

FAQ: Where is the second “inner” envelope with my Vote-By-Mail ballot?

June 9, 2020 Primary

Georgia voters who received their ballot in the mail for the June 9, 2020 primary may be confused. The current version of Instructions accompanying the ballot refers to two envelopes, but there is only one envelope included in the packet.

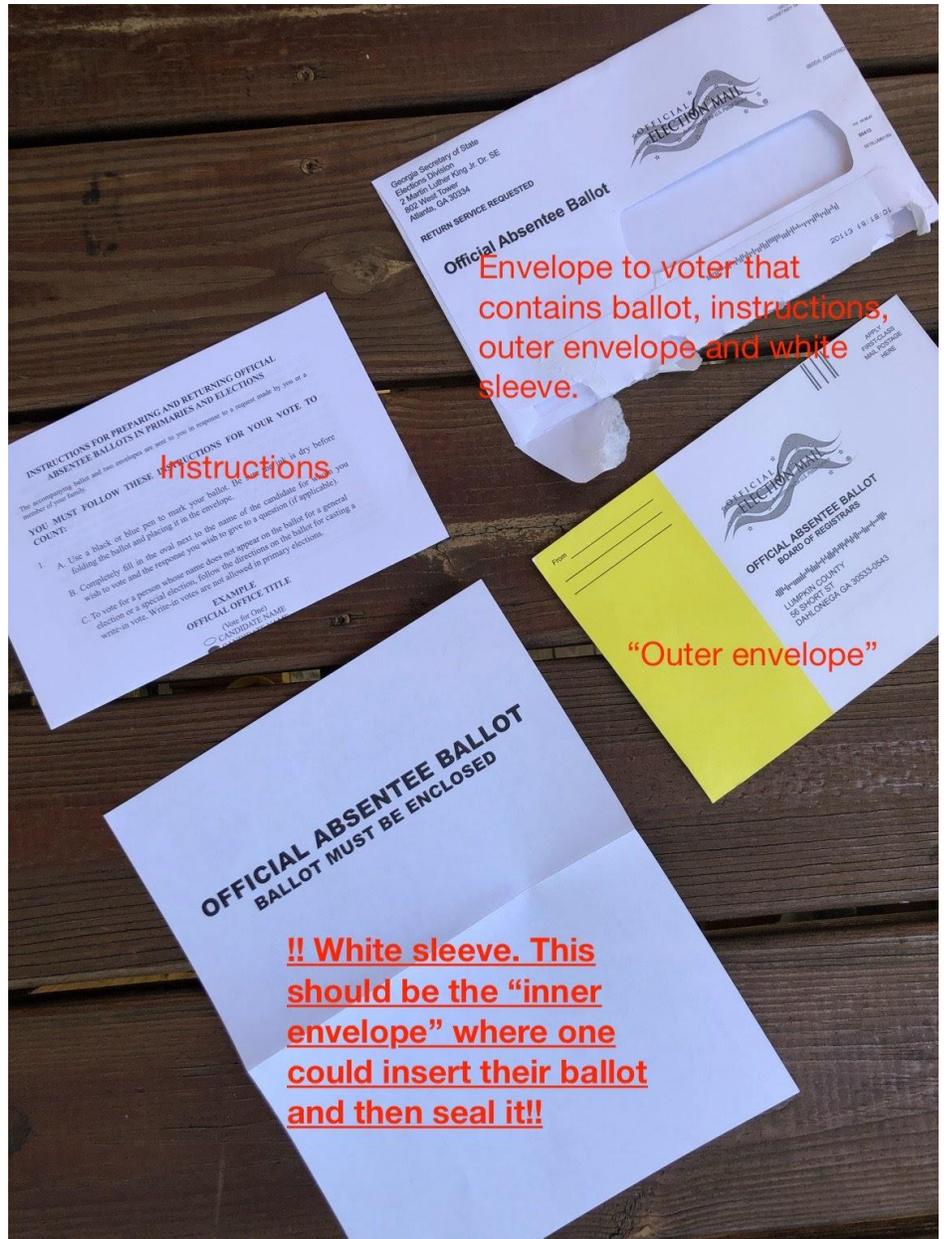
Voters will also find a sheet of white paper marked “Official Absentee Ballot/Ballot Must Be Enclosed.” The GA Secretary of State’s Office is referring to this piece of paper as a “privacy sleeve.”

Voters who have voted by mail in the past may remember inserting their ballot into an inner envelope, sealing that envelope, and then inserting the inner envelope into an “outer envelope” that they must seal and sign. This procedure is consistent with state law, O.C.G.A. 21-2-385(a).

However, since there is no inner envelope included with the ballot for the June 9, 2020 primary, do not follow that procedure now.

How to submit your ballot:

Fold the “privacy sleeve” in half. Insert your ballot into the sleeve. You do not need to seal the sleeve. Place the sleeve (with your ballot in it) into the outer envelope. Sign and print your name on the outer envelope, seal it, and submit it to your county registrar.



FAQs continued. . .

Do I need to seal the sleeve? If I didn't, will my vote count?

You can seal the sleeve. Whether you do or do not will not impact your vote - it will be counted either way. However, don't get glue, staples, tape or any other kind of adhesive on your ballot.

I didn't see an inner envelope so I placed my ballot directly into the outer ballot - will it count? I didn't use the sleeve at all.

Your vote will still count, whether or not you used an inner envelope/sleeve.

Can I use my own envelope as the inner envelope, instead of the sleeve?

It's not necessary, but you can. If you do, make sure the envelope is correctly sized, so you don't have to add additional folds to your ballot.

Will forthcoming ballot packages contain inner envelopes? Or will they continue to contain the sleeve?

We understand that for the June 9, 2020 Primary, the ballot packet will continue to include a "sleeve" rather than an inner envelope.

If they continue to contain the sleeve, will the instructions be updated to reflect there is no inner envelope?

We understand that the Secretary of State's office is working with the vendor to update the instructions. We do not know when the instructions will be updated.

Additional resources and answers to many frequently asked questions about the Vote By Mail process in Georgia can be found at <https://www.georgiademocrat.org/VBMresources>.

**For additional information, call the Democratic Party of Georgia's
Voter Protection Hotline: (888) 730-5816**