

Georgia **Vote-By-Mail** FAQs

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE: 888-730-5816

Q: What is Georgia's vote by mail? How does it work?

A: Vote by mail, or voting by absentee ballot (another term for the same process), is very simple—a voter submits an application for an absentee ballot to their local County Board of Registrar's office, which will mail the voter an absentee ballot. The voter must then complete the absentee ballot and return it to the address on the ballot.

Q: Is voting by mail safe?

A: Yes. Voting by mail is safe, secure and convenient.

Q: What if I am not registered to vote in Georgia?

A: Absentee ballots are only provided to registered voters in Georgia. A voter can check their registration status on "My Voter Page," <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>. If they are not registered, there may still be time. The deadline to register before the general election is October 9, 2018.

Q: Who is eligible to vote by mail in Georgia?

A: Any registered voter in Georgia is eligible to vote by mail. To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a U.S. citizen who resides in Georgia, and who will be at least 18 on Election Day (November 6, 2018). Persons who are still serving a felony sentence (including probation, parole, or an outstanding fine) or were found mentally incompetent by a judge are NOT eligible to vote in Georgia.

Q: Where can voters find an application to vote by mail?

A: Some counties provide a form on their website, or voters can pick up an application at their county registrar's office. Voters can look up the information for their county registrar's office: <http://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyregistrars.do>.

Voters can also download a form from the Georgia Secretary of State's website. http://sos.ga.gov/admin/files/Absentee_Ballot_Application_2018.pdf. In some cases outside groups or campaigns may mail an application to voters' homes.

Q: Where does a voter return a completed application?

A: Voters need to return the completed application to their county registrar by mail, by fax, by email, or in person. A voter must provide at least their name, residence, date of birth, and signature.

Q: Do voters need a special reason to obtain permission to vote by mail?

A: No. Any Georgia voter can choose to vote by mail, simply for their convenience. Some categories of voters, such as elderly or disabled voters, can register once to receive an absentee ballot, and will receive all ballots in that election cycle by mail.

Q: When can a voter request a vote-by-mail ballot?

A: A voter can request your ballot within 180 days of an election. For the November 6 general election, that is any time from now. The request must be received by your county registrar by October 26th. We recommend sending your request as soon as possible.



Georgia **Vote-By-Mail** FAQs

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE: 888-730-5816

Q: What does a voter need to provide to get an absentee ballot?

A: A voter will need to complete an absentee ballot application, including an original signature. Some application forms also ask a voter for their Georgia driver's license number. Although this information is not mandatory, the application may be processed more quickly if they provide this.

Q: Who can request an absentee ballot on behalf of a voter?

A: A voter must request a ballot by completing the application personally, unless they are disabled, illiterate, or temporarily residing outside of the county.

Q: Does a voter have to put a stamp on the absentee ballot application?

A: It depends. If a voter is using the pre-filled application mailed to them by the Campaign, they do not need to put a stamp on the application. Postage is already provided. If they are printing an application and mailing it themselves, then they will need to put a stamp on the envelope application.

Q: If a voter can't drive to the post office, can someone mail their application for them?

A: Yes. Someone else can mail the application on behalf of the voter, but they must **NOT** mail a completed ballot on behalf of the voter.

Q: "I mailed in my request for an absentee ballot weeks ago. Where is my ballot?"

A: County registrars will start mailing out absentee ballots for the general election on September 18. Before that day a voter will not receive a ballot. A voter can track the status of their ballot request on <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Q: Once a voter mails the application in, have they voted?

A: No. Once the voter completes and mails the application to their local County Board of Registrar's office, that office will mail the voter an absentee ballot. The voter must then complete the absentee ballot and return it to the address on the envelope provided with the ballot. The counties will evaluate the oath and signature on the ballot envelope to determine whether they can accept the ballot.

Q: What should a voter do if they applied for an absentee ballot, but never received it?

A: If a voter applied for, but never received an absentee ballot, they must appear in person before their county registrar or absentee ballot clerk and provide a written request to cancel their absentee ballot request. The registrar's office will then alert the voter's precinct poll manager that the voter may cast a ballot in person.



Georgia Vote-By-Mail FAQs

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE: 888-730-5816

Q: A voter applied for a mail-in ballot, but the county registrar sent them a postcard refusing to issue it. Why?

A: A county registrar can find an applicant ineligible for an absentee ballot for several reasons: (a) for failure to complete the application fully; (b) failure to sign the application form; (c) providing a different address than what is listed in the voter registration files; or (d) signatures not matching. The notification should provide the reason for the rejection of the application. It is important to make sure that their address is updated in their voter registration, and that all the information on their form is complete and accurate.

Q: Can anyone else vote on another voter's behalf?

A: In general a voter must complete their own ballot. If a voter is physically disabled or cannot read English, they may be assisted by another voter who is qualified to vote in the same county or municipality as the voter, or a caregiver or close relative. If another person completes a ballot on behalf of a registered voter, the person providing assistance must complete that portion of the ballot that requires this disclosure.

Q: Where does a voter sign the absentee ballot?

A: The voter needs to sign on the outer envelope, along with completing the full oath that asks for the voter's address and date of birth.

Q: What happens to an absentee ballot if a voter decides to vote in person?

A: A voter can bring a blank absentee ballot with them to the polls, and the poll manager can cancel that absentee ballot and allow the voter to use the voting machines in person. If the voter loses their absentee ballot, they must go to their county registrar's office to have their absentee ballot cancelled before the voter can cast their ballot in person.

Q: What should a voter do if s/he loses or spoils their absentee ballot?

A: If a voter cannot find their absentee ballot, or if they have mailed it in but want it cancelled, they must go to their county registrar's office to have their absentee ballot cancelled before the voter can cast their ballot in person.

Q: How will a voter know that their ballot has been received and will be counted?

A: A voter can track the progress of their absentee ballot by logging onto their voter page at <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>

Q: A voter can't drive to the post office, can someone mail their ballot for them?

A: No. No one aside from the voter should handle a completed absentee ballot.



Georgia **Vote-By-Mail** FAQs

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE: 888-730-5816

Q: When should a voter return their absentee ballot? Is there a postmark deadline for ballots to be returned?

A: There is no postmark deadline for ballots to be returned. However, to be counted, absentee ballots must be received by their county registrar by 7pm on the night of the election—November 6, 2018. If a voter fails to mail the ballot by Friday, November 2 (with 2 stamps!) they should deliver their completed absentee ballot to their county registrar before 7pm on election day. Alternatively, a voter can take their ballot with them to their assigned precinct, where they can ask the election clerk to cancel the absentee ballot and allow the person vote on a machine.

Additional Questions for Voter Contact Efforts

Q: Can a volunteer help someone else register for an absentee ballot?

A: A volunteer can provide an application for an absentee ballot to a registered voter and help the voter mail in their application, but the **voter** must complete the form personally if it is not pre-printed.

Q: Are there any circumstances in which someone else can apply for an absentee ballot for a voter?

A: If a voter is temporarily out of the county, or if a voter is disabled, an application may be submitted **by the voter's close relative**. The relative must also sign an oath swearing to the facts stated in the application.

Q: Can a volunteer help someone mail their absentee ballot?

A: No. The only exception to this rule is if the voter is disabled and they are a close relative. A volunteer can drive a voter to the county registrar's office so that the voter can deliver their own ballot by hand; a volunteer **cannot** deliver the ballot themselves.

Q: Can a volunteer help someone complete their absentee ballot?

A: No. Only voters who are physically disabled or cannot read English are eligible to receive assistance in completing their ballot, and this includes the act of mailing the ballot. Only a close relative, an attendant caregiver, or an elector who lives in the same county or municipality may render assistance, and must swear an oath and sign the ballot in the appropriate space upon rendering such assistance.

Q: Can a voter give their completed ballot to a volunteer?

A: NO!

Georgia **Vote-By-Mail** FAQs

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE: 888-730-5816

Q: How can a volunteer help make sure a voter's ballot will be counted?

A: Tell them to make sure they **complete the oath** on the back of the ballot envelope. They must complete their **address**, their **date of birth**, and **sign** the envelope. Many voters get confused and put today's date instead of their date of birth. Remind them to put their date of birth! Also, tell them to take care in signing their name. Their signature will be matched with the signature on file with the registrar.

Q: How many stamps should a voter use on the absentee ballot?

A: We recommend the voter use **two stamps** to mail back their ballot.

Advance or Early Voting

Q: Are voters permitted to early vote at any polling location?

A: Voters are allowed to vote at any advance voting location **in the county where they are registered**. This is a great advantage to early voting, as it gives the voter the flexibility to vote when and where it is most convenient for them. If voters wait until election day, they must vote in the precinct where they are assigned, which is usually the precinct closest to their home.

