

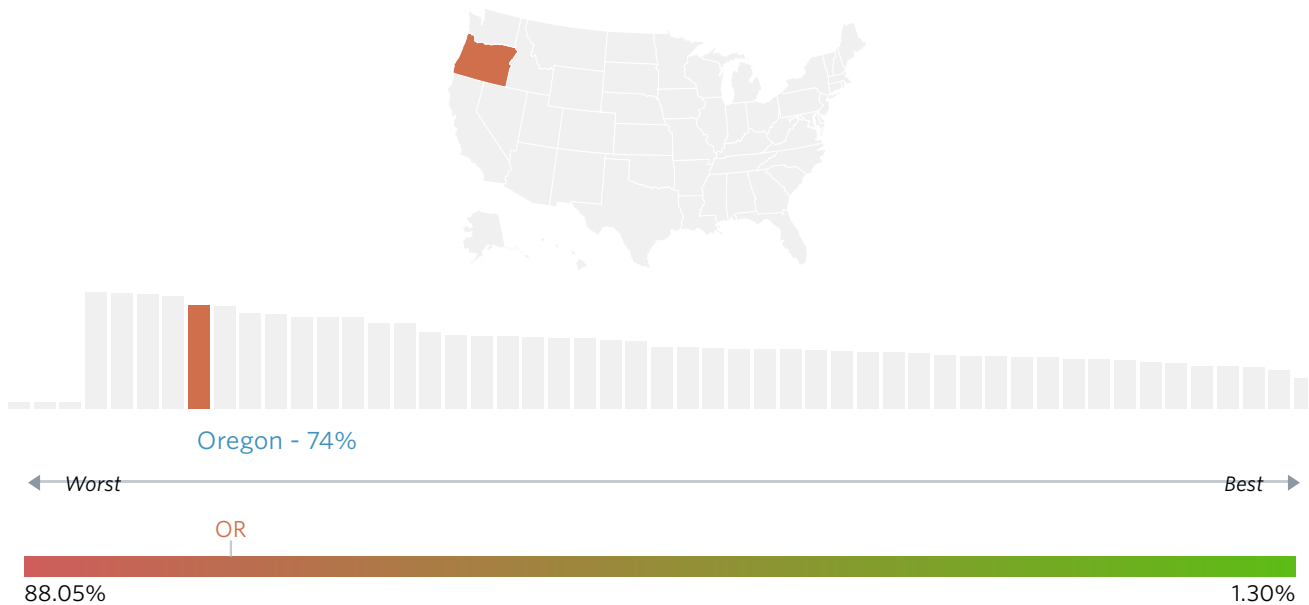
DATA VISUALIZATION

Elections Performance Index

August 09, 2016 | Election Initiatives

Indicators

2014



This indicator captures data from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey on how many military and overseas ballots are not returned by voters. Information about why these ballots are unreturned is not consistently reported and therefore is not featured in this report.

For decades, election administrators have struggled with how best to deliver and receive returned military and overseas ballots in a timely fashion. In 1986, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act was passed to improve this process. More than 20 years later, the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act of 2009 attempted to address the many challenges these voters still faced by eliminating notary and witness requirements, requiring that ballots be sent out at least 45 days before an election, allowing electronic transmission of blank ballots, and expanding the use of the fail-safe Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. For more information, see the Pew report "**Democracy From Afar.**"

Military and overseas ballots are two to three times less likely to be returned for counting than are civilian absentee ballots. Approximately two-thirds of military and overseas ballots were not returned in both 2010 and 2014, compared with about a quarter of civilian absentee ballots in 2010 and a third in 2014.