Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
North Dakota is the only state where voter registration is not required. Voters simply need to show acceptable identification to vote. State law passed in 2021 created procedures for new residents of the state to vote in presidential elections and allows former residents unable to register in their new state in time to vote in ND presidential elections. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. North Dakota scored the top among all states in this index.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - MEDIUM
North Dakota has a strict non-photo ID voter law. The state is NOT a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which seeks to help states improve accuracy of voter rolls, such as tracking whether people are registered in multiple states. A moderate number of voters contacted the 1-866-OUR-VOTE legal hotline in 2020 during the last week of the election with concerns about voter ID. State legislation in 2021 added student IDs to the accepted list.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
North Dakota offers early in-person voting beginning 10 days before Election Day, ending the day before. There is both Saturday and Sunday voting. Some counties may conduct optional vote-by-mail. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
North Dakota offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. There is no proactive mailing of ballots applications to voters without request. Ballot drop-off options are limited, but there are no restrictions on who can return an absentee ballot for a voter in need.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - HIGH
North Dakota 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 authorizes election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies, and provides a signature verification program. Mailed absentee ballots must be received within 8 days after an election if postmarked by the day before Election Day. Hand-delivered ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on the day before Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
North Dakota has no law allowing employees to take any paid or unpaid leave to vote. The state provides high quality accessible voting machine options. The state law passed several measures in 2021 expanding access for voters with disabilities, such as allowing visually impaired voters to request an absentee ballot they may mark and return electronically. There was a high ratio of poll workers to polling sites in 2020. North Dakota ranked in the top ten among all states on how well they invested in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - HIGH
North Dakota 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. North Dakota uses E Poll Book technology statewide, which helps reduce discrepancies. Its election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. The state conducts audits to double-check for machine recording errors before ballots are counted and during the statutorily required post-election period.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although North Dakota 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 the legislature did not meet in 2022.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM
Public opinion surveys showed that North Dakota voters had no trust in the 2020 election news coverage. There were very few reports by voters with concerns about political intimidation or poll site safety. State law mandates that all poll workers be trained.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
North Dakota is one of three states that has a Republican trifecta, but not a triplex - the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are not from the same political party (Arizona and Iowa are the others). Based on the last two presidential elections, North Dakota is the most 4th Republican state, with an average GOP voting margin of 34.5% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state’s population grew by 15.8% (4th fastest) compared to the national average of 7.4%. North Dakota is among the least racially diverse states in the country. Also, North Dakota has the lowe3rdst median age at 35. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 89% to 82%. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.