



## Georgia Vote-By-Mail 2018 FAQ: FOR VOTERS

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—you submit an application for an absentee ballot to your local County Board of Registrar's office, and they will mail you an absentee ballot. You must then complete the absentee ballot and return it to the address on the ballot.

Q: Where do I find an application to vote by mail?

A: You can download a form from the Georgia Secretary of State's website. Some counties also provide a form on their website, or you can pick up an application at your county registrar's office. In some cases outside groups, candidates, or the Democratic Party may mail an application to your home.

Q: What do I do with the application once I complete it?

A: You need to return the completed application to your county registrar by mail, by fax, by email, or in person. Make sure you fill out the form in full, including your signature.

Q: Do I have to have a special reason or obtain permission to vote by mail?

A: No. Any Georgia voter can choose to vote by mail, simply for their convenience. Some categories of voter, 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 I request a vote-by-mail ballot?

A: You can request your ballot within 180 days of an election. For the primaries election in May, that is any time from today onwards. For the November 6 general election, you can ask for a mail-in ballot starting Thursday, May 18. If you order a ballot prior to that day, your county registrar may reject your request.

Q: What do I need to provide to get my absentee ballot?

A: You will need to complete the application in full, including an original signature. If you are using the Secretary of State's form, you will be asked for your Georgia driver's license number. Although this information is not mandatory, the application may be processed more quickly if you provide this.

Q: Who can request an absentee ballot for me?

A: A voter must request a ballot, and complete the application, for herself, unless s/he is disabled, illiterate, or temporarily residing outside of the county.



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 primary on April 3, and for the general election on September 18. Before that day you will not receive your ballot. You can track the status of your request on <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Q: Can anyone else vote on my behalf?

A: In general a voter must complete her own ballot. If a voter is physically disabled or illiterate, s/he 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: What happens to my ballot if I decide I want to vote in person?

A: You can bring your blank absentee ballot with you to the polls, and the poll manager can cancel your absentee ballot and allow you to vote in person. If you cannot find your ballot, or if you have mailed it in but want it cancelled, you must go to your county registrar's office to have your absentee ballot cancelled before you can vote in person.

Q: I applied for a mail-in ballot, but I never received it. How can I vote?

A: If you applied for, but never received your mail-in ballot, you must appear in person before your county registrar or absentee ballot clerk and provide a written request to cancel your absentee ballot request. The registrar's office will then alert your precinct poll manager that you are allowed to vote in person.

Q: I applied for a mail-in ballot, but the county registrar sent me 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 your address is updated in your voter registration, and that all the information on your form is complete and accurate.

Q: How will I know that my ballot has been received and will be counted?

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

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

A: Absentee ballots are only provided to registered voters in Georgia. To find out your registration status, check your voter page on <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/>. If you are not



registered, there may still be time. The deadline to register before the primary is April 24, 2018, and to vote in the the general election you must register by October 9, 2018.

Q: Oh no—I forgot to mail in my completed ballot, and it is 5pm on election day! What do I do?

A: To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by your county registrar by 7pm on the night of the election—May 22 for the primary, November 6, 2018, for the general election. You can either deliver your completed absentee ballot to your county registrar before 7pm on election day, or you can take your ballot with you to your assigned precinct, where you can ask the election clerk to cancel your absentee ballot and then vote in person.

#### Georgia Vote-By-Mail 2018 FAQ: ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GOTV EFFORTS

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

A: You can provide an application for an absentee ballot to a registered voter and help the voter send in their application, but the voter must complete the form personally.

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 I help someone mail their absentee *ballot*?

A: No. You cannot even provide postage to a voter to mail in an absentee ballot. The only exception to this rule is if the voter is disabled and you are a close relative. Accepting *anything* of value for a vote, including postage, is considered a felony. You **can** drive a voter to the county registrar's office to deliver the ballot by hand; you **cannot** deliver the ballot yourself, however.

Q: Can I help someone complete their absentee ballot?

A: 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.

QUESTIONS? CALL THE VOTER HOTLINE

888-730-5816