Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Michigan offers automatic, online, and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. The state does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. There were zero total purges conducted in 2020. A moderate number of Michigan voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration and handling of provisional ballots at polling sites.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - LOW
Michigan has a non-strict photo voter 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. Restrictive state legislation was pending in 2022.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Michigan offers early in-person voting beginning 40 days before Election Day, ending the day before. There is Saturday voting, with some optional Sundays depending on the locality. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Michigan offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. State law in 2021 banned mailing absentee ballot applications to voters without request. Ballot drop-off sites are limited and there are anti-voter restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need. The state offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications and provides accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities. There is no prepaid postage to return the ballot.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Michigan 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, but it is not strong. The state does not allow election administrators to preprocess returned ballots. It does have a signature verification program and a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. All ballots must be received by close of polls on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Although Election Day in Michigan is a state holiday, there is no specific law allowing employees to take paid or unpaid leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options. It allows curbside voting as well as voting at an alternative location if the original polling site is inaccessible. State law addresses the needs of voters experiencing housing instability, yet the voting rights of college students have been limited. Although there was a moderate ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020, there was a high number of reports about long lines, inadequate signage, limited access for those with disabilities, COVID-19 protocols, delayed opening or early closing of polling sites, mishandling of polling site ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. Michigan was ranked among the top third of states that invested in the 2020 election to improve processes while being cost effective.
Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Michigan 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. The state tests the equipment according to federal accreditation. Michigan uses E-Poll Book technology statewide, which helps reduce discrepancies. Its election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional and risk limiting audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors after certification and during the statutorily required post-election period.

Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Although Michigan has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021, but legislation pending in 2022 sought to penalize, usurp, or interfere with state or local election officials; shift election authority; authorize an audit of the 2020 election results; prohibit private funding of election administration; and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW

Public opinion surveys showed that Michigan voters had not much 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. There were confirmed threats made to election officials. Voters were targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. There was a high number of reports from voters about political intimidation online and disinformation, as well as concerns about election certification. Others voiced concerns about intimidation and electioneering, poll worker misconduct, police presence, and physical safety at the polling sites. Michigan law criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech, authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business, and requires that all poll workers be trained. There is no ban on weapons nor prohibition of obstructing or hindering voters at polling sites. Michigan ranked among the bottom five states in this index.

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

Michigan 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, Michigan is one of four states that is extremely competitive in its elections (average voting margin under 2%), with a slight tilt toward Democrats. The state has an average Democratic voting margin of 1.3% compared to the national Democratic voting average of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.0% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Michigan is less racially diverse than the rest of the country as a whole. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 84% to 79%. With the U.S. Census results, Michigan is one of seven states to lose a representative in Congress.