



THE POWER SCORECARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mapping Power Conditions, Building People Power

*A framework measuring economic,
democratic and civic power across 50 states*

About Dēmos

For nearly 25 years, Dēmos has advanced policy solutions, in-depth research, legal, and narrative strategies to build a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy and economy. From credit card reform to debt-free college to expanding voting rights, Dēmos has highlighted the connection between economic and political power and the necessity for people to have influence and control over the economic and democratic systems that shape their lives. As champions of the new American demos which includes people of color, immigrants, and young people, Dēmos’s work to build power for Black and brown communities is critical now more than ever.

The Power Scorecard

The [Power Scorecard](#) is a data tool that provides a snapshot of economic, civic, and political conditions by state. It complements Dēmos’s Power Agenda, a narrative framework launched earlier this year establishing five broad goals for building economic and political power for people, especially in Black and brown communities: economic mobility for all, economic security for all, full political participation, an inclusive and expansive electorate, and a representative and accountable government.

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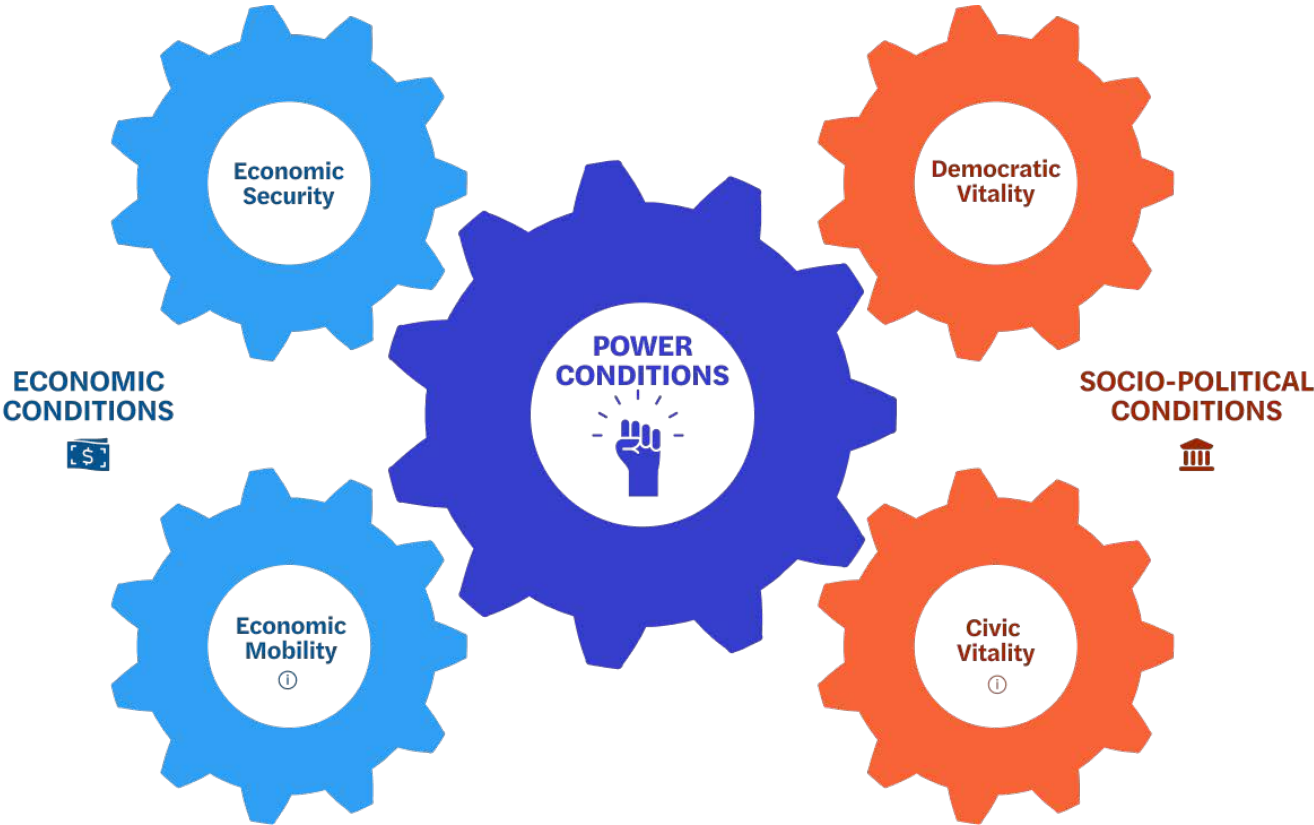
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This 50-state analysis looks at indicators related to economic security, economic mobility, and civic and democratic vitality. Our findings shed light on how state-based conditions influence the agency and control that people exert in our economy and democracy, testing Dēmos’s core theory that economic and political power are inextricably linked. The Power Scorecard provides the opportunity to explore and discover how data can inform long-term research and analysis, policy advocacy and strategy, and ultimately, change.

Created in collaboration with the [Camber Collective](#), Dēmos’s Power Scorecard is a call to action for everyone engaged in the work of building strong, vibrant communities and shifting power back into the hands of the people.

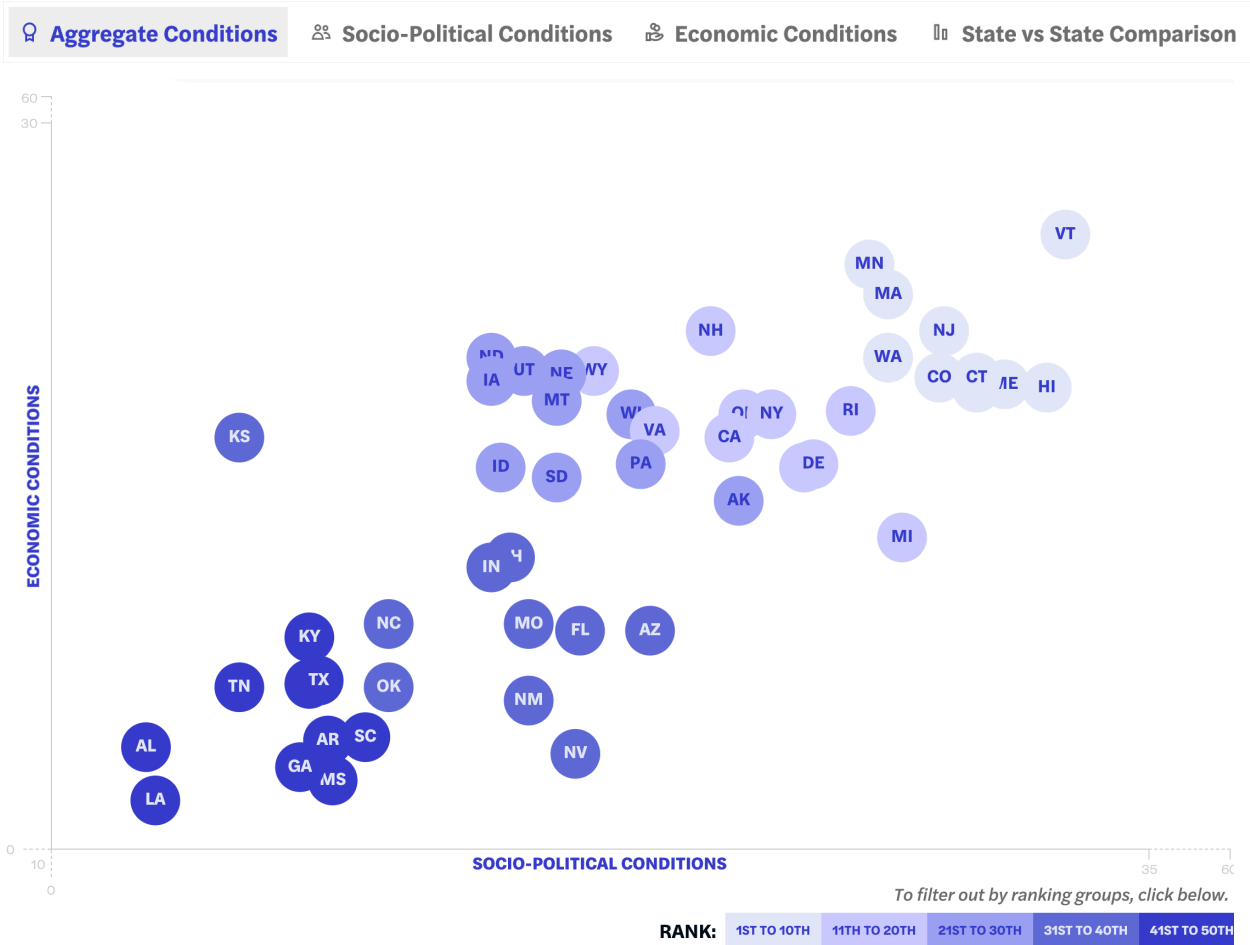


Key Findings

There is a great deal to explore in this rich dataset; however, our initial insights offer some instructive ways that we can learn about the current conditions people live with and how they can inform our approach to creating solutions that would improve their lives.

1. People in every state struggle to exercise economic and political control over their lives.

The Power Scorecard is designed to assess economic, civic, and political conditions across all 50 states, creating a ranking rubric with an optimal score of 120. Our analysis shows that even the highest-scoring states achieve less than half the optimal score across economic, civic, and political conditions for power. Poor overall conditions are often most acute in the South and Midwest, with highest-performing states dispersed across the country.

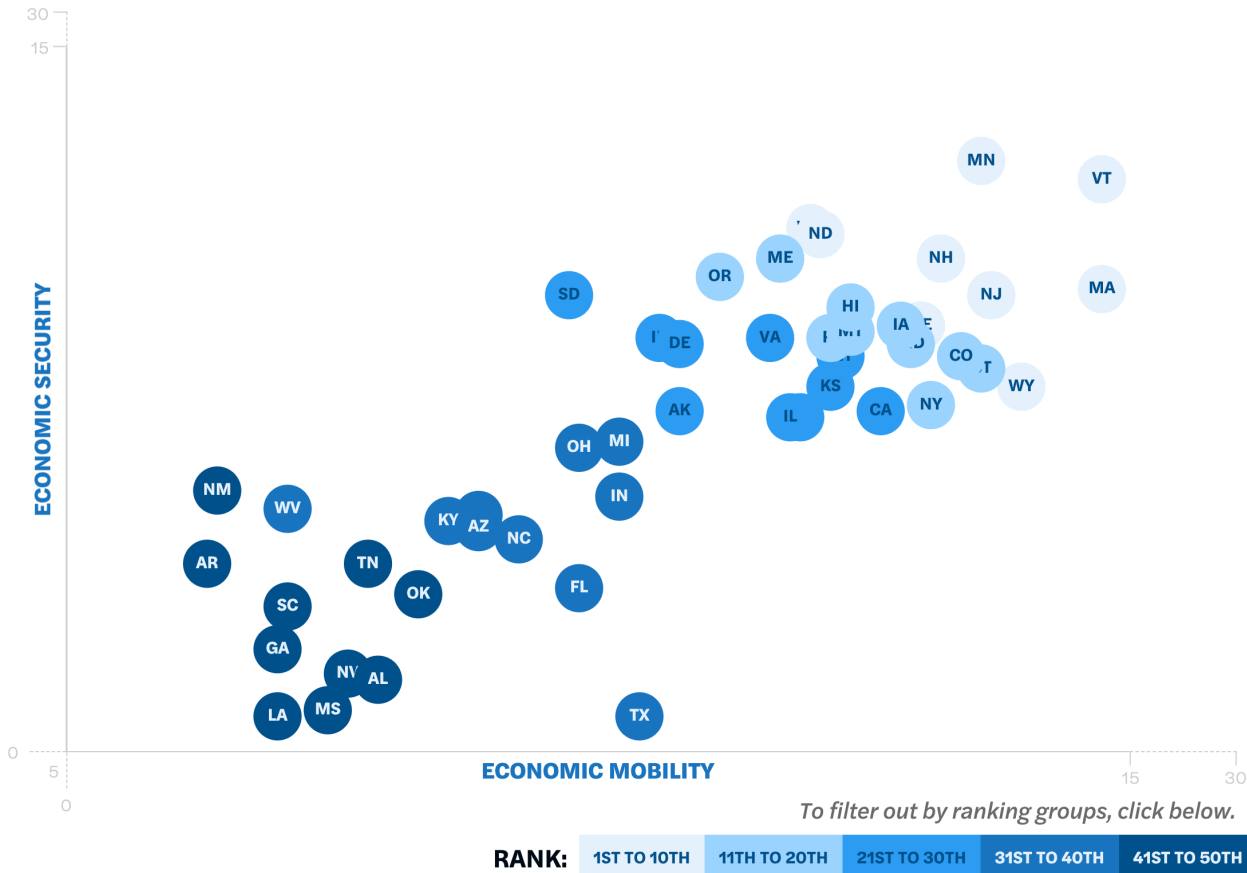


2. Economic, civic, and political conditions of power generally correlate.

The Power Scorecard tests Dēmos’s hypothesis that economic and political power are linked. Our findings provide evidence that economic and political indicators are interconnected, demonstrated through both the highest- (top 10) and lowest- (bottom 10) performing states achieving similar outcomes for both economic, civic, and political conditions. Explore aggregate conditions to see how these conditions correlate.

3. Economic security is not a guarantee of economic mobility.

While often conflated, or seen interchangeably, the Power Scorecard reaffirms that different conditions shape the outcome for economic security and mobility. We found that weaker conditions for economic security impede conditions for upward economic mobility. Stronger conditions for economic security, however, do not guarantee economic mobility. Explore economic conditions on the map or chart for more.



4. Strong civic conditions are not enough to drive democratic participation.

The correlation between civic vitality, defined by Dēmos as the ability to live freely and develop connection to one’s place of residence, and democratic vitality, the ability to engage in our political process, is weak. Our findings suggest that civic power conditions are not enough on their own to drive democratic participation. The Scorecard also shows that many states are failing to ensure that all basic liberties central to vitality are afforded to the people within their states.

5. Publicly available data limits the ability to perform substantial analysis across race, ethnicity, and class. All are necessary for sophisticated, quality analysis.

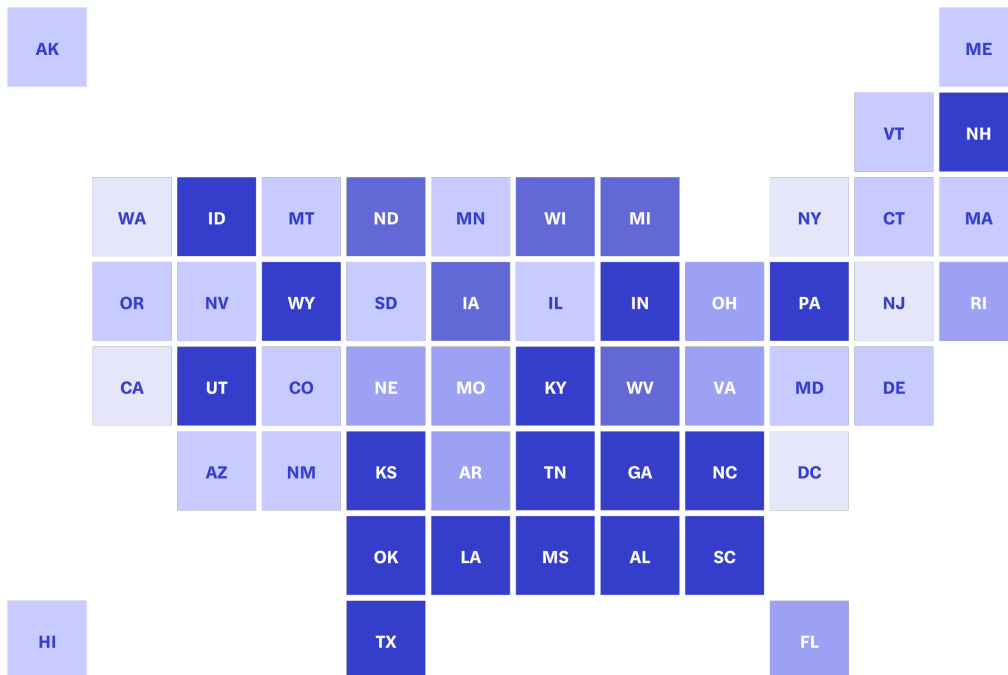
The Scorecard aggregates a range of data from primarily publicly available sources, yielding powerful insights on the disempowerment of marginalized communities who are predominantly people of color. However, racially disaggregated data is available for only a subset of metrics, allowing only a partial racial equity analysis. Significant data gaps exist for American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian populations, and serve as a call to action for better, more inclusive data collection and a greater availability of disaggregated data in the future.

For more insights, including snapshots of our findings on the *Impact on Populations of Color* and *Impact on Families and Children*, visit our website: power.demos.org.

Features of the Power Scorecard

The Power Scorecard is a digital tool designed to put robust data on the current economic, civic, and political conditions across all 50 states into the hands of the people. Created as a tool to inform the development and ongoing strategy of lawmakers and movement organizations, and to make available a robust data framework of economic, civic, and political indicators, the Power Scorecard allows users to:

- Review the performance of each state by map, chart, scorecard, and summary chart
- Review correlation of conditions and view scatterplot charts
- Toggle between map and chart views to display aggregate performance of states across economic and socio-political conditions and demonstrate the correlation between conditions
- View and download individual State Scorecards for a full analysis of findings
- Compare the performance across three states
- See Dēmos’s key findings and data snapshots across *Impact on Populations of Color* and *Impact on Families and Children*
- Download the full state rankings and data sets for all metrics

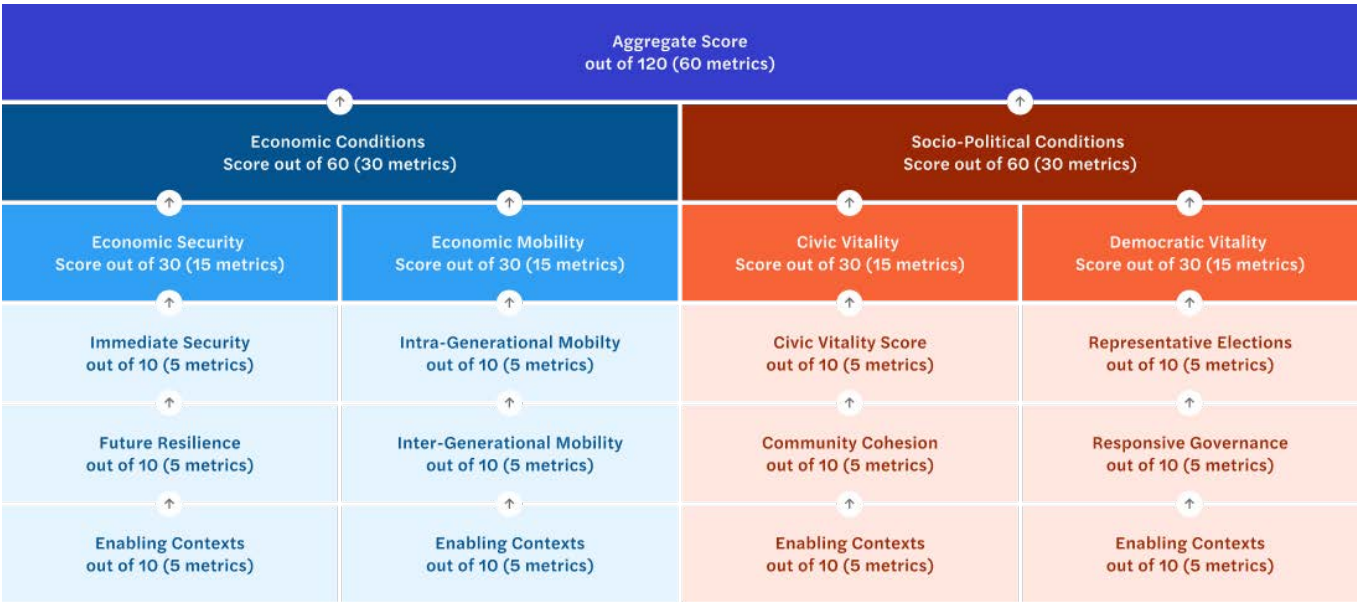


Methodology

The Power Scorecard compiles and analyzes a total of 60 indicators organized into two major sections: economic conditions and socio-political conditions, which include 30 metrics each. The framework is further organized into four pillars: economic security, economic mobility, civic vitality, and democratic vitality. All data points used within this framework meet five requirements for inclusion:

- Available for all 50 states
- Publicly accessible and available (i.e., not purchased or custom-collected)
- Must pertain to the state level or can be easily aggregated to state level (e.g., county)
- Must be quantitative, meaning all data is numerical in its original format or can be converted into a numerical range
- Are data points that are regularly updated, maximizing chances of a consistent dataset that can be tracked over time

For a full overview of the Power Scorecard methodology, please visit power.demos.org.



Contact Information

For more information about the project, comments or questions about the project, or opportunities for collaboration, please email powerscorecard@demos.org.



Dēmos is a non-profit public policy organization working to build a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy and economy. We work hand in hand to build power with and for Black and brown communities, forging strategic alliances with grassroots and state-based organizations.