

Provisional Ballots

Provisional voting allows you to cast a ballot in person even if all the requirements for doing so cannot be met at the time. The provisional ballot will count if the problem is solved within **two days** after Election Day.

The three reasons for voting a provisional ballot are:

1. You are unable to show one of the required forms of photo ID when you vote in person;
2. When you first registered to vote in Georgia, you registered by mail, did not provide any identification at that time, and are unable to present acceptable identification the first time you vote in person; or
3. Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct.

If you vote a provisional ballot because you did not have acceptable identification, you will have two days from the close of the polls to present acceptable identification to your county registrar's office for your vote to count. If you voted a provisional ballot because your name did not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct, the county registrar has up to two days after the election to determine if you were properly registered to vote in that election. If you were, your vote will count. If you were not eligible to vote in that election, your vote will not be counted, and you will be notified in writing. If you were eligible to vote but voted in the wrong precinct, only the votes for candidates for which you were entitled to vote will be counted, and you will be notified in writing that your ballot was partially counted for your correct precinct.

In federal elections only, if the polling place is kept open after 7:00 PM because of a court order, anyone arriving after 7:00 PM will vote by provisional ballot. If you are eligible to vote and the order stands, your vote will be counted.

Absentee/Advanced Voting

You may vote even if you cannot go to the polls on Election Day by requesting an absentee ballot by mail or in person up to 180 days before an election. Simply send or bring a written request to your county registrar's office that includes your name, address, signature, and the election(s) for which you are requesting an absentee ballot. You can also go online at <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections> and print and complete the application, then just mail or bring the absentee ballot application to your county registrar's office. Once the application is approved, you will be mailed an absentee ballot.

You can generally cast an absentee ballot within 45 days before a primary or general election, and 21 days before a municipal election. Your county registrar must receive all absentee ballots by the close of business on Election Day.

You do not have to provide any excuse for voting an absentee ballot by mail. You are not required to include any identification when you mail your ballot.

When you vote absentee in person, you must provide one of the legal excuses, such as being away from your precinct during voting hours on Election Day, being 75 or older, etc. You can also vote during the advance voting period, which takes place the Monday-Friday before Election Day. If you cast your ballot in person, you must present an appropriate photo ID.

Office of Secretary of State

State Elections Division

Suite 1104, West Tower, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Phone: (404) 656-2871 or Fax: (404) 651-9531

V/TTY: (404) 656-1787

Automated Poll Locator: (888) 265-1155

Web Address: www.GaPhotoID.com

www.sos.georgia.gov

Georgia Voter Information Guide

Voting Basics

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to vote in Georgia if you are a citizen of the United States; a legal resident of Georgia; at least 18 years old; have not been found to be mentally incompetent by the court; are not serving a sentence for a felony of moral turpitude; are registered to vote; and meet all other state requirements, such as showing acceptable photo identification if you choose to vote in person or properly requesting and returning an absentee ballot if you choose to vote by mail.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register any time up to the 5th Monday before Election Day and vote in that election.

Register to vote on-line at: <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections> or by calling toll free (888) 265-1115.

You can find the address and phone number of your county elections office on the web at <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections>.

If you have moved, you must update your voter registration by submitting a new application.



Example of a Georgia Voter Identification Card

Photo ID

Georgia law requires registered voters to show photo identification in order to vote *in person*. When you vote in person, you must show one of the following photo IDs:

- 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 Department of Driver Services or your county registrar's office
- 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 this state
- Valid U.S. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID

If you **DO NOT** have one of these forms of photo ID, you can receive a **FREE** Georgia Voter ID Card. Just contact your county registrar's office or a Department of Driver Services office. For more information, call **1-877-725-9797**, or go to www.GaPhotoID.com.

If, on Election Day, you do not have a photo ID listed above, you can still vote by provisional ballot. You will then have two days after the election to bring the required photo ID to your county registrar's office in order for your provisional ballot to be counted.

If you have to vote a provisional ballot because you do not have one of the forms of photo ID listed above, you can go to your county registrar's office, get a **FREE** Voter ID Card and present it within two days after the election and your provisional ballot will be counted.

If you simply forget your photo ID, and time permits, you can retrieve it, return to the polling place, and vote.

Election Day

POLLING LOCATIONS

On Election Day, you must vote at your designated polling place. Your assigned polling place is shown on your voter registration card. You can find your polling location on line at:

<http://sos.georgia.gov/elections>, or call toll free at (888) 265-1115, or contact your county registrar's office.

Polling places are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Election Day. If you are in line at 7:00 PM, you will be allowed to cast your vote.

When you get to your polling place, proceed to the check-in desk and fill out a voter's certificate with your name and address. Next, show your photo ID. A poll worker will then check your photo ID, verify that you are registered and at the correct polling location, issue you a voter access card or ballot, whichever is applicable, and allow you to vote.

VOTING MACHINES

Georgia uses touch screen electronic voting machines. Municipalities may use other methods of voting in municipal elections. Instructions on how to use voting equipment are posted at each polling location. You may also ask a poll worker to explain the voting method at your polling location.

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting must be readily accessible to disabled and elderly voters. If you need special assistance to vote or to access your polling place, contact your county registrar's office.