

Statewide data on turnout and accessibility: Shortle, Allyson, 2024, "State Voting Access Scores and Turnout - 2020 to 2022." <https://www.allysonshortle.com/state-voting-access-data.html>. Cited in *The Conversation* by Schumaker and Shortle (October, 2024).

Data and Methods:

Turnout (By State in the US)

2020 US presidential election turnout and 2022 midterm election turnout metrics were used to analyze electoral turnout in each state. Source: Dr. Michael P. McDonald, [United States Elections Project, 1980 - 2016 Turnout Data Set](#), accessed Friday, October 10, 2024.

Voting accessibility (High-barrier versus Low-barrier states)

One metric was used to assess voting accessibility in each state through an analysis conducted by the [Center for Public Integrity](#). They conducted a cross-state analysis of unequal access to voting from 2020 to 2023 on 12 dimensions:

- How easy it is to register to vote.
- Absentee ballot and vote-by-mail availability and rules.
- The availability of secure drop boxes for absentee ballots.
- The process for “curing” absentee ballots rejected for minor issues.
- Voter ID.
- Voting list purges.
- Polling places.
- Availability of early voting.
- Restrictions on organizing voter registration and turnout.
- Felony disenfranchisement.
- Redistricting.
- And threats to the integrity of election-result certification.

The CPI categorized states as “better,” “worse,” or “unchanged” on voting accessibility since 2020. For our data analyses, we coded high barrier states as “1” and all others as “0.”

Republican-led legislature

All data about Republican states came from the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#). Their data on legislature partisanship is available [here](#). In our data set, states with Republican legislatures were coded as “1” whereas all others were coded as “0.”

Regions

We determined a state’s region according to standard US Census regional categories.

Black population

A state’s population was coded as “1” for states with Black populations above the national average and “0” for those states below the national average.

Data Analyses

Analyses were performed for this article using simple descriptive analyses and comparisons of means in the form of t-tests. All data are publicly available.

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Table A1: High versus Low Barrier Voting Access States – by Census Region & 2022 Turnout Percentages

	High barrier voting states	Low barrier voting states
South	Georgia – 51.9 Florida – 48.1 South Carolina – 42.8 Louisiana – 42.0 Texas – 41.8 Arkansas – 41.5 Oklahoma – 39.6 Alabama – 37.3 West Virginia – 35.4 Tennessee – 33.3 Mississippi – 32.5	Virginia – 47.6 North Carolina – 47.5 Maryland – 45.8 Kentucky – 44.8 Delaware – 42.8
Midwest	Wisconsin – 59.8 South Dakota – 53.1 Iowa – 51.9 Missouri – 49.6 Kansas – 47.6 Ohio – 47.1 North Dakota – 41.7 Indiana – 37.2	Minnesota – 60.4 Michigan – 58.9 Nebraska – 48.4 Illinois – 45.8
West	Montana – 53.2 Alaska – 50.2 Arizona – 49.3 Utah – 46.8 Wyoming – 45.6	Oregon – 62.3 Colorado – 58.3 Washington – 55.3 New Mexico – 46.3 Nevada – 45.8 California – 42.9 Idaho – 42.6 Hawaii – 40.5
Northeast	New Hampshire – 56.3 Pennsylvania – 54.4	Maine – 60.8 Vermont – 56.0 Massachusetts – 48.8 Connecticut – 48.6 Rhode Island – 43.6 New York – 42.5 New Jersey – 41.0

Note: US Census designations were used to understand a state’s region. States with Republican-majority legislatures are in red; states with Democratic-majority legislatures are in blue. Minnesota has a divided legislature but was placed in the Democratic state category due to its Democratic governor. Nebraska has a unicameral legislature but was coded as Republican due to the state’s Republican governor. The average turnout for the 2022 midterm election across all US states was 46.2%.

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Table A2: High versus Low Barrier Voting Access States – by Census Region & 2020 Turnout Percentages

	High barrier voting states	Low barrier voting states
South	Florida – 63.1 South Carolina – 61.1 Alabama – 60.5 Georgia – 60.5 Louisiana – 58.2 Mississippi – 57.6 Tennessee – 56.6 West Virginia – 55.9 Arkansas – 52.3 Oklahoma – 51.5 Texas – 51.3	North Carolina – 66.3 Virginia – 66.3 Delaware – 64.5 Maryland – 64.2 Kentucky – 61.4
Midwest	Wisconsin – 71.9 Iowa – 69.3 Ohio – 64.8 Missouri – 63.1 South Dakota – 62.6 North Dakota – 61.9 Kansas – 60.0 Indiana – 58.2	Minnesota – 74.8 Michigan – 70.4 Nebraska – 64.7 Illinois – 61.4
West	Montana – 70.9 Alaska – 65.2 Utah – 63.5 Wyoming – 61.8 Arizona – 58.4	Colorado – 70.9 Oregon – 69.7 Washington – 67.3 Idaho – 62.7 Nevada – 57.3 California – 56.8 New Mexico – 56.5 Hawaii – 51.5
Northeast	New Hampshire – 72.2 Pennsylvania – 67.9	Maine – 74.2 Vermont – 71.8 New Jersey – 65.4 Massachusetts – 65.2 Connecticut – 64.2 Rhode Island – 60.4 New York – 55.9

Note: Numbers indicate the percentage of each state's population that voted in the 2020 election. State names appearing in red show below-average turnout relative to the national average of 61.4%.

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Table A3: High versus Low Barrier Voting Access States – by Red v Blue State & 2020 Turnout Percentages

	High barrier voting states		Low barrier voting states	
Republican States	Florida – 63.1 South Carolina – 61.1 Alabama – 60.5 Georgia – 60.5 Louisiana – 58.2 Mississippi – 57.6 Tennessee – 56.6 West Virginia – 55.9 Arkansas – 52.3 Oklahoma – 51.5 Texas – 51.3 Wisconsin – 71.9 Iowa – 69.3 Ohio – 64.8 Missouri – 63.1	South Dakota – 62.6 North Dakota – 61.9 Kansas – 60.0 Indiana – 58.2 Montana – 70.9 Alaska – 65.2 Utah – 63.5 Wyoming – 61.8 Arizona – 58.4 Pennsylvania – 67.9	North Carolina – 66.3 Kentucky – 61.4	Nebraska – 64.7* Idaho – 62.7
Democratic States	New Hampshire - 72.2		Virginia – 66.3 Delaware – 64.5 Maryland – 64.2 Illinois – 61.4 Michigan – 70.4 Minnesota – 74.8* Colorado – 70.9 Oregon – 69.7 Washington – 67.3 Nevada – 57.3 California – 56.8 New Mexico – 56.5 Hawaii – 51.5	Maine – 74.2 Vermont – 71.8 New Jersey – 65.4 Massachusetts – 65.2 Connecticut – 64.2 Rhode Island – 60.4 New York – 55.9

Note: Minnesota has a divided legislature but was placed in the Democratic state category due to its Democratic governor. Nebraska has a unicameral legislature but was coded as a Republican state due to its Republican governor. Numbers indicate the percentage of each state's population that voted in the 2020 election. State names appearing in red show below-average turnout relative to the national average of 61.4%.