

ALABAMA



SUMMARY

Alabama's democracy scored the worst out of all states. It has some of the harshest voting laws, weakest ethics and campaign finance laws, and is extremely susceptible to democracy subversion.

Overall:



Rank: #50/50

GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

F

49 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

F

TIED-42 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

F

48 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 60/300

BEHIND THE GRADES



Voting Rights Laws

- Alabama's voting laws restrict the freedom to vote across the board. The only criteria the state received full points on is offering online voter registration.
- Alabama can expand the freedom to vote by removing barriers to voter registration, permitting no-excuse absentee and early voting, fixing its restrictive voter ID law, and restoring the right to vote for formerly incarcerated citizens.



Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- Alabama is one of only five states with no contribution limits for individuals, PACs, and corporations, allowing big-money interests to wield lots of power.
- Alabama is one of only 12 states that does not have rules restricting coordination between campaigns and independent spending groups.



Democracy Subversion Protections

- Last year, the Alabama legislature passed an extreme racially gerrymandered congressional map. While a federal court struck down the map for violating the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court allowed the map to remain in place for the 2022 election and will hear the case next term.
- Attorney General Steve Marshall signed onto an amicus brief supporting Texas' effort to block certification of the 2020 election.
- Alabama is one of only nine states that do not conduct best practice, nonpartisan audits of its elections, though a new bill allows the secretary of state to pilot one in some counties in 2022.

LOOKING FORWARD

Warning Signs

Republican statewide candidates continue to falsely claim the 2020 election was illegitimate and have expressed openness to subverting democracy going forward.