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.

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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. 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: 

NOTE: Due to issues relating to COVID-19, it is possible that last minute polling location changes may be made by counties for the June 9, 2020 election.

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. The registration deadline for the June 9, 2020 presidential preference primary, local, state and Congressional primaries and nonpartisan general elections is May 11, 2020. The registration deadline for the August 11, 2020 general primary runoff, nonpartisan general runoff, and special runoff elections for local and state offices is May 11, 2020. The registration deadline for the August 11, 2020 general primary runoff elections for federal offices is July 13, 2020. The registration deadline for the November 3, 2020 general election is October 5, 2020. The registration deadline for the December 1, 2020 general election and special election runoffs for local and state is October 5, 2020. The registration deadline for the January 5, 2021 general election runoffs for federal offices is December 7, 2020.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Georgia generally requires photo ID in order to vote, except in the case of certain first time Georgia voters who are able to show some forms of non-photo ID’s to vote as described below. Acceptable forms of photo ID are:

- 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;
- Valid photo ID issued by certain colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia; 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.

If a voter registered to vote via mail (including through voter registration drives), but did not include a form of acceptable ID with their registration form, they may produce a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter or one of the acceptable forms of photo ID described above when they request a ballot for the first time.

If a voter’s registration is in “pending” status for citizenship verification, the voter will be required to produce an acceptable form of proof of citizenship to a poll manager when they go to vote for the first time or to their county registrar or deputy registrar before they will be able to vote a regular ballot.
A voter without the above forms of identification may vote a provisional ballot. In order for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must present proper ID or proof of citizenship, if required, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</th>
<th>Moved to a different county</th>
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<tr>
<td>Voters should go to their old precinct. They will need to fill out a change of address form for the next election.</td>
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<td>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. Those who moved after the registration deadline will be eligible to vote in the election.</td>
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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 a paper ballot is available.\(^7\) Voters who are given an emergency paper ballot due to voting machine malfunctions or problems may be told that these are “provisional” ballots. However, “provisional” emergency ballots issued due to voting machine malfunctions or problems do not require the voter to take any post-election day action to make those ballots count unless the voter is required to vote a provisional ballot for other reasons, i.e., failed to produce acceptable photo ID or proof of citizenship; voter not on the registration list; or for other reasons.

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 appropriate county 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. 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 in their correct county of residence, only the votes for candidates for which they were entitled to vote will be counted.

9. My name is not 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, or in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program. 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 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 offense until they have completed their entire sentence, including parole or other supervised release, and has discharged any applicable fines. It is important to note that not all legal debt is a fine and that some fines may be cancelled upon the completion of the sentence. Once the citizen has completed their sentence and paid required fines, they are eligible to register or re-register and vote a regular ballot.

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 or proof of citizenship (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. As noted above, however, if a voter is given an emergency paper ballot (which may also be referred to as a “provisional” ballot) due to a voting machine malfunction or problem, the voter will not be required to take any post-election day steps to make that ballot count unless the voter was required to vote a provisional ballot for other reasons.
If the voter is provided a provisional ballot because they do not have the required ID or proof of citizenship, the voter must present proper ID or proof of citizenship to the registrar’s office within 3 days after election day or the provisional ballot will not count. 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 in the voter’s correct county, 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.

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. College students’ residency may continue at a college location if it is their intention to continue to reside there, even if they are temporarily displaced due to COVID-19 or for other reasons.

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. In elections with federal candidates on the ballot, such as the June 9th election, federal law requires that the county registrar ensure that polling places are accessible. Exceptions are allowed if all potential polling places have been surveyed, no accessible place is available, and the county or cannot make one temporarily accessible. In these cases, voters with disabilities must either be reassigned to an accessible polling place or provided another means for voting on election day, such as curbside voting or other alternatives. Voters with disabilities should contact their county registrar’s office in advance to determine whether their polling place is accessible and, if not, what alternative options exist for voters with disabilities.

In addition, under Georgia law, voters who are 75 years or older or are physically disabled and need assistance to vote, shall, upon request to a designated poll official, absentee ballot clerk, registrar or deputy registrar, be authorized to vote immediately at the next available voting compartment or booth without having to wait in line if such location utilizes direct recording electronic voting systems or be authorized to go to the head of any line necessary to cast a written absentee ballot. Notice of the provisions of this Code section are required to be prominently displayed in the registrar's office or absentee ballot clerk's office.

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. “A physically disabled or illiterate elector may receive assistance in preparing his or her ballot from” any person of the elector’s choice except from the voter’s employer or gent of the employer; an officer or agent of the voter’s union, a candidate on the ballot or family member of candidate (unless disabled or illiterate voter is related to candidate).

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.
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. 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. However, voters are encouraged to submit their requests for an absentee ballot as early as possible because it is possible the voter will not receive the ballot prior to the election if the voter waits until the Friday prior to the election to request the ballot.

By law, Georgia requires that the ballot be personally mailed or returned in person by the voter or by the voter's mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or an individual residing in the household of such voter. Note, that these limitations apply to persons returning vote by mail absentee ballots to drop boxes offered by some counties for the June 9, 2020 election.

The absentee ballot of a disabled elector may be mailed or delivered by the caregiver of such disabled elector, regardless of whether such caregiver resides in such disabled elector's household. The absentee ballot of a voter who is in custody in a jail or other detention facility, and is not serving a felony sentence, may be mailed or delivered by any employee of such jail or facility having custody of such voter.

A voter who is confined to a hospital on a primary or election day can request that an absentee ballot be delivered to them in the hospital. When the absentee ballot is delivered by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk to a voter confined to a hospital, the voter shall then and there vote the ballot, seal it, and return it to the registrar or absentee ballot clerk.

Note that voted absentee ballots must be returned to the county board of elections or county registrar’s drop box and received by 7:00 p.m. on election day (i.e., by the close of polls) to be counted. Ballots postmarked by election day and are received after the close of the polls on election day will not be counted.

2) 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 acceptable forms of photo ID or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector with their absentee ballot applications or the absentee ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot.

Please note that first time Georgia voters who are flagged because their registration information did not match Georgia Department of Drivers Services or Social Security records must produce one of the forms of acceptable photo ID or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector to obtain an absentee ballot if they have not previously cured this issue with the county registrar’s office. If a voter’s registration is in “pending” status for citizenship verification, the voter will be required to produce proof of
citizenship to their county registrar, deputy registrar or a poll manager in order to vote a regular absentee ballot when voting for the first time.

Advance voting allows registered voters to vote early at specified sites from the fourth Monday to the Friday before the election. Advance voting is conducted during regular business hours during weekdays and during certain Saturdays. 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](http://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/advancedVotingInfo.do). Please note, however, that due to COVID-19, last minute advance voting and Election Day polling place changes may occur for the June 9, 2020 elections.

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

If you requested an absentee ballot and prefer to vote in person prior to when you receive the absentee ballot – or if the absentee ballot does not arrive before election day – you should be allowed to vote in person without bringing an absentee ballot to the poll by completing an affidavit stating that you did not vote the absentee ballot [or ballot cancellation form]. You should also be allowed to vote if you received your absentee ballot, but decide that you want to vote in person 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.”

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.

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

Georgia operates an open primary, meaning that registered voters may select one party’s ballot and vote for candidates for that party’s nomination regardless of the voter’s party affiliation or membership.

Please note that as a result of the postponement of the completion of the presidential preference primary from March 24, 2020 to June 9, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voters who previously voted in person or by absentee ballot when the presidential preference primary was scheduled to occur on March 24th will only receive ballots for the June 9, 2020 partisan local, state, Congressional primaries and nonpartisan general elections and will not receive a ballot which includes presidential preference candidates on it. Voters who have not yet cast ballots in the presidential preference primary when it was
scheduled to occur on March 24th will receive a ballot with the same candidate AND the presidential preference primary candidates on it.

29 Id.