Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - MEDIUM
New York closes voter registration 25 days before Election Day. The state offers automatic and online voter registration, but not same-day. Youth can pre-register to vote beginning at age 16. 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 high number of New York voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter registration and the handling of provisional ballots.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
New York requires no photo ID to vote. The state is NOT a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which seeks to help 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
New York offers early in-person voting beginning 10 days before Election Day, ending the Sunday before (2nd day). There is both Saturday and Sunday voting. 2022 law changes the timing of a mailer that informs voters of election dates, their registration status, and voting locations to help increase early voting access.
New York

State Rank: 15
Overall Score: MEDIUM

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
New York remains an excuse-only absentee ballot state after a failed constitutional amendment. 2022 law extended excuse to include avoiding risk of COVID-19 transmission until January 1, 2023. There is no proactive mailing of ballots applications to voters without request. State law in 2021 limited availability of drop boxes and shortened the window to apply for a mail ballot. New York offers an online portal for absentee ballot applications, provides accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities, and places no restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need. 2022 law requires boards of election to offer a more robust online absentee ballot portal and provide return envelopes with prepaid postage.

Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - LOW
New York had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very high rejection rate. A new statewide ballot tracking program was enacted January 2022. 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. All ballots must be received within 7 days after a primary and 13 days after a general election if postmarked on or before Election Day. Law passed in 2022 strives to improve how absentee and provisional ballots are processed,
New York

State Rank: 15
Overall Score: MEDIUM

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Election Day in New York 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. Curbside voting is not allowed, but an alternative polling location can be identified if the original polling site is inaccessible to the voter. State law passed in 2021 expands the voting rights of the incarcerated. There was a moderate number of reports by voters in 2020 with concerns about disability access and COVID-19 protocols, and a higher number of reports about mishandling of ballots, ballot shortages, long lines, and voting equipment. New York had the fourth highest 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 allows the placement of polling centers on college campuses or at a nearby location and requires all key voting materials available in minority languages.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
New York 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 standards. New York uses E Poll Book technology statewide, which helps reduce discrepancies. Its election security systems received very high 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
New York has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot and its election administration is designed to be nonpartisan by nature. No laws were passed in 2021 or 2022 on this topic.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - LOW
Public opinion surveys showed that New York voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state low media integrity ratings. The state had a high number of demonstrations and a few riots during the last week of the general elections. New York voters were targeted with robocalls to stay home and not vote. There was a moderate number of reports from voters with concerns about political intimidation online and in-person, disinformation, election certification, electioneering, poll worker misconduct, police presence, and public safety. Although state law requires all poll workers to be trained, it does not ban weapons at polling sites, prohibit obstructing or hindering voters, criminalize voter intimidation and false election speech, or authorize law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business. New York has good campaign finance disclosure laws.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
New York 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 York is one of the 10 most Democratic states, with an average Democratic voting margin of 22.8% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 4.2% compared to the national average of 7.4%. New York is one of the nine most racially diverse states. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 58% to 52.5%. With the U.S. Census results, New York is one of seven states to lose a representative in Congress.