Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Maine offers automatic and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration, with online services available in 2023. Youth can pre-register to vote beginning at age 17. Incarcerated individuals never lose their right to vote under the custody of the district. The state purges voters from lists after two years of nonvoting without state outreach. It had a very low number of total purges conducted in 2020. A low number of Maine voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration. 2022 law allows identification cards issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe to the list of eligible documentation for the purposes of registration.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - HIGH
Maine 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. Very few voters in 2020 reported concerns about voter ID. Legislation enacted in 2021 eased voter ID requirements, including adding college IDs to the accepted list. Maine scored the top among all states in this index.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Maine offers early in-person absentee voting available as soon as absentee ballots are ready (30-45 days before election), ending 3 business days before Election Day, unless the voter has an acceptable excuse. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Maine offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. 2021 laws created restrictive options for drop boxes and a permanent absentee list for only those with disabilities. The state offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications and provides accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities. Maine places restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need and does not provide prepaid postage.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Maine had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a low rejection rate. There is a statutorily required statewide ballot tracking program and a new 2021 law requires the establishment of online tracking. 2021 law prohibits election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. The state has a signature verification program and provides a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. Absentee ballots must be received by close of polls on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Maine has no law allowing employees to take any paid or unpaid of leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options, but has few other laws if any above federal mandates to assist disabled voters. There were very few reports from voters with concerns about access and safety issues at polling sites in 2020. The state has passed measures to address the residency challenges of voters experiencing housing instability. Maine had a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020. It was ranked among the top third of states that invested in the 2020 election to improve processes while being cost effective. 2022 law permits procedures for absentee voting in certain nursing homes, residential care facilities, and assisted living programs necessary to protect public health during a declared health emergency.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - LOW
Maine has a statewide verified paper audit trail. All voting centers use hand marked paper ballots and offer Ballot Marking Devices for voters with accessibility needs. Maine does not require equipment testing according to federal standards. Its election security systems received somewhat low overall ratings in 2018. The state does not conduct any audits to double-check for machine recording errors during the election process. 2022 law added security requirements for ballot boxes.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although Maine has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 or 2022 on this topic.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM
Public opinion surveys showed that Maine voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. Although there were few reports from voters with concerns about disinformation and election certification, there were higher numbers about in-person intimidation, electioneering, and poll worker misconduct. State law criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. Maine does not mandate that all poll workers be trained. 2022 law mandates election officials be trained on conflict deescalation, establishes interference with an election official as a Class D misdemeanor, and requires that the secretary of state maintain a record of reports of threats or harassment received by election officials.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Maine 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, Maine, which used to be a swing state, now has a slight Democratic-leaning state, with an average Democratic voting margin of 6.0% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.6% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Maine is the least racially diverse state in the country. The state has the highest white population at 94.4%. Also, Maine has the highest median age at 45. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Maine: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws recently passed or enacted in Maine: 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 Maine: DemocracyMovement.us