Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Minnesota offers online and same-day voter registration (through Election Day), but not automatic. Felony disenfranchisement continues until the terms of parole or probation are complete. The state purges voters from lists after four years of nonvoting. There was a low number of purges conducted in 2020. A moderate number of Minnesota 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 - HIGH
Minnesota 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. 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 - HIGH
Minnesota offers early in-person voting beginning 46 days before Election Day, ending the day before. There is Saturday voting. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Minnesota offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. State law in 2021 made ballot options robust by codifying the use of drop boxes. There is no proactive mailing of ballot applications to voters without request. The state offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications, has no restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need, and provides prepaid postage to return the ballot.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Minnesota had a moderate 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 provides a codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies – a voter can request a replacement absentee ballot. All ballots must be received by close of polls on Election Day. Hand-delivered ballots must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day before.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Minnesota allows employees to take paid leave to vote for whatever time is necessary. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options, curbside voting, and alternative formats for voting to address hearing impairment, limited vision, and language challenges. State law addresses the needs of voters experiencing housing instability and the voting rights of college students. Although there was a high 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 openings or early closings of polling sites, mishandling of ballots, and concerns about voting equipment. Minnesota was ranked among the top third of states that invested in the 2020 election to improve processes while being cost effective.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although Minnesota has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2022 on this topic, but bills introduced failed to prohibit private funding of election administration and increase the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of election crimes.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
Minnesota 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. Minnesota tests the equipment according to federal accreditation and full certification required by statute. Its election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors before ballots are counted and during the statutorily required post-election period.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM
Public opinion surveys showed that Minnesota 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. Minnesota 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, and poll worker misconduct. State 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. Minnesota has good laws on campaign finance disclosure and about instruction on how to evaluate trustworthy media services in public education.
Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only

Minnesota 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, Minnesota is one of the more competitive election states, but with a slight tilt toward Democrats. It has an average Democratic voting margin of 4.3% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state's population grew by 7.6% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Minnesota is among the least racially diverse states in the country. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 83% to 76%. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.