

**The State of State Election
Law: Where We Are and How
to Uncover What's Next**

March 2022

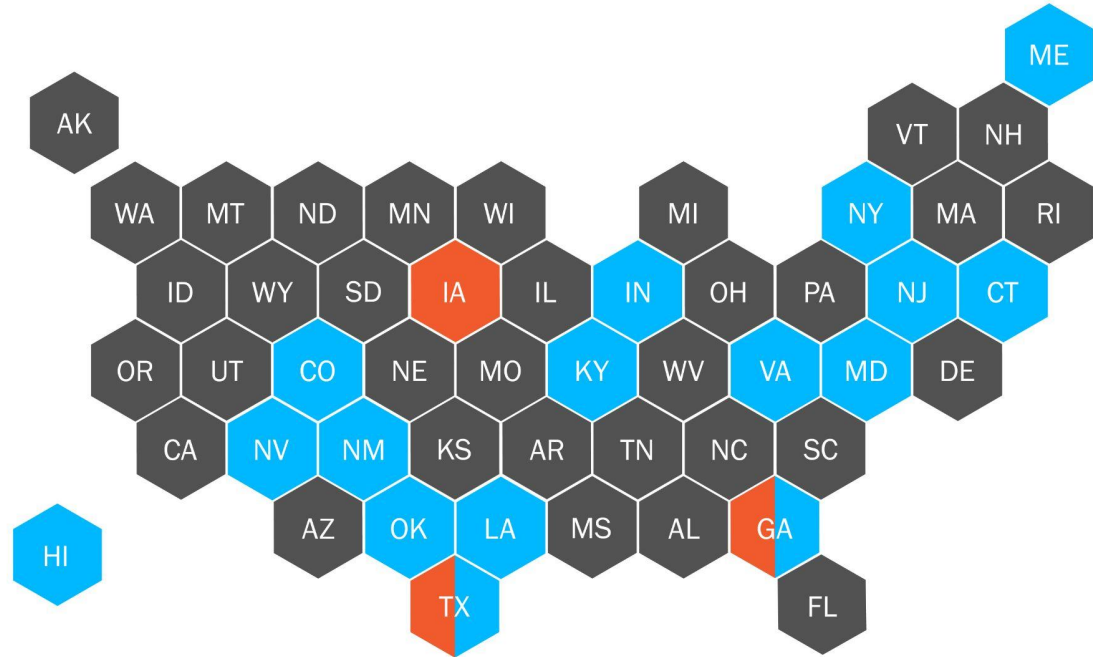
**VOTING
RIGHTS
LAB**

WHO WE ARE

Voting Rights Lab is a nonpartisan organization that is accelerating the movement for free and fair elections through expert analysis, research, and innovations. We track election-related legislation in all 50 states in our State Voting Rights Tracker.

Despite the headlines, 2021 was not defined by voting restrictions. Many states **expanded ballot access** with policies related to **early voting, ballot cure, automatic voter registration (AVR), rights restoration, and transparency.**

Early Voting



EV Restricted



EV Expanded



No EV Legislation

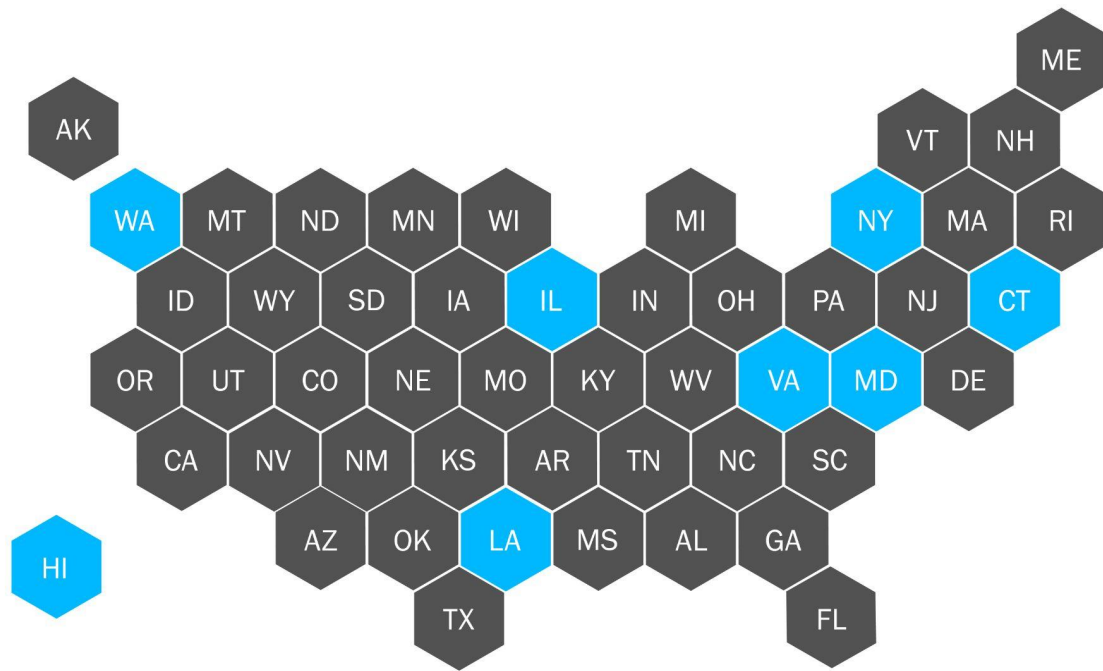
Ballot Cure

13 states, including Texas, Maine and Kentucky, enacted legislation that created or improved voters' ability to correct errors on their absentee ballot envelopes. Maryland created this type of ballot cure process by regulation.

Automatic Voter Registration

Connecticut, Delaware, and Hawaii created automatic voter registration. **New York** added the State University of New York as an AVR agencies. Other states, including **Nevada and California**, improved or expanded AVR processes.

Rights Restoration



States Expanding Rights Restoration

Ballot Tracking

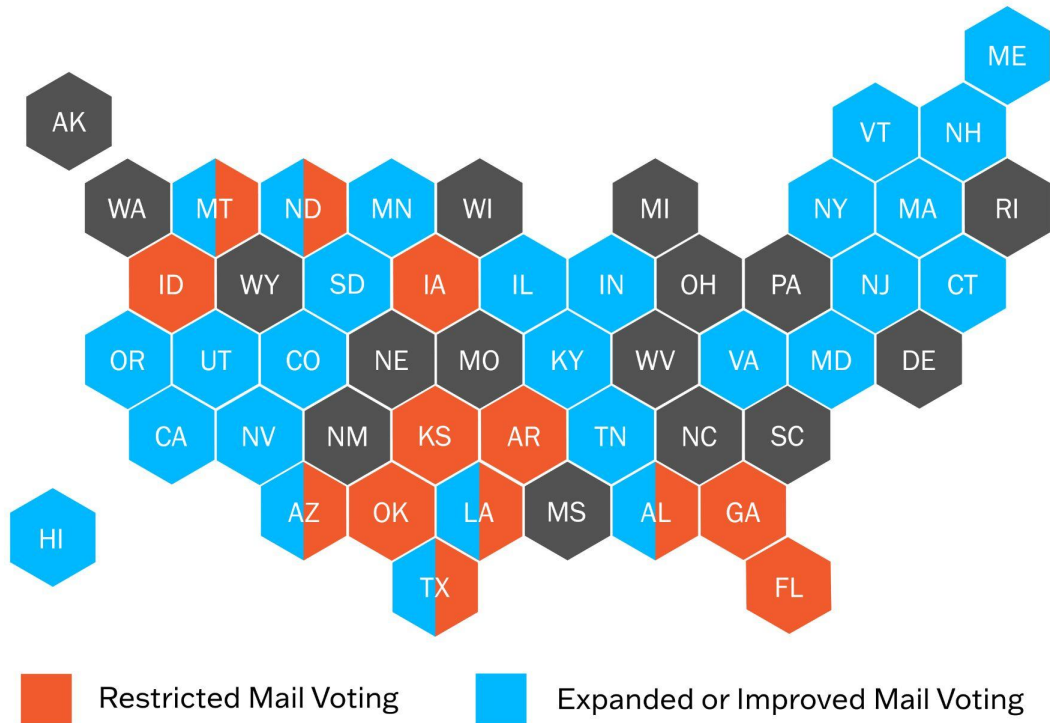
In 2021, **9 states** passed legislation to create, facilitate, or improve the accessibility of ballot tracking tools for voters, including **California, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, Texas, and Utah.**

MIXED RESULTS

On certain election policies, we saw a widening divide among states.

For example, states moved in opposite directions on vote by mail, same-day registration, and voter ID.

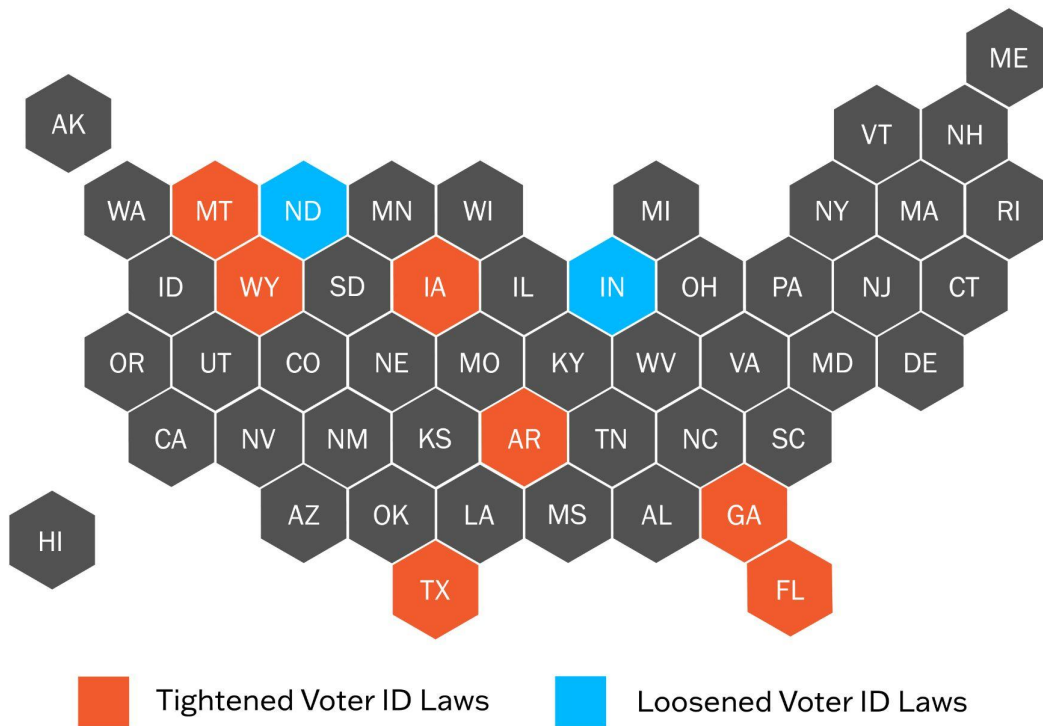
Vote By Mail



Same-Day Registration

Hawaii expanded same-day registration to include online registration, while **New Hampshire** restricted it by adding a photo requirement. **Montana** eliminated same-day registration on Election Day.

Voter ID

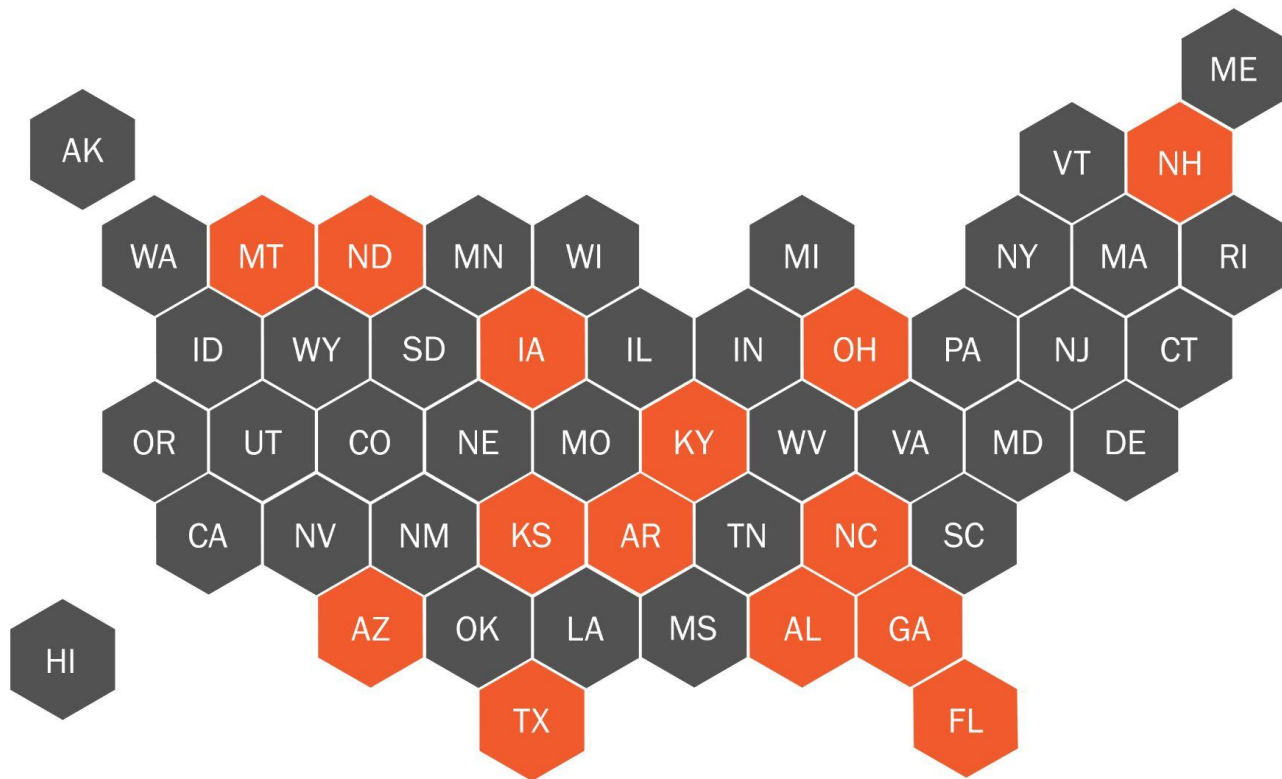


ELECTION SUBVERSION

In 2021, a deeply disturbing legislative trend emerged: **Thirty-three states introduced over 200 individual bills** to undermine the administration of elections.

Fourteen states enacted this type of legislation.

ELECTION SUBVERSION



Enacted Election Subversion Legislation

Partisan Election Reviews

8 states introduced bills to review the certified 2020 election results. **12 states** introduced bills to authorize review processes for election results in one or more future elections. Others have **initiated reviews extra-legislatively.**

Handing Power to Partisans

21 states introduced bills that would give the state legislature or another partisan body **more direct control over local election conduct, vote counting, or certification.**

Criminalizing Election Officials

In 2021, **21 states** enacted legislation authorizing new or increased criminal penalties against election officials or third parties assisting voters.

**Renewed election subversion efforts
have taken a variety of forms in 2022:**

1	Problematic reviews of election results
2	Criminalization of election officials
3	Partisan power grabs
4	Bans on electronic tabulators

Covering Elections Policy

READING BILLS

1. **Understand** the players
2. **Use** summaries as a starting point
3. **Know** the context
4. **Read** the bill holistically
5. **Investigate** cross references and amendments

THE TRACKER

VRL's State Voting Rights Tracker enables users to explore pending legislation in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. across several voting and election issue areas, as well as understand the existing election law landscape in each state.

- **Search for bills** by bill number, state, topic, subtopic, the bill's overall impact on voter access or election administration, and/or its impact on voter access or election administration within the selected topics
- **Sort results** by clicking on column headers.

THE TRACKER

- **Analyze legislation** and amendments with the help of having bill text alongside a VRL summary.
- **Save your results** by downloading a CSV file or using the “Share Results” feature.
- **Track in real-time** by creating an alert.

Visit the VRL Tracker at:

tracker.votingrightslab.org/

FILTER & SEARCH 2022 ▾ States: 45 + DC Bills: 2,374

Filter by State ▾ Filter by Individual Bills ▾

Filter by Legislative Stage ▾ Filter by Overall Bill Impact ▾

Filter by Topic ▾ Filter by Policy Impact ▾

Filter by Subtopic ▾

[Include Bills with Provisions Amended Out](#) [Download Results](#) [Share Results](#)

RESOURCES

- Keep up with the latest in election policy and legislation with our State Voting Rights Tracker: tracker.votingrightslab.org
- Sign up for our weekly newsletter, The Markup: bit.ly/themarkup
- Read our latest report: bit.ly/3HRTZPO
- Learn more about interference with election administration: bit.ly/electionsubversion

STAY IN TOUCH

Amanda Zarrow

Director of Legal and Legislative Tracking

amanda.zarrow@votingrightslab.org

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