Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Wisconsin offers online and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration, but not automatic. The state purges voters from lists after four years after not voting and no response to state notice of pending removal. There was a low number of total purges conducted in 2020. Felony disenfranchisement continues until terms of parole or probation are complete. A moderate number of voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - LOW
Wisconsin has a strict photo ID law. The state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which helps states improve accuracy of voter rolls. A moderate number of voters in 2020 reported concerns about voter ID or not being on the voting list/database. No laws were enacted in 2021 or 2022 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Wisconsin offers early in-person voting beginning 14 days before Election Day, ending the Sunday before. There is some variability depending on the municipality, including weekend voting. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Wisconsin offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. Ballot drop-off sites are limited and there are restrictions on assisting the return of a ballot for a voter in need. State law in 2021 created a criminal penalty for election officials who send out an unsolicited mail ballot or mail ballot application. Wisconsin provides an online portal for absentee ballot application and prepaid postage to return the ballot. A 2022 ruling by the Wisconsin State Supreme Court prohibits the use of drop boxes.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW
Wisconsin had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a low 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 and has no signature verification program. It does have a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. A copy of the voter’s ID must be included with the absentee ballot application, and the ballot must be voted in the presence of a witness, who signs an affidavit on the absentee ballot envelope. Absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Wisconsin allows employees to take up to 3 hours paid leave to vote. The state has some measures to assist to voters with disability and mobility issues, such as curbside voting, transferring to an alternative location if the original polling site is inaccessible, having a poll worker bring the ballot to the polling entrance, and providing high quality accessible voting machine options. State law limits the voting rights of college students. There was a moderate number of reports by voters in 2020 about access and safety issues at polling sites, mostly with concerns about COVID-19 protocols, disability access, and handling of polling site ballots.
Wisconsin has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot and its election administration is designed to be nonpartisan by nature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, but bills introduced in 2022 sought to penalize, usurp, or interfere with state or local election officials; shift election authority; conduct an audit of the 2020 election results; and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.

A state resolution was passed in 2022 to start the process of amending the state constitution to prohibit all levels of government from applying for, accepting, expending, or using any private donated funds or equipment in connection with any primary, election, or referendum; and prohibit any individual other than an election official designated to perform any task related to a primary, election, or referendum.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM

Public opinion surveys showed that Wisconsin voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. Wisconsin had a moderate number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections and confirmed threats made to election officials. There was a moderate number of reports from voters about online and in-person political intimidation, disinformation, and electioneering. State law requires training for all poll workers and criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech. Wisconsin does not ban weapons or physically hindering voters, and there is no state guidance on the role of law enforcement at polling sites.

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

Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin is one of two states at an election tipping point (average voting margin under 0.5%), with a slight tilt toward Republicans. The state has an average GOP voting margin of 0.1% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 3.6% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Wisconsin is among the least racially diverse states in the country. During the past decade, the Latino population surpassed Blacks as the 2nd largest single ethnic group. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.