Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - LOW
Ohio closes voter registration 30 days before Election Day. The state offers online voter registration, but not same-day nor automatic. The state will send a notice to voters after two years of nonvoting; removal from voting list begins if there is failure to vote for an additional four years. There were zero total purges conducted in 2020. Voting rights are automatically restored to those incarcerated for felonies upon release. A high number of Ohio 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 - LOW
Ohio has a strict non-photo ID voter law. The state is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) which seeks to help states improve accuracy of voter rolls. A high 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
Ohio offers early in-person voting beginning 28 days before Election Day, ending the day before. There is both Saturday and Sunday voting. No-excuse required absentee voting is available.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - LOW
Ohio offers no-excuse absentee ballot voting. There is no proactive mailing of ballot applications to voters without request. Ballot drop-off options are restrictive. State law in 2021 placed anti-voter restrictions on a voter's ability to receive assistance with returning an absentee ballot. The state does offer accessible electronic absentee ballots to voters with disabilities.
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Ohio had a high percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a low rejection rate. There is a statewide ballot tracking program, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. 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. Voters have until the seventh day after the election to resolve any issue. All mailed ballots must be received within 10 days after an election if postmarked on or before Election Day. 2022 law provides extensions for military personnel.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Ohio allows employees to take paid leave to vote for a reasonable amount of time. The state provides low quality accessible voting machine options. Ohio allows curbside voting and has few other laws if any above federal mandates to assist disabled voters. State law in 2021 criminalizes volunteers for assisting voters with returning a mail ballot. Although the state had one of the highest ratios of poll workers to polling sites in the country in 2020, there was a high number of reports from voters with concerns about no curbside voting, disability access, COVID-19 protocols, mishandling of ballots at polling sites, ballot shortages, long lines, delayed openings and early closings of poll sites, voting equipment, and public safety. Ohio ranked in the bottom third of all states on how well they invested in the 2020 elections to improve processes while being cost effective.
Ohio has a statewide verified paper audit trail. Most counties use Ballot Marking Devices to meet voter accessibility needs, while others use hand marked paper ballots or electronic voting machines. Ohio tests the equipment according to full federal certification standards required by statute. Its election security systems received low 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.

Although Ohio has established the constitutional right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. State laws passed in 2021 shift election authority and allow litigation interference by the state. Legislation introduced in 2022 sought to penalize election officials for their decisions and authorize reviews of other elections.
Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - MEDIUM
Public opinion surveys showed that Ohio voters had some 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 was a high 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. State law requires all poll workers to be trained, bans weapons at polling sites, prohibits obstructing or hindering voters, criminalizes voter intimidation and false election speech, and authorizes law enforcement to be present only by request or on official business.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, informational only
Ohio is one of 19 states that has a Republican 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, Ohio, which was a national bellwether state, now tilts Republican, with an average GOP voting margin of 8.0% compared to the national average Democratic voting margin of 3%. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the state's population grew by 2.3% compared to the national average of 7.4%. Ohio is among the least racially diverse states in the country. During the past decade, the white population dropped from 81% to 76%. With the U.S. Census results, Ohio is one of seven states to lose a representative in Congress.