Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington offers automatic, online, and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration. The state does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. There was 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. Washington ranked among the four best states in this index.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington requires no photo ID to vote. 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 or 2022 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington offers early in-person voting beginning 18 days before Election Day. The state also offers all-mail or no-excuse absentee ballot voting.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington has been a vote-at-home state since 2012. Ballots are mailed to all voters (no applications necessary). Ballot return options are robust, prepaid postage is provided, and the state offers accessible electronic vote-by-mail ballots to voters with disabilities. There are no restrictions on who can return the ballot on behalf of the voter. Washington was one of the four best ranked states in this index. 2022 law protects the privacy of a voter's signature, phone number, and email address by prohibiting their disclosure when ballot envelopes, ballot declarations, and ballot envelope signature correction information is otherwise disclosed.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Washington: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws recently being passed or enacted in Washington: State Voting Rights Tracker by Voting Rights Lab
If you or anyone you know encounters problems while voting, call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or 866-687-8683
Learn how to take action to protect voting rights in Washington: DemocracyMovement.us
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. The state has a statewide ballot tracking service, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. Washington allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, accepts ballots postmarked no later than Election Day, provides prepaid postage, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and has a signature verification program. Voters must sign and return a statement before certification (21 days after Election Day). Voters are also contacted by county auditors about outstanding ballots to be cured.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington law does not provide for employees to take leave to vote as it is a predominantly vote-by-mail state, with only 66 polling sites open in 2020. The state passed laws in 2021 to help voters with mobility/disability/language challenges. Washington law allows an alternative polling site to be identified if the original polling site is inaccessible due to disability and provides high quality accessible voting machine options. Other laws advance the voting rights of Native Americans, the homeless, and incarcerated. However, there are concerns in whether vote-by-mail is truly accessible across all populations of voters. The state was rated second among all states for investments made in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective. 2022 law requires county auditors to send state and local voter pamphlets to any overseas and uniformed voters upon request. 2022 law also requires the county auditor to designate the entrance and exit for each voting location and to post signage.
Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Washington has a statewide verified paper audit trail. All voting centers use hand marked paper ballots, offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs, and test the equipment according to federal accreditation. Washington’s election security systems received good overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional and risk limiting audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors, including before election certification and during statutorily required post-election audits.

Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although Washington has established by statutory authority the 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 authorize an audit of the 2020 election results, create the power to review other elections, and prohibit private funding of election administration. None of these bills passed into law.
Public opinion surveys showed that Washington voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. Although the state had a moderate number of demonstrations and a few riots during the last week of the general elections, there were very few reports about voter intimidation or safety to the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline. State law prohibits obstructing or hindering voters from accessing polling sites, requires that all poll workers be trained, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. Washington has good campaign finance disclosure laws. 2022 law expands locations at which electioneering is prohibited, such as outside drop boxes, voting centers, and student engagement hubs; prohibits using amplified sound from further away if the electioneering can be understood within the electioneering-free zones; and clarifies that the electioneering restrictions cannot be construed to limit or otherwise restrict the access of an authorized political party observer.

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

Washington 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, Washington is one of the ten most Democratic states, with an average Democratic voting margin of 17.5% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state's population grew by 14.6% (tied for 7th fastest with Florida and the District of Columbia) compared to the national average of 7.4%. Washington is less racially diverse than the rest of the country. However, Washington's total population became 10% more diverse in the past decade. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.