

Frequently Asked Questions

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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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: 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. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

Georgians who have a Georgia Driver's License or State Issued ID card may use Georgia's online voter registration system, which is available at this [link](#).

Georgians who do not have a Georgia Driver's License or State Issued ID card, may register to vote in-person at their County Registrar's office or may mail-in a voter registration form. The Georgia voter registration form may be downloaded from the Georgia Secretary of State's website at this [link](#). The National Voter Registration form and the Georgia state specific instructions for completing the form can be found at this [link](#).

Georgians may also go to their public library, public assistance office, military recruitment office, schools, and certain other government offices for a mail-in registration form.

Voter registration is also offered when you renew or apply for your driver's license at Department of Driver Services.

College students can obtain Georgia voter registration forms, or the necessary forms to register in any state in the U.S., from their school registrar's office or from the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Due to closures and other restrictions, Georgians should call ahead to confirm when these offices and facilities will be open for voter registration and whether an appointment is required.

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

Georgia generally requires photo ID in order to vote, except in the case of certain first time Georgia voters who registered to vote by mail (or through a voter registration drive) who are able to show some forms of non-photo ID's to vote as described below. Acceptable forms of photo ID are:ⁱ

- 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.

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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.ⁱⁱ

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.ⁱⁱⁱ

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

Generally, 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.^{iv} However, different rules apply to runoff elections.

The voter registration deadline for local and state runoff elections is the same voter registration deadline as the election which led to the runoff. As a result, voters who were not registered in time to be eligible to vote in a local or state election that led to the runoff are not eligible to register and vote in the local or state runoff.

In the case of Congressional runoff elections, including runoffs for the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, voters must be registered to vote by the fifth Monday preceding the runoff election in order to vote in the runoff election.

The deadline to register to vote in the December 1, 2020 local and state runoffs was on October 5, 2020

The deadline to register to vote in the Georgia Fifth Congressional District special runoff was on November 2, 2020.

The deadline to register to vote in the January 5, 2021 U.S. Senate runoff(s) is on December 7, 2020.

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

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

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

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county) ^v	Moved from a different state
Voters should go to their old precinct. They will need to fill out a change of address form.	Voters should go to their old precinct. They will be able to vote at their old precinct, but will need to fill out a change of address form for the next election.	Voters who moved after the registration deadline should go to their old precinct where they will update their address information and will be able to vote in their old precinct. If the voter moved out of the county prior to the voter registration deadline and did not register to vote in their new county by the October 5, 2020 deadline, they will not be eligible to vote in the November 3 rd general election or in the state and local general and primary runoff elections on December 1, 2020.	It depends on when you moved. If you moved to Georgia on or prior to the last day to register to vote in an election, you may register to vote using your new place of address as long as you register by the deadline. If you moved to Georgia after the close of registration for an election, you will not be eligible to vote in that election because the registration deadline has passed. There is an exception for an election in which the president and vice president are on the ballot. In that case, if you moved to Georgia after the close of voter registration, you should contact the election official in your former state to request an absentee ballot that will permit you to vote for the candidates for president and vice president only.

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

You should vote where you are registered to vote (i.e. your primary residence). If you cannot travel to the County where you are registered to vote from your temporary location, you may request an absentee ballot and request that the absentee ballot be mailed to your temporary location. Note that you should request the absentee ballot as soon as possible to ensure that there is sufficient time for you to receive and return the ballot so that it is received by your County Registrar by no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

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.^{vi} 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.

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9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) registers you to vote and requests absentee ballots for all primaries, runoffs, and general elections involving Federal candidates, and any other elections for which you are eligible, for a period extending through the next regularly scheduled general election. Even if you are already registered to vote, you should use the FPCA to request absentee ballots.

You must complete, sign, and submit the form to your county registrar's office via email (attachment), fax, or U.S. mail. <https://sos.ga.gov/admin/files/2019%20FPCA.pdf>

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

In Georgia, if you are serving a sentence in jail for a misdemeanor or are on probation for a misdemeanor you are eligible to vote.

If you were convicted of a felony, you are also eligible to vote if you were sentenced under the First Offender Act and your sentence has not been revoked or if you were sentenced under the Conditional Discharge statute and your sentence has not been revoked. These sentences are not convictions unless the judge revokes the status. If you pled nolo contendere ('no contest'), you are also eligible to vote even if you are still serving a felony sentence.

If you are serving a sentence for a felony conviction and do not fall under one of the exceptions above (i.e., you were not sentenced under the First Offender Act or the conditional discharge statute or you did not plead "no contest"), you are not eligible to vote.

If you still owe fines that were imposed as a separate part of your felony sentence – in addition to incarceration or probation – your sentence may not be complete. You can see what your sentence was by looking at the sentencing sheet (the disposition) in your case, which you can obtain from the clerk of court for the court that resolved your case.

You do not need to provide anything to prove that you are done with your sentence. Your right to vote is automatically restored once your sentence is complete.^{vii}

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

Yes, via absentee ballot. 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.^{viii}

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. 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 voter's information on the poll pad as well as by referring to any supplemental voter registration lists which should be available at the polling place. Supplemental lists contain information about voters whose voter registration forms or updates were not processed in time to be added to the poll pads. 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.

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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.^{ix} 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 for in their correct precinct will be counted.^x

13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

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.^{xi} 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?

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

Early voting, also referred to in Georgia as, "Advanced Voting," allows registered voters to vote early at specified sites before the election.^{xii} Advanced voting is conducted during regular business hours during weekdays and, in some cases, during certain Saturdays.^{xiii} Voters may go to the Secretary of State's website to view their Advanced Voting place and hours [here](#). Please note, however, that due to COVID-19, last minute Advanced Voting and Election Day polling place changes may occur in which case voters may need to contact their county registrar's office to determine their correct polling location during Advanced Voting or on Election Day.

15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need to have a reason to vote early?

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No

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

Advanced Voting allows registered voters to vote early at specified sites before Election Day.^{xiv} Advanced Voting is conducted during regular business hours during weekdays and, in some instances, during certain Saturdays.^{xv} Voters may go to the Secretary of State's website to view their Advanced Voting hours [here](#). Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these hours may change and it is best for voters to confirm the dates and times when the Advanced Voting sites will be open in their counties before going to the polls.

17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

Voters may go to the Secretary of State's website to view their Advanced Voting place [here](#).

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?

See [Question 3](#).

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

Absentee voting allows registered voters to vote by mail or in-person on or before election day. The State of Georgia will not automatically send absentee ballot applications or absentee ballots to voters. Voters must apply for an absentee ballot if they want to vote by absentee ballot.

- 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.^{xvi} Georgia voters who have a Georgia driver's license or State Issued ID card may apply for an absentee ballot on-line via the Secretary of State's portal at this [link](#). An absentee ballot application can also 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.^{xvii} 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,

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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.^{xviii} Note, that these limitations apply to persons returning vote by mail absentee ballots to drop boxes offered by some counties for the November 3rd 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.^{xx}

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.^{xx}

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.^{xxi}

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.^{xxii}

- 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.^{xxiii}

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.^{xxiv} 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.

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

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.^{xxv} 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.

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

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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.^{xxvi} 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.

22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?

Must vote in person.

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

No special circumstances are necessary.^{xxvii}

24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?

By checking the Georgia “My Voter Page” on the Secretary of State’s Website (<http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>). Georgia voters may also sign up to receive automatic updates about the status of their absentee ballot application and ballot by phone call, text, or email at <https://georgia.ballottrax.net>.

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If your ballot was rejected, contact your county registrar to get more information and find out what your options are.

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

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.^{xxviii}

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.^{xxix}

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.^{xxx} If a voter’s registration is in “pending”

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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.

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

You must sign an affidavit affirming that you lost, destroyed, or did not receive the first absentee ballot. In this instance, another ballot will be issued. A new request is not required.

28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

Voters may contact their county registrar's office to request that the ballot be cancelled and that a replacement absentee ballot be issued. Voters should be aware that absentee ballots are sent to voters by mail only (unless the voter is hospitalized and requests an emergency absentee ballot). Because the ballots are mailed to voters, requests for a replacement ballot made close in time to the election may not arrive in time for the voter to return the ballot so that it is received by the county registrar by 7 p.m. on election day. In the event the voter does not receive the absentee ballot or receives it too late to ensure it will be received by the county registrar by 7 p.m. on Election Day, the voter can still voter in person during Advanced Voting or on Election Day.

29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

When a voter has returned an absentee ballot and it has been received by the voter's county registrar, it is deemed as voted and no other ballot will be issued to the voter.

However, if the voter applied for an absentee ballot and the voter has not received the ballot; received the ballot but has not yet returned it to the county registrar; or returned the absentee ballot but the county registrar has not received it, the voter may request that the absentee ballot be canceled and vote in person in one of the following ways:

(a) **If the voter received the absentee ballot and has it in their possession**, the voter can bring the ballot to their assigned election day polling location (or to one of their county's Advanced Voting locations during early voting), surrender it to the poll official and request that it be canceled. The voter will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

(b) **If the voter has not received the ballot; has the ballot, but has not returned it and did not bring it to the poll; or if the voter has returned the ballot but the county registrar has not yet received the ballot**, the voter can go to their assigned polling location (or to one of their county's Advanced Voting locations during early voting) and request that their absentee ballot be canceled. After the poll official confirms the voter's identity and confirms that the voter's absentee ballot has not yet been received by the county registrar, the voter will be permitted to vote a regular ballot. This cancellation process can take some time to complete at the poll because the poll official must confirm that the county registrar has not yet received the voter's absentee ballot. Therefore, if the voter has received the ballot and is

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able to bring the ballot with them to the polling location, the voter may save some time by presenting the ballot to the poll official for cancellation at the poll.^{xxxii}

30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

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 to be counted.^{xxxiii}

Ballots postmarked by election day, but which are received after 7:00 p.m. on November 3rd will be not be counted.

31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Voters should refer to their County Registrar's website to see whether they have a list of drop box sites (see e.g., [Fulton County link](#), [DeKalb County link](#), [Cobb County link](#), [Gwinnett County link](#)). Alternatively, voters may call their County registrar's office to request this information if it is not available online or the voter cannot access this information electronically.

32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

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.^{xxxiv} Voters who are disabled may designate their caregiver to mail or drop off their absentee ballot for them. The caregiver need not be related to the disabled voter and is not required to be a member of the disabled voter's household to deliver the ballot for the disabled voter

33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

See [Questions 14-18](#) for Advanced Voting, also known as Early Voting.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

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 Advanced Voting (also known as early voting) may be different from the voter's regular polling location. Advanced Voting locations can be checked [here](#).

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions 6 and Question 7](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

A voter can determine their proper **Election Day** polling place by checking the Secretary of State's website [here](#). **Advanced Voting** times and locations may be found on the Secretary of State's website [here](#). Due to the COVID pandemic, there may be last minute changes to polling locations, in which case voters should confirm whether they are impacted by such changes by contacting their county registrar's office.

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? 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.^{xxxiv}

- 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.^{xxxv}

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.^{xxxvi}

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

[See Question 34](#) for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

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.^{xxxvii} 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.

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

The voter should immediately notify the poll manager to request a resolution.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of an instance where a voter has been denied access to a poll due to a PPE/COVID issue or the voter is unable to obtain a resolution of the issue after reporting it to a poll manager, notify your hotline captain immediately.

41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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.^{xxxviii}

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Each polling place must be accessible to elderly voters and to voters with disabilities.^{xxxix} In elections with federal candidates on the ballot, such as the November 3rd general election and January 5th Congressional runoff elections, 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 who 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 or be authorized to go to the head of any line necessary to cast a written absentee ballot if emergency paper ballots are being used due to equipment failures. 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.^{xl}

43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, 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 agent 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).^{xli}

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

See Question #42, above, regarding accommodations for senior voters and voters with disabilities.

45. CAMPAIGNING: 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.^{xlii} Electioneering includes displaying signs, passing out campaign literature and the wearing of paraphernalia associated with a political campaign, political party, candidates and referenda on the ballot.

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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.^{xliii}

47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

In certain instances, there may be law enforcement presence at the polls due to a request by poll officials for law enforcement to maintain order or to direct traffic. Law enforcement performing these functions should not intimidate or harass voters.

If law enforcement or other individuals engage in harassing or intimidating conduct at the polls, voters may report this conduct to the poll manager or to the County Registrar's office to request assistance or they may contact the 866-Our-Vote hotline to report the incident.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: 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;
- 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; or
- 5) Because a Court has ordered that a polling place remain open past the official closing time.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. In a case where a voter is directed to cast a provisional ballot because a Court ordered an extension of the poll closing time or because a voter was given an emergency paper ballot because of a machine malfunction, the voter does not need to do anything further to make sure the ballot counts unless the voter is also casting a provisional ballot for reasons 1, 2 and 4, above.

Except when a voter is required to vote a provisional ballot because a Court ordered an extension of the poll closing time or because the voter had to vote an emergency 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 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.^{xliv} 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.^{xlv}

QUESTIONS

49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Contact the [Georgia Secretary of State's Office](#).

ⁱ Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-417(a). See also

http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia_voter_identification_requirements2;
https://sos.ga.gov/admin/files/acceptableID_9-18.v2.pdf.

ⁱⁱ Ga. Code Ann. 21-2-220.1 (effective April 2019) and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417(c).

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

^{iv} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-224(a).

^v

^{vi} Ga. Code Ann. §§ 2-2-216; 2-2-217(a).

^{vii} <https://www.gjp.org/voting/> and https://www.gjp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020.8.17-GA-Voting-FAQs-2-pager_Final-1.pdf

^{viii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

^{ix} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-418.

^x Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-419.

^{xi} Ga. Code Ann. §§ 21-2-232, 21-2-228, 21-2-216.

^{xii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(d)(1).

^{xiii} *Id.*

^{xiv} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(d)(1).

^{xv} *Id.*

^{xvi} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-380.

^{xvii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(A);

https://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/Absentee_Voting_A_Guide_for_Registered_Voters_v1_20141.pdf.

^{xviii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

^{xix} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

^{xx} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

^{xxi} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

^{xxii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385.

^{xxiii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-386, § 21-2-419.

^{xxiv} https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/general/information_for_pending_voters.

^{xxv} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(A);

https://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/Absentee_Voting_A_Guide_for_Registered_Voters_v1_20141.pdf.

^{xxvi} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(A);

https://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/Absentee_Voting_A_Guide_for_Registered_Voters_v1_20141.pdf.

^{xxvii} Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-380.

xxviii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

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

xxx https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/general/information_for_pending_voters.

xxxi Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-388.

xxxii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385.

xxxiii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385(a).

xxxiv Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-417(a). See also

http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia_voter_identification_requirements2;

https://sos.ga.gov/admin/files/acceptableID_9-18.v2.pdf.

xxxv Ga. Code Ann. 21-2-220.1 (effective April 2019) and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417(c).

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

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

xxxviii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-410.

xxxix Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 183-1-6-.04.

xl Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385.1.

xli Ga. Code Ann. §§ 21-2-385(b), 21-2-409.

xlii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-414.

xliii Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-230.

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

xlv Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-419.