Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
As of 2022, Massachusetts closes voter registration 10 days before Election Day. The state offers automatic and online voter registration, but not same-day. Youth can preregister to vote beginning at age 16. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. The state purges voters from lists after two years of nonvoting without state outreach. It had a moderate number of total purges conducted in 2020. 2022 law requires online portal language accessibility in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and any other additional languages as determined by the state secretary.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - HIGH
Massachusetts requires no photo ID to vote. 2022 law directs the state to become 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.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Massachusetts offers early in-person voting beginning 17 days before Election Day, ending the Friday before. Saturday and Sunday voting are available in municipalities with over 25,000 registered voter. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
2022 law requires the mailing of no-excuse absentee ballot applications for all elections, with prepaid return postage, to all voters registered within 60 days of an election, adjusts the application deadline for absentee ballots to the 5th business day before an election, and establishes an online portal for submission of early voting ballot applications. The state permits return of early voting ballots by a voter's family member and offers robust drop-off sites in addition to mail. Requires that accessible mail voting be available to voters with disabilities and eligible incarcerated voters.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Massachusetts 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 allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots and has a signature verification program which compares early voting by mail ballot envelope signatures with application signatures. Massachusetts has a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies in which a voter may submit a replacement ballot until the day before the election or vote at the voter’s precinct polling place. Absentee ballots must be received by close of polls on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Massachusetts allows employees to take up to 2 hours unpaid leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options. State law in 2021 increased access to those with disability and mobility issues. There was a moderate number of reports from voters in 2020 with concerns about the handling of polling site ballots and voting equipment. Massachusetts 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 expands the hiring of poll workers 6 weeks of an election.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Massachusetts 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. Massachusetts tests the equipment according to federal standards and accreditation. Its election security systems received good overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors before certification and during the statutorily required post-election period.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although Massachusetts has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 on this topic, and none were pending in early 2022.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that Massachusetts voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. The state had a moderate number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. Massachusetts voters were targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. There was a moderate number of reports by voters with concerns about political intimidation online and in-person, disinformation, election certification, electioneering, poll worker misconduct, and police presence. There are no state laws to criminalize voter intimidation and false election speech, prohibit hindering or obstructing voters, authorize law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business, ban weapons, nor mandate that all poll workers be trained.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts is the 4th most Democratic state in the country, with an average Democratic voting margin of 29.8% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state's population grew by 7.4%, which is the same rate as the country as a whole. Massachusetts is less racially diverse than the rest of the nation. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 76.1% to 67.6%. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.