Index 1: Voter Registration - Confidence level - HIGH
Vermont offers automatic, online, and same-day (through Election Day) voter registration. The state does not purge voting lists no matter how many years of nonvoting. Yet, there was a high number of total purges conducted in 2020. Incarcerated individuals never lose their right to vote while under the custody of the state.

Index 2: Voter Identification - Confidence level - HIGH
Vermont 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. No laws were enacted in 2021 or 2022 to impose restrictions. Vermont ranked among the top three states in this index.

Index 3: Early Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Vermont offers early in-person voting beginning 45 days before Election Day, ending the day before. The state also offers all-mail or no-excuse absentee ballot voting.

Index 4: Safe Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Vermont has been a vote-at-home state since 2022. Ballots are mailed to all voters (no applications necessary), ballot return options are robust, prepaid postage is provided, and the state offers accessible electronic vote-by-mail ballots to voters with disabilities. It has no restrictions on who can return the ballot on behalf of the voter. State law in 2021 made permanent provisions of vote by mail adopted in response to the pandemic. Vermont was one of the top ranked states in this index.

Learn more about how to vote and voting rights in Vermont: VOTE411
Learn about voting laws recently enacted, passed, or pending in Vermont: 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 Vermont: DemocracyMovement.us
Index 5: Ballot Acceptance - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Vermont had a moderate percentage of mail-in ballots returned in 2020, with a very low rejection rate. The state has a statewide ballot tracking service, but it is not strong nor statutorily required. Vermont allows election administrators to preprocess returned ballots, provides prepaid postage on return envelopes, and allows voters to correct for ballot discrepancies. It has no signature verification program. All ballots must be received by Election Day.

Index 6: Logistical Barriers in Voting - Confidence level - HIGH
Vermont law does not provide the right for employees to take leave to vote as it is predominantly a vote-by-mail state, but did have 521 polling sites open in 2020. The state passed laws in 2021 to help voters with mobility, disability, and/or language challenges. Vermont law allows curbside voting and provides high quality accessible voting machine options.

Index 7: Equipment, Security, and Auditing - Confidence level - MEDIUM
Vermont 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, but they do not test the equipment according to federal standards. Vermont’s election security systems received fair overall ratings in 2018. The state uses traditional audit methods to double-check for machine recording errors during the election process and conducts statutorily required post-election audits.
Index 8: Independent Election Administration - Confidence level - HIGH
Although Vermont has established by statutory authority the right to a secret ballot, it does not prohibit election interference by the legislature. No laws were passed in 2021 or 2022 on this topic.

Index 9: External Interference in Voting - Confidence Level - HIGH
Public opinion surveys showed that Vermont voters had some trust in the 2020 election news coverage, while political scientists gave the state medium media integrity ratings. Although there were very few reports about voter intimidation or safety at the polling sites, there were confirmed threats made to election workers. State law prohibits obstructing or hindering voters from accessing polling sites, requires all poll workers to be trained, and criminalizes intimidation and false election speech. Vermont was one of five states to receive a high score in this index.

Index 10: The Role of Government and Politics – No rating given, information only
Vermont is one of 6 states that has a truly split government. It has neither a trifecta – the governor and the legislature are from different parties - nor a triplex – the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state are not from the same political party. Based on the last two presidential elections, Vermont is the most Democratic-leaning state, with an average Democratic voting margin of 30.9% 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%. Vermont is tied with West Virginia for being the 2nd least racially diverse state in the country (Maine is the least racially diverse state). Vermont has 82% of their population over the age of 21; only the District of Columbia has a higher percentage. With the U.S. Census results, the state will neither gain nor lose any representatives in Congress.