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ILLINOIS CLIMBS IN NATIONAL RANKINGS; NOW SEVENTH BEST IN ELECTION PERFORMANCE

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Aug. 17, 2018 – Illinois was ranked seventh best overall nationally in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's [Elections Performance Index](#) for the 2016 election.

The ranking marked a steady and substantial improvement in overall election performance for Illinois dating back to 2010, when the state was ranked No. 39 in the index, which is compiled by MIT's Election Data and Science Lab.

The index uses 17 criteria – including data on states' voter registration, election turnout, voting wait times and reports of voting and registration problems – to compare election administration performance among states and identify best practices and areas for improvement.

One of the highlights for [Illinois in 2016](#) was an 88 percent registration rate among eligible voters, which placed Illinois seventh nationally and represented a 3.6 percentage point increase from the 2012 presidential election. Wait times for voters at polling places fell by nearly half, from 11.7 minutes in 2012 to 6.3 minutes in 2016. Illinois also moved from No. 23 to No. 15 nationally for fewest reports of problems with registration or absentee balloting.

While the Illinois State Board of Elections oversees the administrative functions of elections statewide, voter registration and voting are conducted by 108 local election authorities.

"Elections in Illinois represent a collaborative process between the many local officials who interact directly with voters and state officials who oversee election infrastructure," said Steven S. Sandvoss, executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections. "Illinois' strong showing in the MIT index is evidence of the priority officials at all levels place on fair, efficient and inclusive elections here. We continue to work hard to make improvements to the election system."

The full Elections Performance Index report can be found at <https://elections.mit.edu/>.