

Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Am I registered to vote?	12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?
2. Where do I vote?	13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?
3. Where is early voting and when do the polls open/close?	14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?
4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?	15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
5. Can I vote without providing identification?	16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?
6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?	17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on election day?
7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?	18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?
8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?	19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?
9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?	20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?
10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?	
11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?	

1. Am I registered to vote?

A voter can determine whether he or she is registered to vote by checking the Georgia “My Voter Page” on the Secretary of State’s Website (<http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>).

2. Where do I vote?

A voter can determine their proper polling place by checking the Secretary of State’s Website (<http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>).

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Question #6](#).

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Eastern, on Election Day (polling locations in cities

with more than 300,000 people must stay open until 8:00 p.m.).¹ A voter in line at the polling place by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. Please note that the voting dates, times and locations for advance voting (also known as early voting) may be different from the voter's regular polling location. Advance voting locations can be checked here: <http://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/advancedVotingInfo.do>

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is the close of business on the fifth Monday before the election, or, if such Monday is a legal holiday, by the close of business on the following business day prior to the date of such general primary, general election, or presidential preference primary.² The registration date for the 2018 General Election is at the close of business on October 9, 2018.³

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Georgia requires Photo ID in order to vote. Acceptable forms of ID are:⁴

- A Georgia driver's license, even if expired;
- Any valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including a free Voter ID Card issued by the voter's county registrar or Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS);
- Valid U.S. passport;
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of the state of Georgia;
- Valid U.S. military photo ID; and
- Valid tribal photo ID.

The address on the ID does not have to match the address at which the voter is registered to vote.

A voter without identification may vote a provisional ballot. In order for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must present proper ID to the registrar's office within 3 days after election day or the provisional ballot will not count.⁵

6. I have moved and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?⁶

The answer to this question depends on when the voter moved and where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different county
---------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------

<p>Voters should go to their old precinct. They will need to fill out a change of address form for the next election.</p>	<p>Voters should go to their old precinct. They will need to fill out a change of address form for the next election.</p>	<p>Voters who moved after the registration deadline should go to their old precinct. They will need to fill out a change of address form for the next election. Those who moved before the registration deadline will not be eligible to vote in the election unless they registered by the deadline in their new county.</p>
---	---	---

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. A voter should ask if an emergency paper ballot is available⁷

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the voting place at which they are attempting to vote, an election clerk should check the county rolls. If the voter is still not found, the clerk should contact the Elections Supervisor to make sure the voter is registered and is in the correct precinct. If the voter is found to be registered, they should be able to vote a regular ballot.

If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the clerk should give them directions to the correct precinct and issue a precinct pass (which allows the voter to enter the correct precinct without waiting in line) when that option is available.

If the voter still thinks they are eligible to vote, the voter can use a provisional ballot.⁸ If a voter votes a provisional ballot because their name did not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct, the county registrar has up to three days after the election to determine if the voter was properly registered to vote in that election. Votes will only count for eligible voters; additionally, for those who voted in the wrong precinct, only the votes for candidates for which they were entitled to vote will be counted.⁹

9. My name isn't popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter's name can only be removed from the list of registered voters by their written request, after having been adjudicated mentally incompetent, conviction for a felony of moral turpitude, death, failure to provide proof of citizenship with voter registration, or in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program.¹⁰ Any voter whose name was removed and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must reregister in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question 1.](#))

- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question 1](#) and [Question 6](#).)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question 1](#).)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

A citizen cannot vote in Georgia if they been convicted of a felony of moral turpitude until they have completed their entire sentence, including probation and parole, after which the voter may re-register and vote a regular ballot.¹¹

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- 1) The voter's name does not appear on the list of registered electors (see [Question 8](#));
- 2) The voter does not have the required ID (see [Question 5](#));
- 3) The voting machines at the polling place malfunction; or
- 4) Other similar situations in which the voter believes they are entitled to cast a ballot and were denied a regular ballot at the poll.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort.

If the voter is provided a provisional ballot because they do not have the required ID, the voter must present proper ID to the registrar's office within 3 days after election day or the provisional ballot will not count.¹² If a voter votes a provisional ballot because their name did not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct, the county registrar has up to three days after the election to determine if the voter was properly registered to vote in that election. Votes will only count for eligible voters; additionally, for those who voted in the wrong precinct, only the votes for candidates for which they were entitled to vote will be counted, and they will be notified in writing that their ballot was partially counted for the correct precinct.¹³

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. College students who meet the generally applicable registration requirements may register if they have "residence" in Georgia, defined as a place where their habitation is fixed without any present intention to move.¹⁴

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Each polling place must be accessible to elderly voters and to voters with disabilities.¹⁵

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Voters who are illiterate or physically disabled may have an assistant of their choice, with some limitations, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.¹⁶

15. I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Voting information and instructions should be posted at each active voting place. In addition, a voter may request instruction for the proper use of the voting system from a precinct official. The precinct official shall provide such technical instruction to the voter but shall not seek to influence or intimidate the voter in any manner.¹⁷

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?

Absentee voting allows registered voters to vote by mail or in-person on or before election day.

- 1) A voter (or an adult family member acting on their behalf, in certain circumstances) may request that an absentee ballot be sent to the voter by mail. Any registered Georgia voter can request a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstances are necessary.¹⁸ An absentee ballot application can be obtained on the Secretary of State's website (http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/absentee_voting_in_georgia), or at county board of registrars offices. A completed absentee ballot request can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or delivered to the county board of registrars in person beginning 180 days prior to an election up until the Friday before the election.¹⁹
- 2) By law, Georgia requires that the ballot be mailed or returned by the voter in person, unless the voter is physically disabled. Voted ballots must be returned to the county board of elections by Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. (close of polls).²⁰
- 3) If the voter did not supply acceptable ID when registering to vote and is voting for the first time as an absentee voter, they must include a copy of one of the accepted forms of ID or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector or the absentee ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot.²¹ Please note that "pending" voters will be required to submit one of the forms of acceptable photo ID to obtain an absentee ballot if they have not previously cured the "exact match" issue with the county registrar's office. The broader categories of non-photo ID (utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document may not be sufficient to obtain an absentee ballot if the voter is in "pending" status.

Advance voting allows registered voters to vote early at specified sites from the fourth Monday to the Friday before the election.²² Voters may go to the Secretary of State's website to view their advance voting place and hours here: <http://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/advancedVotingInfo.do> .

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on election day?

You should be allowed to vote as long as you cancel the absentee ballot by bringing it to the poll where it will be voided. You must surrender the ballot and have it marked as "canceled."²³

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

The state of Georgia does not have same-day registration.

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Electioneering, including solicitation of votes or signatures and distribution of materials, is prohibited within 150 feet of the polling place, or within 25 feet of any voter waiting in line.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Any elector may challenge an individual's right to vote or register; challenges must be made in writing. The board of registrars must notify the voter if they feel the challenge has merit; the voter must be given the opportunity to answer the challenge. Both the challenger and the challenged voter have a right to appeal a determination as to the validity of the vote.²⁴

¹ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-403.

² Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-224(a).

³ Georgia Secretary of State, 2017 Elections and Voter Registration Calendar, http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/2018_elections_and_voter_registration_calendar.

⁴ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-417(a). See also http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia_voter_identification_requirements2.

⁵ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-417(b), § 21-2-419(c)(1).

⁶ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-218.

⁷ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-281, § 21-2-334.

⁸ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-418.

⁹ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-419.

¹⁰ Ga. Code Ann. §§ 21-2-232, 21-2-228, 21-2-216.

¹¹ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-216.

¹² Ga. Code Ann. §§ 21-2-417(b), 21-2-419(c)(1).

¹³ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-419.

¹⁴ Ga. Code Ann. §§ 2-2-216; 2-2-217(a).

¹⁵ Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 183-1-6-.04.

¹⁶ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(b).

¹⁷ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-410.

¹⁸ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-380.

¹⁹ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(A).

²⁰ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385.

²¹ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-386, § 21-2-419.

²² Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(d)(1).

²³ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-388.

²⁴ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-230.