Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Kansas closes voter registration 21 days before Election Day. The state allows online voter registration, but not same-day nor automated. 2022 law creates new process for purging voters after 4 years of nonvoting with notice to the voter. There was a moderate number of total purges conducted in 2020. Felony disenfranchisement continues until terms of parole or probation are complete. A high number of Kansas 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 - LOW
Kansas has a strict photo ID law. The state is NOT 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
Kansas offers early in-person voting beginning 20 days before Election Day or the Tuesday before the election (varies by county) and ends the noon the day before. Weekend voting is Saturday only. No-excuse required absentee ballot voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Kansas offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. State law in 2021 banned sending mail ballot applications or ballots to voters who do not specifically request them, shortened the deadline for delivering mail ballots, restricted assistance in returning a ballot for a voter in need, and barred outside funding for drop boxes. There is no prepaid postage.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Kansas had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. The state allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, accepts ballots within 3 days if postmarked no later than Election Day, provides prepaid postage on return envelopes, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and has a signature verification program. An application for an absentee ballot must either include the applicant’s current and valid Kansas driver’s license number or non-driver ID number, or a photocopy of other identification. 2022 law requires development of a ballot chain of custody affidavit process.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Kansas allows employees to take up to 2 hours of paid leave to vote. Although it allows curbside voting, there are very few measures to assist voters with disability or mobility issues and provides some accessible voting machines options. In 2021, Kansas passed laws criminalizing volunteers for assisting voters and creating barriers for voters in need of assistance.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - LOW
Kansas has a voter-verified paper audit trail for some counties, uses hand marked paper ballots for most counties, offers Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs, and tests the equipment according to federal standards. The state’s election security systems received low overall ratings in 2018. Kansas uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors before election certification and during the statutorily required post-election. 2022 law creates more frequent auditing processes, reviews of the use of election equipment, and testing of the equipment.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - LOW
Although Kansas has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. State laws passed in 2021 shift election authority and emergency powers, and usurp the role of state election officials. 2022 law expands the state’s restrictions on settling election law litigation requiring involvement by the state legislature and expands elected-related felony offenses. Kansas ranked among the lowest five states in this index.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that Kansas voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. There was a significant number of reports from Kansas voters about political intimidation and disinformation in-person and online, including voters targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. Although Kansas requires all poll workers to be trained, state law does not prohibit obstructing or hindering voters at polling sites nor criminalizing voter intimidation and false election speech.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Kansas is one of six states that has a truly split government. It has neither a trifecta – the governor and the legislature are from different parties - nor a triplex – the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are not from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Kansas is a solid Republican state, with an average GOP voting margin of 17.6% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 3% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Kansas is less racially diverse than the rest of the country. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 78% to 73%, the Latino population grew from 11% to 13%, and the Black population remained at 6%. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.