.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Texas had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020 with a very low rejection rate. The state has a ballot tracking program, but only for military and overseas civilians. There is a signature verification program. Texas allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. Ballots will be accepted the day after if postmarked on or before Election Day. It is county discretion whether to allow voters to correct ballots for any discrepancies under 2021 law.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Texas allows employees to take paid leave to vote. State law permits disabled and/or elderly voters to move to the front of voting lines and requires some counties to have materials in Spanish, but does not provide quality accessible voting machine options. There was a high number of reports from voters in 2020 about access and safety issues at polling sites, as well as inadequate signage, mishandling of polling site ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. There was a low ratio of poll workers per polling sites in 2020. Texas spent the least of all 50 states in 2020 to improve election processes while being cost effective. Although state law addresses the needs of voters experiencing housing instability or incarceration, laws were passed in 2021 to criminalize volunteers for assisting voters, as well as restrict curbside and outdoor voting.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW

Although Texas has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it also allows for election interference by the legislature. State laws passed in 2021 shift election authority, interfere with local elections, and criminalize election officials for their decision making. The Texas legislature did not meet in 2022.

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

Texas has a voter-verified paper audit trail for some counties. Most counties use a Ballot Marking Device to meet voter accessibility needs, while others use hand marked paper ballots or electronic voting machines. The state does test the equipment according to full federal certification requirements. The state’s election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. Texas 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, Texas has an excellent auditing procedure in place.
Public opinion surveys showed that Texas voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. Texas had a high number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. Texans were targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. There was a high number of reports from voters about political intimidation online and disinformation, as well as concerns about election certification. Others complained about intimidation and electioneering, poll worker misconduct, police presence, and physical safety at the polling sites. Although weapons are banned at polling sites, Texas has no laws prohibiting physical intimidation of voters or criminalizing false election speech. State law does not require training for all poll workers and there is no state guidance on the role of law enforcement at polling sites.

Texas 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, Texas, which has been a solid Republican state, has become more competitive in its elections. The state still tilts toward GOP, with an average GOP voting margin of 7.3% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 15.9% (3rd fastest) compared to the national average of 7.4%. Texas is one of the nine most racially diverse states in the country. With the U.S. Census results, Texas is the only state to gain two congressional seats.