



**DENISE W. MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

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## **CONNECTICUT CRACKS TOP 5 IN THE NATION IN ELECTIONS PERFORMANCE**

**HARTFORD, CT:** The Pew Charitable Trust's authoritative Elections Performance Index ranked Connecticut fifth in the nation on its most recent survey—up from 19 in 2008—on the heels of major modernization initiatives such as online voter registration and web-based voter lookup tools.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official, said, "This represents enormous progress and we'll continue to try to improve in the years ahead. We will look to best practices to learn from and ways to break new ground in Connecticut. We are determined to make registering and voting as easy as possible for voters in the state."

The index uses 17 indicators to develop a comprehensive measure of election administration in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. [The report states](#), "The data show that, overall, states continue to improve, performing better in 2014 than four years earlier. Although voters turned out at the lowest rate in a midterm election since 1942, fewer military and overseas ballots were rejected, and more online tools were available to help citizens find essential information, such as where to vote and who was on the ballot. Additionally, more states offered voters the option to register online."

Connecticut has steadily risen in the rankings since Pew developed the Elections Performance Index. The Constitution State improved from 19th place overall in election performance during the 2008 Presidential election to 10th place in the nation for performance during the 2012 Presidential election. The latest report measured Connecticut's performance in the 2014 election.

"Connecticut is a high performing state in the index because officials there continue to improve the ways they administer elections," said Alexis Schuler, who oversees election initiatives at The Pew Charitable Trusts. "The state was above the national average in most of the election indicators we track and improved in several other areas."

Connecticut's overall score improved from 67 percent in 2008 to 74 percent in 2012. This year's report, graded Connecticut 81 percent.

The indicators include availability of online voter registration and other web-based voting information tools, rejection of voter registrations, problems with registration or absentee ballots, rejection of military and overseas ballots, and accuracy of voting technology, [among others](#).

To access the report, click here: <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/08/assessing-the-2014-election>