



Frequently Asked Questions

GA – General Election 2022

Last Updated: 11/2/2022

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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. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Can I register to vote?](#)

To register to vote the voter must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which the voter wishes to vote.
- At least 17 1/2 years of age to register and 18 to vote.

A voter may NOT register to vote if the voter:

- Is currently serving a sentence for some types of felonies (see Q12).
- Has been ruled mentally incompetent by a court.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?](#)

No, the primary elections in Georgia were held on May 24, 2022, with the primary runoffs taking place on June 21, 2022. It is too late to vote in the 2022 Georgia primaries.

3. **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 at this [link](#).

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

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 and printed and mailed in](#). The National Voter Registration form and the Georgia state specific instructions for completing the form can be found at this [link](#). If the applicant plans to download the Georgia voter registration form or the federal registration form, the applicant will need access to a printer to print out the form so that the applicant can fill in a paper copy of the form.

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 a Georgia resident renews or applies for a 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 potential 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.

5. **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 IDs to vote as described below. Acceptable forms of [photo ID include:](#)

- Any valid state or federal government-issued photo ID, including a free ID card issued by a voter’s county registrar’s office or the [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#).
- A Georgia driver’s license, even if expired
- Valid Student ID from a [Georgia Public College, University or Technical College](#).
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S.
- Government, State of Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. passport
- Valid U.S. military photo ID containing a photograph of the voter
- Valid tribal photo ID containing a photograph of the voter

Note: 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.¹

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 U.S. citizenship to a poll manager when they go to vote for the first time or to their county registrar or deputy registrar before they request a ballot in order to be able to vote a regular ballot. A link to the list of acceptable proof of citizenship documents for those in "pending" status for proof of citizenship can be accessed [here](#).

A voter without the above forms of identification or proof of citizenship (if required) may vote a provisional ballot. In order for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must present proper ID or proof of U.S. citizenship (if required), to the registrar's office within 3 days after election day or the provisional ballot will not count.²

If a first-time voter's voter registration form information did not match records on file for the voter with the Georgia Department of Drivers Services or the Social Security Administration, the voter will be required to produce proof of identification when they request a ballot for the first time. The acceptable forms of ID for this purpose include 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.³

Please note that if you have changed your name, including because of marriage, divorce, the death of a partner or spouse, or for any other reason, you should update your voter registration record on or before the deadline to register to vote for an upcoming election to help ensure your county registrar has your correct name in the system for an upcoming election. Voters should also be sure to update your name on their registration record before they request an absentee ballot or when you go to vote in person during advance voting or on Election Day. Voters who are making name changes at the polling place should contact their county registrar's office before going to the polling place to confirm what documentation the voter should bring to the polls to confirm the voter's name change, i.e., marriage certificate, court order, death certificate, updated driver's license, state ID or other forms of acceptable photo ID bearing the voter's updated name.

6. 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.⁴ 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.

¹ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-220.1 (effective April 2019), 21-2-417(c).

² O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-417(b), 21-2-419(c)(1).

³ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-417(b), 21-2-419(c)(1).

⁴ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-224(a).

In the case of Congressional runoff elections *only*, 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 November 8, 2022 General Election and Special Election is October 11, 2022.⁵

The deadline to register to vote in the event there are any runoffs on December 6, 2022 involving candidates who are *not* running for federal office is October 11, 2022.

The deadline to register to vote in the event there are any runoffs on December 6, 2022 involving candidates for federal office is November 7, 2022.

7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

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

8. **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 county within Georgia	Moved from a different state
Voters should go to the same precinct if they have moved within the same 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.	If a registered voter moved to a different county in Georgia within 30 days prior to an election, the voter should vote at their old precinct one last time and update their address information when they go to vote. If the voter moved out of the county where they were registered to vote more than 30 days prior to an election, they are required to register to vote in the county of their new residence by the <u>October 11, 2022</u> deadline. Otherwise, they will not be eligible to vote in the <u>November 8, 2022</u>	It depends on when the voter moved. If the voter moved to Georgia on or prior to the last day to register to vote in an election, they may register to vote using their new place of address as long as you register by the deadline. If they moved to Georgia after the close of registration for an election , they 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

⁵ <https://faq.georgiavoter.guide/en/article/election-dates-and-voter-registration-deadlines>; O.C.G.A. § 21-2-224(a).

		<u>General Election.</u>	president are on the ballot. In that case, if they moved to Georgia after the close of voter registration, they should contact the election official in their former state to request an absentee ballot that will permit them to vote for the candidates for president and vice president only.
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9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

A voter should vote where they are registered to vote (i.e., their primary residence). If the voter cannot travel to the County where the voter is registered to vote from their temporary location, they may request an absentee ballot and request that the absentee ballot be mailed to their temporary location. Voters can begin applying for absentee ballots up to 78 days prior to an election and the final deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 11 days prior to the election.⁶ Note that the voter should request the absentee ballot as soon as possible to ensure that there is sufficient time for them to receive and return the ballot so that it is received by the voter’s County Registrar by no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

10. **UNHOUSED RESIDENTS:** [I am unhoused \(i.e., “homeless”\), residing in a shelter, or have a nontraditional residence \(i.e., I live on the street, in a park, car or RV other nontraditional residence\). Can I register to vote?](#)

Unhoused, i.e., “homeless,” and housing insecure Georgians retain their right to vote if otherwise eligible to vote and have registered to vote in the county where they are residing.⁷

This is true even if they lack a fixed address or reside at non-traditional locations, such as on the street, in public parks, vehicles or other places without a house number or street address, so long as they are residents of the State of Georgia and a Georgia county unless they have the present intention of moving out of the state or out of the county where they are presently residing.

If an unhoused Georgian’s residence does not have a street address or house number, they should state this on the voter registration application and include a drawing of their location with their voter registration form to assist the county registrar in locating their appropriate voting precinct. Please note that unhoused Georgians cannot use a Post Office Box as their residence address for voter registration purposes. They can use a Post Office box, however, as their *mailing* address for voter

⁶ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(A).

⁷ See, O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-216 and 21-2-217 (no prohibition on the use of nontraditional residences when registering to vote); *Cook v. Bd. of Registrars of Randolph Cnty.*, 320 Ga. App. 447, 449-53 (2013); *Collier v. Menzel*, 176 Cal. App. 3d. 24, 35 (Cal. Ct. App. 1985); *Pitts v. Black*, 608 F. Supp. 696, 699 (S.D.N.Y. 1984). Both the Georgia and federal voter registration application forms permit applicants to diagram their voter registration residence address if it does not have a house number or street address.

registration. As noted above, if you are unhoused, you should draw a diagram of where you are residing and submit it with your voter registration form if you do not have a street address or house number.

If possible, unhoused Georgians should contact their county registrar to inquire whether their county permits unhoused persons to use an alternative address, such as the registrar’s office, courthouse or other address as their residence address for voting purposes.

11. 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.⁸ The voter should be registered to vote in the county and state where they plan to vote, whether that’s at school, home, or somewhere else. That will allow the voter to vote in person or by mail.

12. LIVING ABROAD: [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)

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

A voter must complete, sign, and submit the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) and submit it to their county registrar’s office via email (attachment), fax, or U.S. mail. The Federal Postcard Application is available on the Georgia Secretary of State’s website at this: [link](#).

13. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?](#)

⁸ O.C.G.A. §§ 2-2-216; 2-2-217(a).

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

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

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

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

A voter does not need to provide anything to prove that they have completed their sentence. Their right to vote is automatically restored once their sentence is complete. A voter will have to register to vote again AFTER they have served their sentence for any felony convictions, including payment of any required fines, fees, and completion of any periods of parole and any other non-custodial terms of the sentence.⁹

14. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to 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.¹⁰ Jail officials must also give eligible incarcerated voters access to their personal effects, i.e., identification documents, in order to apply for and vote absentee ballots.¹¹

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. HOURS: When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

***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 in line 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](#). [Voters in line by 7:00](#)

⁹ <https://www.gip.org/voting/>.

¹⁰ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a).

¹¹ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(a)(1)(D).

p.m. must be allowed to cast a ballot. Please note that the voter in line by 7:00 p.m. must not leave the line until they have cast their ballot.

16. 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 or other last-minute problems with the facility where polling places may be located, polling places may have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check with their county registrar's office (or website if they have one) to confirm their polling location before going to vote in person to ensure that they vote at the correct polling place for their voting precinct.

A voter can determine their proper **Election Day** polling place by checking the Secretary of State's My Voter Page website [here](#). **Advanced Voting** times and locations may be found on the Secretary of State's website [here](#). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other issues with polling place facilities, 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.

17. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line?

See [Question 14](#) 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.

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

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 IDs to vote as described below. Acceptable forms of photo ID are:¹²

- 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 Georgia public colleges, universities, and technical colleges; 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. However, if the voter updated their name (see Question 6, above), the voter will need to bring a form of acceptable ID with their current name on it. If the voter does not bring an acceptable form of ID with their updated name on it, they should cast a provisional ballot. In that event, the voter will be required

¹² O.C.G.A. § 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.

to provide a copy of the ID which is updated to reflect the voter's current name by 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election or by 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2022 for the December 6, 2022 runoffs.

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.¹³

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 U.S. 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. Acceptable forms of proof of citizenship for voters in "pending" status for citizenship verification include those listed at this [link](#).

19. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

A voter without the forms of identification described in [Question 17](#) above 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.¹⁴

20. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

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.¹⁵ Any voter whose name was removed and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

Note that the voter can take steps to help to determine why their 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 3](#).)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question 3](#) and [Question 8](#).)
- 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 3](#).)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

21. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

¹³ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-220.1 \(effective April 2019\); 21-2-417\(c\).](#)

¹⁴ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-417\(b\); 21-2-419\(c\)\(1\).](#)

¹⁵ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-232; 21-2-228; 21-2-216.](#)

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 19](#));
- 2) The voter does not have the required ID or proof of citizenship (if applicable) (see [Question 5](#));
- 3) The voting machines at the polling place malfunction (in which case this will be an "emergency" provisional ballot);
- 4) Other similar situations (e.g., when voting out of precinct near 7pm when polls are closing or when informed they are in "challenged" status) 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 (if required), 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. ¹⁶ 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, the voter must have appeared at the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m. on election day, signed a sworn statement attesting that they cannot get to their correct polling place by close of polls at 7:00 p.m. and 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.¹⁷ Voters who vote at an incorrect polling place prior to 5:00 p.m. will not have their ballot counted. Thus, it is important that those voters go to their correct polling place before the close of their correct poll at 7:00 p.m. in order to cast a ballot that will count as a vote. If a voter goes to the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m. but is able to go to their correct polling place before the close of the polls at 7:00 p.m., they should be told that they must go to their correct poll to vote. If the voter goes to the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m., but is not able to get to their correct polling place before the close of the poll at 7:00 p.m., they will have to sign a sworn statement witnessed by a poll official stating that they cannot get to their correct poll before the poll closes at 7:00 p.m. in order for a ballot cast at the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m. to be counted as a vote.

¹⁶ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-417(b); 21-2-419(c)(1).

¹⁷ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-419.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called “in-person absentee”)

22. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Early voting, also referred to in Georgia as, “Advanced Voting,” allows registered voters to vote early at specified sites in the county where they are registered to vote before the election.¹⁸

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

No

24. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Commencing on the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election and ending on the Friday immediately prior to such primary or election, Advanced Voting is conducted from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and on the second and third Saturdays before the election.

Counties have the option of offering Advanced Voting on the second and third Sundays before the election during the hours determined by the county.¹⁹ Counties have the option to extend Advanced Voting hours to as early as 7:00 a.m. or as late as 7:00 p.m., but some counties may choose not to extend early voting hours at all and may not offer any hours beyond 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Voters may go to the Secretary of State’s website to view their Advanced Voting hours [here](#). It is best for voters to confirm the dates, times, and locations when the Advanced Voting sites will be open in their counties before going to the polls.

All Saturday Advanced Voting for the November 8, 2022 general election will be conducted on Saturday October 22 and Saturday October 29, 2022. In those counties which have opted to offer one or two days of Sunday Advanced Voting, voting will be conducted on Sunday October 23 and/or October 30, 2022, depending upon whether the county agreed to conduct Sunday early voting on one or both Sundays. Voters should confirm with the County Registrar whether and when their county is offering Sunday Advanced.²⁰

25. WHERE: Where do I vote during Advanced Voting (i.e., early voting)?

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

26. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for Advanced Voting? What if I don’t have an ID?

See [Question 5](#).

¹⁸ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(d\)\(1\)](#).

¹⁹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(d\)\(1\)](#).

²⁰ See, Georgia Secretary of State’s Election Calendar: <https://georgia.gov/2022-georgia-midterm-elections-calendar>

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

27. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

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.

3) 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.²¹ Georgia voters may apply for an absentee ballot on-line via the Secretary of State's portal at this [link](#). Please note that voters using the absentee ballot portal to apply for an absentee ballot will be required to 1) fill in all of the information required on the form; 2) download and print the completed application form; 3) sign the absentee ballot application form (electronic signatures cannot be used); 4) upload a digital image of the completed and signed form to the portal; and 5) include a copy of one of the required forms of identification if the voter did not include a Georgia driver's license or Georgia State ID number on the application form.²²If the voter does not have a Georgia driver's license or Georgia State ID card, the alternative forms of ID which can be used to apply for an absentee ballot include:

- A valid United States Passport
- A valid Georgia voter identification card
- Other valid photo identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification
- A valid United States military identification card provided that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government, Georgia state government, or Georgia county, municipality, board, authority, or any other entity of the state of Georgia provided that such employee identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid tribal identification card, provided that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid Student ID from a Georgia Public [College, University or Technical College](#).

<< Or >>

- Any of the following documents that show the voter's name and address:

²¹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-380](#).

²² Some voters have reported problems when using the online portal to apply for an absentee ballot, including delays in receiving information about whether their application for a voter by mail ballot was accepted or rejected. Voters are encouraged to track the approval of their absentee ballot on the Secretary of State's My Voter tool and to contact their county registrar if they encounter problems or experience undue delays when using the portal.

- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document.

An absentee ballot application form can also be obtained on the Secretary of State’s website at this [link](#) or at county board of registrars’ offices. When requesting an absentee ballot, the voter’s name, date of birth, address as registered, address where the voter wishes the ballot to be mailed, and the number of his or her Georgia driver’s license or Georgia State identification card issued by the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles. If the voter does not have a Georgia driver’s license or Georgia identification card, the voter shall provide a copy of one of the other acceptable forms of identification listed above and affix a photocopy or electronic image of such identification to the application.²³

A completed absentee ballot application can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the county board of registrars in person beginning 78 days prior to an election up until 11 days before the election.²⁴ However, voters are encouraged to submit their applications 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 11th day prior to the election to request the ballot. Please note that for the November 8 2022 general election, the first date when county registrars may begin mailing absentee ballots to Georgia voters who have applied for them is October 11, 2022 – regardless of when the voter submitted their applications.

Under Georgia law, no person or entity other than a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for a voter or a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector shall send any elector an absentee ballot application that is prefilled with the elector’s required information. Additionally, no person or entity other than the voter, a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for an absent family member, a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier, such as Federal Express, UPS or the United States Post Office charged with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law enforcement officer in the course of an investigation is allowed to handle or return a voter’s completed absentee ballot application. Handling or returning a completed absentee ballot application by any person or entity other than by the voter or the persons described above constitutes a misdemeanor under Georgia law.

Once the voter receives their absentee ballot, Georgia law requires that the absentee ballot be **personally** mailed or returned in-person by the voter to an official absentee ballot drop box or to the county registrar’s office 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.²⁵ Please note that it is a crime under Georgia law for persons to deliver absentee ballots to a mailbox, official absentee ballot drop box or to the county registrar’s office if they do not fall into one of the categories of persons listed above in this paragraph.

The absentee ballot of a physically 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.²⁶

²³ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381.](#)

²⁴ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381\(a\)\(1\)\(A\):](#)
https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf.

²⁵ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\).](#)

²⁶ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\).](#)

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.²⁷

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. Note, however, that Georgia law does not require that election officials bring and collect an absentee ballot to a hospitalized voter. When an absentee ballot is delivered by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk to a voter confined to a hospital, the voter will be required to vote the ballot, seal it, and return it to the registrar or absentee ballot clerk.²⁸

Note that voted absentee ballots must be received by the voter's County Registrar's office by no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day (i.e., by the close of polls)²⁹ or placed in an official indoor county drop box during Advanced Voting days and times which end on the Friday prior to Election Day.³⁰ Note that drop boxes are no longer available after the end of Advanced Voting, not even on Election Day. Absentee ballots postmarked on or before Election Day, but which are not received by the County Registrar's office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day will be rejected and will not be counted as votes.

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.³¹ If treated as a provisional ballot, the voter must provide such ID to their county registrar's office within three days of the election (i.e., by the Friday following the election). Voters are encouraged to confirm the hours when their county registrar's office will be open to receive such ID documents during the three days following the election.

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.³² 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 U.S. 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. A list of the documents which constitute acceptable proof of U.S. citizenship for voting is available at this [link](#).

3) Georgia law permits registered voters in a county to challenge the eligibility of other voters in the same county to remain on the voter registration list or to vote in an upcoming election.³³ Voters who are in "challenged" status will be required to produce proof that they are eligible to vote in the county where they are registered to vote in order to obtain and vote an absentee ballot that will count as a vote. In most instances where the basis of the challenge is that the voter is ineligible to vote as a result of a move, this will require the voter to produce evidence of their current residence in the county where they are registered to vote to their county registrar in order to receive and vote an absentee ballot that will count as a vote.

²⁷ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\)](#).

²⁸ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\)](#).

²⁹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385](#).

³⁰ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382\(c\)\(1\)](#).

³¹ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-386; 21-2-419](#).

³² <https://georgia.gov/vote-absentee-ballot>

³³ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-229 and 21-2-230](#).

Thus, if a voter is in “challenged” status and is still eligible to vote in the county where they are registered, the voter should contact their county registrar to determine what the bases for the challenge are and how the voter can cure the challenge so that they can cast an absentee ballot which will count as a vote.

28. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

Any registered Georgia voter can request a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstances are necessary.³⁴

29. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

A completed absentee ballot application can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or delivered to the county board of registrars in-person beginning 78 days prior to an election up until 11 days before the election.³⁵

30. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

A completed absentee application can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or delivered to the county board of registrars in person beginning 78 days prior to an election up until 11 days before the election.³⁶

Under Georgia law, no person or entity other than the voter, a relative authorized to request an absentee ballot for an absent family member, a person signing as assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier, such as Federal Express, UPS or the United States Post Office charged with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law enforcement officer in the course of an investigation is allowed to handle or return a voter's completed absentee ballot application. Handling or returning a completed absentee ballot application by any person or entity other than by the voter or the persons described above constitutes a misdemeanor under Georgia law.

Voters can check the status of their absentee ballot application and ballot on the [My Voter](#) tool on the Secretary of State’s website. Note, however, there have been reported delays in the processing of absentee ballot applications and ballots. If voters are concerned about the delays, they may contact their county registrar to get the most current information.

31. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

³⁴ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-380.](#)

³⁵ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381\(a\)\(1\)\(A\):](#)

https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf

³⁶ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381\(a\)\(1\)\(A\):](#)

https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf

The application must include the voter's Georgia Driver's license or Georgia State ID number if they have one. If the voter does not have a Georgia Driver's license or Georgia State ID number, they must include a copy of one of these alternative forms of ID with the application form:

- A valid United States Passport
- A valid Georgia voter identification card
- Other valid photo identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification
- A valid United States military identification card provided that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government, Georgia state government, or Georgia county, municipality, board, authority, or any other entity of the state of Georgia provided that such employee identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid tribal identification card, provided that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter
- A valid Student ID from a Georgia public College or University

<< Or >>

- Any of the following documents that show the voter's name and address:
 - Current utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Paycheck
 - Government check
 - Other government document

32. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

The absentee ballot must be mailed to the voters permanent mailing address in the voter registration record or a temporary out-of-county or out-of-municipality address, except in the case of a voter who has a physical disability or is in custody in a jail or other detention facility.³⁷

33. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

The voter must vote in person.

34. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

By checking the Georgia "My Voter Page" on the Secretary of State's Website at this [link](#).

³⁷ https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf.

35. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the voter's ballot was rejected, they should contact their county registrar to get more information and find out what their options are. If the voter needs to submit ID documents or other evidence of their eligibility, U.S. citizenship or residence, they must provide this documentation to their county registrar's office within three (3) days of an election, or their ballot may be rejected. Confirm what hours the voter's county registrar's office will be open to receive such additional evidence of their eligibility or residence and whether they can submit it to the registrar's office via email or fax.

36. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

By law, Georgia requires that voters complete their absentee ballot in secret without allowing other persons viewing how they voted it with the exception of the voter's own child under the age of 18, other persons under the age of 12 or persons authorized to provide assistance to a physically disabled voter or a voter who is illiterate, including voters of limited English proficiency.³⁸

Physically disabled and blind voters as well as "illiterate" voters, including voters who have limited English proficiency, may receive assistance from any person of their choice in completing their absentee ballot, an employer or agent of an employer, the voter's union official or agent, or a candidate on the ballot (unless the candidate is a member of the voter's own family). If a voter receives such assistance, the person assisting them must complete the oath section on the absentee ballot envelope for persons providing such assistance.

After the voter completes the absentee ballot, it is placed into the smaller of the two envelopes the voter should have received from the county board of registrars with the ballot. The envelope containing the absentee ballot is then placed into the larger of the two envelopes.

On the larger of the two envelopes, the voter must complete the requested information, including the voter's Georgia driver's license or State ID number and date of birth. If the voter does not have a Georgia driver's license or State ID number, the voter must also include the last four digits of their Social Security number on the envelope.

The voter and any person assisting a physically disabled or blind voter or illiterate voters must sign the oath provision on the larger of the two envelopes.

The absentee ballot must 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 vote.³⁹ If the voter is physically disabled, the voter's caretaker may return an absentee ballot for the disabled voters to a mailbox, official absentee ballot drop box or in-person to the county board of registrars.⁴⁰ Please note that it is a crime under Georgia law for persons to deliver absentee ballots to a mailbox, official absentee ballot drop box or to the county registrar's office if they do not fall into one of the categories of persons listed above in this paragraph.

37. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

³⁸ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384\(b\).](#)

³⁹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\).](#)

⁴⁰ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\).](#)

See [Question 35](#), above.

38. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

Note that voted absentee ballots must be returned to the county board of elections in person, by U.S. mail, a common carrier (i.e., Federal Express, UPS or similar delivery service), or via the county registrar's drop box(es). All absentee ballots must be received by the county board of elections by no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day.⁴¹ Absentee ballots which are not received by the county registrar by the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on election day will not be counted.⁴² Absentee ballots mailed by voters and postmarked by election day, but which are received by the voter's board of election after 7:00 p.m. on election day will not be counted.

Note that due to a change in Georgia law, absentee ballot drop boxes are now located only in specified Advanced Voting sites and may only be accessed by voters during the days and times when their county is conducting Advanced Voting. Also note that access to absentee ballot drop boxes now ends on the final day of Advanced Voting prior to an election, which is the Friday prior to an election, and that the absentee ballot drop boxes are no longer available during the weekend prior to an election, on the Monday prior to election day or on election day. The final day of Advanced Voting and access to absentee ballot drop boxes for the November 8, 2022 varies by county (10/28-11/4); go to the specific county website to confirm. Please check the voter's specific county for the Advanced Voting times and hours and location(s) of drop boxes since this information may have changed since the last time they voted.

39. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a 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.

40. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: Can someone else 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.⁴³ 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.

41. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

⁴¹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382.](#)

⁴² [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385.](#)

⁴³ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385\(a\).](#)

The voter must sign an affidavit affirming that they lost, destroyed, or did not receive the absentee ballot. In this instance, another ballot will be issued. A new request is not required if the voter already applied for the absentee ballot

42. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

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 vote in person during Advanced Voting or on Election Day.

43. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in 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 could 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 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.⁴⁴

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

⁴⁴ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-388.

44. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

Voting any time prior to Election Day, even when done in person, is considered absentee voting. The voter will complete an absentee ballot application in person at the early-voting location immediately prior to casting their vote. Any registered Georgia voter can request a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstances are necessary.⁴⁵

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

See [Question 28](#), above.

46. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

See [Question 30](#), above.

47. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Georgia does not have an “emergency absentee ballot.” A completed absentee ballot application can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the county board of registrars in person beginning 78 days prior to an election up until 11 days before the election.⁴⁶ However, voters are encouraged to submit their applications 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 11th day prior to the election to request the ballot. After the 11th day prior to the election the voter must vote in person. If a voter is confined to a hospital on election day, they can make a request to their county registrar’s office to bring an absentee ballot to the hospitalized voter and return the voted ballot to the registrar’s office. The voter will still be subject to the ID requirements applicable to absentee ballot applications and voting absentee ballots. Note that while Georgia law offers this as an option for hospitalized voters, the law does not require county registered to deliver or collect absentee ballots for hospitalized voters.

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

See [Question 29](#), above.

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

See [Question 33](#), above.

50. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

See [Question 34](#), above.

⁴⁵ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-380](#).

⁴⁶ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#):

https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf.

51. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

See [Question 35](#), above.

52. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

See [Question 36](#), above.

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

See [Question 37](#), above.

54. BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

See [Question 38](#), above.

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

See [Question 39](#), above.

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

See [Question 40](#), above.

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

See [Question 41](#), above.

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

See [Question 42](#), above.

59. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Any voter registered in Georgia may vote absentee in person. This allows the voter to vote on a day and time that is convenient for them. Beginning on the 4th Monday prior to Election Day, the voter may visit their county or municipality early-voting site, fill out the application, and present one of the permitted forms of photo ID. As Election Day approaches, the voter's county may have multiple early voting sites and extended hours. Voting times and locations for the voter's precinct can be found at ⁴⁷.

⁴⁷ https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Absentee_Voting_In_Georgia_Rev_3-30-22.pdf.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

60. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should 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.

61. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should 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.

62. **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 and before they leave the room where voting is taking place, or their ballot may be voided. A voter should ask if a paper ballot is available if the voting equipment is not working.⁴⁸ 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 unrelated to a voting machine malfunction or other problem with the operation of the poll.

63. **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 poll official. The poll official shall provide such technical instruction to the voter but shall not seek to influence or intimidate the voter in any manner.⁴⁹

64. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

Each polling place must be accessible to elderly voters and to voters with disabilities.⁵⁰ In elections with federal candidates on the ballot, 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

⁴⁸ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-281; 21-2-334.

⁴⁹ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-410.

⁵⁰ Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 183-1-6-.04.

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.⁵¹

65. **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 the disabled or illiterate voter is related to candidate).⁵²

66. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Electioneering, including solicitation of votes or signatures, distribution of materials and the giving or participating in the giving of any money or gifts (including providing food and drink even if the person providing these items is not affiliated with any candidate or campaign), is prohibited within 150 feet of the polling place, or within 25 feet of any voter waiting in line.⁵³ 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. Note that while poll officials may provide a stand-alone water station for voters waiting in line to vote at the polls, they are not required to provide this service. Furthermore, the provision of food, water or other items to voters standing in line to vote, or within 25 feet of a voter standing in line or within 150 feet of a building housing a polling place now constitutes a crime under Georgia law.

67. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

Georgia law permits registered voters in a county to challenge the eligibility of other voters in the same county to remain on the voter registration list or to vote in an upcoming election.⁵⁴ Challenges must be made in writing.⁵⁵

⁵¹ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385.1.](#)

⁵² [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-385\(b\), 21-2-409.](#)

⁵³ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-414.](#)

⁵⁴ [O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-229 and 21-2-230.](#)

⁵⁵ [Id.](#)

Where a voter’s right to remain on the electors list is being challenged, the challenger bears the burden of proof and the board of registrars must send written notice of a hearing on the challenge to both the voter and the challenger within ten days of receipt of the challenge.⁵⁶ Both the voter and challenger have the right to file an appeal from the final determination of such challenges in the superior court.⁵⁷

Where a voter’s right to vote in an upcoming election is being challenged, the challenger must establish probable cause for the challenge.⁵⁸ In the case of such challenges, the board of registrars is required to make an “immediate” determination of whether the challenger has established probable cause for the challenge.⁵⁹ If the board of registrars determines probable cause has been established for the challenge, the voter is put into “challenged” status and must produce evidence demonstrating that they are eligible to vote if they vote absentee by mail or appear to vote in person during advanced voting or on election day.⁶⁰ If the challenged voter does not vote by absentee ballot or appear to vote in person, the board of registrars treats the challenge as if it is challenging the right of the voter to remain on the elector’s list and sends notice of a challenge hearing to the voter and challenger as described in the preceding paragraph.⁶¹

Thus, if a voter is in “challenged” status and is still eligible to vote in the county where they are registered, the voter should contact their county registrar to determine what the bases for the challenge are and how the voter can cure the challenge so that they can cast an absentee ballot or in persons which will count as a vote. If a challenged voter appears in person to vote, but does not bring proof of their eligibility to vote to the polls, they will be required to vote a provisional ballot and produce proof of their eligibility to the board of registrars by no later than the cure deadline of November 14, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election.

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

In certain instances, there may be armed law enforcement present at the polls due to a request by poll officials for law enforcement to maintain order, to direct traffic, to monitor a drop box at that location, or when the law enforcement officer is there to cast their own ballot. There also may be Secretary of State investigators or security guards employed by the county who are may be armed. Law enforcement, Secretary of State investigators or security guards present at or around the polls 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 1-866-Our-Vote hotline to report the incident.

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

69. **FIREARMS AT POLLS:** A person is carrying a firearm at the polls. Is this lawful? What should I do?

⁵⁶ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-229.

⁵⁷ Id.

⁵⁸ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-230.

⁵⁹ Id.

⁶⁰ Id.

⁶¹ Id.

Under Georgia law, no person except peace officers regularly employed by the federal, state, county, or municipal government or certified security guards shall be permitted to carry firearms within 150 feet of any polling place while elections are being conducted. This includes polling places located in non-government premises as well as government buildings.⁶²

70. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should 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 in which the Secretary of State or county boards of election routinely remove voters from the rolls who have died, are adjudicated incompetent or are otherwise no longer eligible to vote.⁶³ Any voter whose name was removed from the registration list and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

Note that a voter can take steps to help to determine why their 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 3](#).)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question 3](#) and [Question 8](#).)
- 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 3](#).)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

71. **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 19](#));
- 2) The voter does not have the required ID or proof of citizenship (if applicable) (see [Question 5](#));
- 3) The voting machines at the polling place malfunction (in which case this will be an "emergency" provisional ballot);
- 4) A voter is voting out of precinct after 5:00 p.m. because they are unable to get to their correct precinct before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. and have signed an affidavit to this effect;
- 5) A voter is in "challenged" status and has not brought proof of their eligibility to vote in the county where they are registered to vote with them to the poll;
- 6) 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
- 7) Because a Court has ordered that a polling place remain open past the official closing time.

⁶² See O.C.G.A. §§ 16-11-127(b)(7) and 21-2-412(l).

⁶³ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-232; 21-2-228; 21-2-216.

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, 4, 5, and 6, 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, is in challenged status and did not bring proof of eligibility to vote in the county where they are registered to the poll, or did not produce proof of citizenship (if required), the voter must present proper ID proof of eligibility to vote in the county where registered, or proof of citizenship to the registrar's office by November 14, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election or the provisional ballot will not count.⁶⁴ 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

For those who voted in the wrong precinct in the voter's correct county, the voter must have appeared at the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m. on election day, signed a sworn statement attesting that they cannot get to their correct polling place by close of polls at 7:00 p.m. and 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.⁶⁵ Voters who vote at an incorrect polling place prior to 5:00 p.m. will not have their ballot counted. Thus, it is important that those voters go to their correct polling place before the close of their correct poll at 7:00 p.m. in order to cast a ballot that will count as a vote. If a voter goes to the incorrect poll after 5:00 p.m. but is able to go to their correct polling place before the close of the polls at 7:00 p.m., they should be told that they must go to their correct poll to vote.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

72. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. A voter is entitled to receive assistance in voting at any primary or election, including within the poll and voting booth, if they are unable to read the English language or they have a disability which renders them unable to see or mark the ballot or operate the voting equipment or to enter the voting compartment or booth without assistance. The voter has the right to the assistance of 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 a candidate unless they are close relatives of the voter, such as the candidate's mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-417(b), 21-2-419(c)(1).

⁶⁵ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-419.

⁶⁶ O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-385(b), 21-2-409.

73. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

See [Question 63](#), above, regarding accommodations for senior voters and voters with disabilities.

74. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

The voter may bring notes into the voting booth with them provided those notes are on paper and not electronic. Georgia law prohibits voters from using cellular telephones, cameras, and other recording devices for any purpose in a polling place while voting is taking place.⁶⁷

QUESTIONS

75. QUESTIONS: Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Contact the county registrar's office where the voter resides and/or is registered to vote or the Georgia Secretary of State's office. The contact information for the county registrars' offices can be found at [this link](#). An online email form to contact the Secretary of State's office can be found at [this link](#). The Secretary of State's office is located at: 214 State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia 30334 and the general telephone number for the Secretary of State's office is: (404) 656-2817. The Secretary of State's website provides an email form which can be used by the general public to contact the Secretary's office at this link: <https://sos.ga.gov/form/contact-us>.

⁶⁷ [O.C.G.A. § 21-2-413\(d\)](#).