Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
New Mexico closes voter registration 28 days before Election Day for the general election and closes on Election Day for statewide races. The state offers automatic, online, and same-day voter registration. Felony disenfranchisement continues until the terms of parole or probation are complete. 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 New Mexico 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
New Mexico 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. No laws were enacted in 2021 or 2022 to impose restrictions.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
New Mexico offers early in-person voting beginning the third Saturday before Election Day, ending the Saturday before. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in New Mexico: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws recently passed or enacted in New Mexico: 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 New Mexico: DemocracyMovement.us
Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
New Mexico offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. There is no proactive mailing of ballots applications to voters without request. State law places anti-voter restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need. New Mexico offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications and provides accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities. State law in 2021 allow robust ballot return options and provide prepaid postage to return the ballot.

Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
New Mexico had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very high rejection rate. There is a statutorily required statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong. It does not have a signature verification program nor a permanent codified process for voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Election Day in New Mexico is a state holiday, and state law allows employees to take up to 2 hours paid leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options. Voters with disability, mobility, literacy, or language challenges can request assistance at the polling site, but curbside voting is limited. State legislation passed in 2021 increased access to polling locations on tribal lands and such voting locations cannot be closed or eliminated without the consent of Native governments. State law addresses the residency challenges of voters experiencing housing instability. There were few reports from voters in 2020 with concerns about disability access at polling sites, inadequate signage, and mishandling of polling site ballots. New Mexico had a low ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020. It was ranked among the bottom third of states that invested in the 2020 election to improve processes while being cost effective.
New Mexico

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
New Mexico 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. New Mexico uses E Poll Book technology statewide, which helps reduce discrepancies. 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 - MEDIUM
Although New Mexico 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, but legislation introduced in 2022 sought to usurp the role of state election officials and authorize an audit of the 2020 elections. Both failed to pass.
Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only

New Mexico 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, New Mexico, which used to be a swing state, is a Democratic-leaning state, with an average Democratic voting margin of 9.5% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 2.8% compared to the national average of 7.4%. New Mexico is as racially diverse as the country as a whole. It is one of six states that has a majority minority population (along with California, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, and Texas). With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM

Public opinion surveys showed that New Mexico voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. The state had a moderate number of demonstrations during the last week of the general elections. There was a moderate number of reports from voters with concerns about disinformation and election certification, and a higher number about in-person intimidation, electioneering, poll worker misconduct, and police presence. State law authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business, requires that all poll workers be trained, and criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech. There is no ban on weapons nor prohibition of obstructing or hindering voters at polling sites. The state passed media literacy laws requiring instruction or standards on how to evaluate trustworthy media services in public education.