



**GEORGIA™
APPLESEED**

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GEORGIA APPLESEED'S 2020 HOW TO VOTE GUIDE

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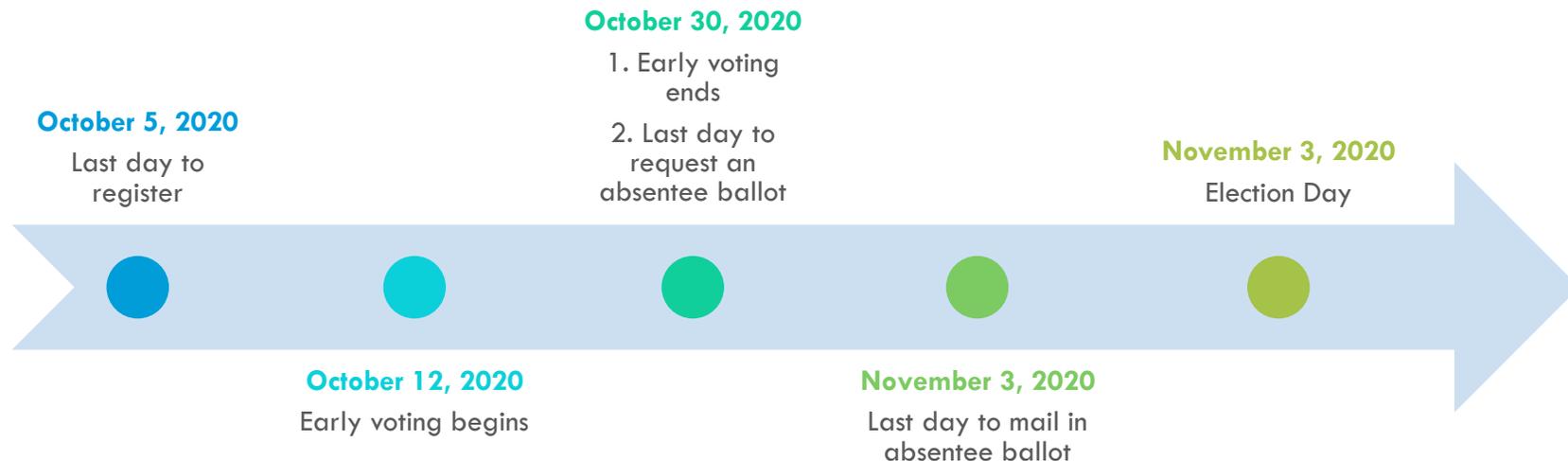
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Voting for our elected leaders is your right as an American citizen. But voting can be complicated. Voting successfully takes several steps **BEFORE** election day. You must start by **Registering or Re-registering** to vote by October 5. After that, you can choose to vote by mail or in person.

This guide will help you register or re-register and follow the steps to vote successfully. Inside this guide, you will find information about the following topics:

- ▶ How to register to vote and re-registering after you move or change your name,
- ▶ Early in-person voting,
- ▶ Voting by mail (absentee ballots),
- ▶ Voting on election day,
- ▶ Solving common election day issues, and
- ▶ Helpful resources about other voting topics, like voting from jail or outside the country.

Important Dates for the 2020 Election





U.S. Citizen



Resident of Georgia



18+ years old on election day



Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction



Not mentally incompetent

5 Requirements to Register to Vote in Georgia

You must REGISTER to vote if you are a first-time Georgia voter.

Register online [here](#) or register by mail with this [form](#). To register online or by mail you must have a Georgia driver's license or ID card.

Register in person at the following locations:

- ▶ Your county's [registrar office](#)
- ▶ Department of Driver Services ("DDS") while getting a driver's license, renewing a driver's license, or changing license information,
- ▶ Department of Natural Resources while getting a resident hunting or fishing license, or
- ▶ A government office discussed in [O.C.G.A. 21-2-222](#).

You must prove your citizenship.

When you register, have one of the following documents: your driver's license, birth certificate copy, passport, naturalization documents, or tribal card. These will prove your citizenship. If you did not prove your citizenship when you got your driver's license, submit one of the other documents to your county's registrar office now. Bring the document with you when you vote.

You must RE-REGISTER to vote if you changed your name or moved.

How do I re-register to vote?

Before October 5, 2020, you must either

- ▶ Re-register at the DDS while updating your driver's license,
- ▶ Send a written notice to the [registrar office](#) in the county where you now live, or
- ▶ Submit a new voter registration application.

Where do I vote after I re-register?

You need to vote at your new voting location. Find out where at [this link](#) and fill out the information on the right side of the page.

You will vote at your old polling location if you (A) moved to a new county after October 5, 2020 or (B) moved to a location in the same county but didn't re-register by October 5, 2020.

Check that you're registered to vote **ASAP!**

Register to vote **before October 5, 2020, for the November 2020 election.**

Voting Methods Step-by-Step

Vote by mail (absentee ballots)

You can vote by mail with an **absentee ballot**.

Step 1: Fill out the absentee ballot application [online here](#).

Step 2: Once you receive the absentee ballot, fill it out and mail it to your [county's registrar office](#) **as soon as possible**, or drop it off at a county drop-off location before election day. Ask your [county registrar](#) for drop-off locations.



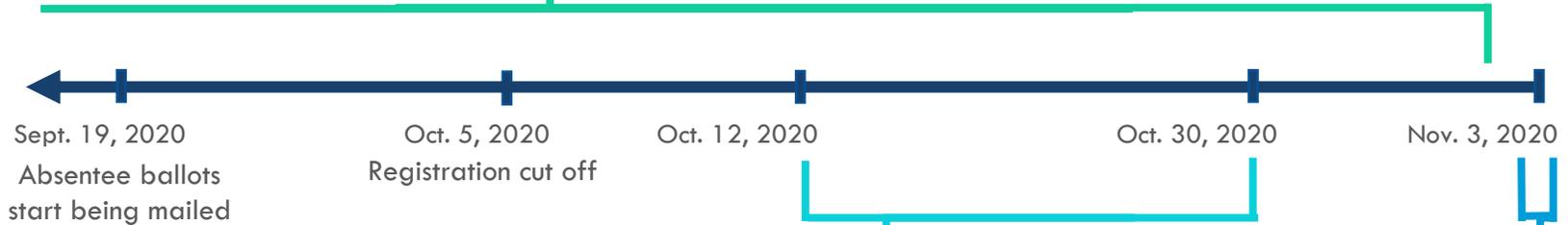
Absentee ballots are mailed starting around Sept. 19, 2020. **Notify** your county's registrar if you don't receive an absentee ballot.



Want to vote in person or didn't receive your absentee ballot? Go to your voting location to **cancel your absentee ballot** and vote. [O.C.G.A. 21-2-388](#) gives you the right to vote in person if you cancel your absentee ballot. If you have the ballot, bring it. Having it will make it easier to cancel.



Only you, a family member, someone living in your house, or a care giver may submit your absentee ballot.



Early in-person voting

Step 1: Make sure you are registered to vote at this online [link](#).

Step 2: Find your voting location at this online [link](#) (this may be a different location than your usual polling place).

Step 3: Go to your voting location with your I.D. (discussed below) between October 12, 2020, and October 30, 2020, during voting hours.

Voting on Election Day

Step 1: Make sure you are registered to vote at this online [link](#).

Step 2: Find your voting location at this online [link](#).

Step 3: Go to your location with your I.D. (discussed below) on November 3, 2020 between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

BRING YOUR I.D.

What I.D. do I need to vote in-person?

One of the following:

- ▶ Georgia driver's license (even if expired)
- ▶ Valid I.D. card (with photo) issued by a state or the federal government
- ▶ Valid employee photo I.D. form any state or federal government entity
- ▶ Valid U.S. Passport
- ▶ Valid Military I.D. card (with photo)
- ▶ Valid Tribal I.D. card (with photo)

What if I forgot my ID?

You may vote in a special way – with a **provisional ballot**, according to [O.C.G.A. 21-2-417\(c\)](#). Your vote will only be counted if the registrar can verify your identity within the 3 days after the election. See *more about provisional ballots on page 5 below*.

** IMPORTANT **

If you (1) registered to vote by mail, (2) did not provide a valid I.D. when you registered, and (3) have not voted in Georgia before, then you must present a **recent** copy of any of the following forms of I.D. when you vote or submit your absentee ballot:

- ▶ Any one of the acceptable forms of I.D. noted at the top of this page,
- ▶ Utility bill,
- ▶ Bank statement,
- ▶ Government check,
- ▶ Paycheck, or
- ▶ Other government document that shows your name and address.

**You must
present your
I.D. to vote**

Common Election Day Issues

What happens if the voting location closes while I'm still in line?

Keep your place in line. You are entitled to vote using a regular ballot if you were in line by the time the voting location closes. Call the following **Election Protection Hotline** if you run into problems or have questions on election day. You can reach the hotline at:

- ▶ English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-678-8683)
- ▶ Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682)
- ▶ Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US (1-844-925-5287)
- ▶ Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

What if I'm not on the registered voter list?

Ask the election worker to double check the list of registered voters. Sometimes names are misspelled, first and middle names are out of order, or hyphens or spaces are missing.

If your name isn't on the registered voter list, ask the election worker to check the **supplemental list of voters**. If your name cannot be found on either list, then ask to vote with a **provisional ballot** under [O.C.G.A. 21-2-418\(a\)-\(b\)](#). There is more information about provisional ballots below.

How do I vote using a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is just like a regular ballot except that your vote will only be counted if the registrar can verify your credentials **within the 3 days** after the election. The polling place should have a **notice explaining your rights** when using a provisional ballot, so ask the election worker to show you that notice.

To make sure your provisional ballot is counted take the following steps:

- Submit an acceptable form of I.D. or any other required information to your county's registrar office **immediately**,
- Check your provisional ballot status using the [MVP Log In](#), and
- Call your [county's registrar office](#) to make sure they received everything and that your ballot was counted.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

You may vote with a **provisional ballot** if you properly registered to vote and are still in your county, according to [O.C.G.A. 21-2-418\(a\)](#). Otherwise, you will need to go to your voting location. It's not uncommon for voter registration lists to show an incorrect address, even if you didn't move or you notified the county that you moved. If this is the case, **insist** on casting a provisional ballot, and then follow up with your county's registrar **immediately** to make sure the mistake is fixed and your ballot is counted.

What happens if my voting machine doesn't work?

Tell the election worker. If the problem continues, then you should ask to vote with a paper ballot.

Helpful Resources

Voter registration status, polling locations, provisional ballot status, and much more at:

<https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

- Please note: the MVP portal is sometimes inaccurate and stops updating the Sunday before an election.

Who can I reach out to if I encounter a problem while voting?

- Georgia Voter Protection Line 1-888-730-5816 or the Election Protection Hotlines identified on page 5.

How do I find my county's registrar office? <https://elections.sos.ga.gov/Elections/countyregistrars.do>

What are the I.D. requirements? https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/georgia_voter_identification_requirements2

What if I have a criminal record or am in jail or prison? <https://www.schr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Voting-Rights-Fact-Sheet-Revised-1.30.2020.pdf>

What if I am overseas or a uniformed services member? <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/election-official-directory>

How do I get an absentee ballot or vote early? <https://www.acluga.org/en/voting-and-elections-2020> (Disponible en espanol), and https://sos.ga.gov/admin/uploads/Absentee_Voting_Guide_20142.pdf

THANK YOU to the organizations noted above and others that strive to protect our democracy and our right to vote. Thank you, also, to the Georgia Appleseed pro bono volunteers who worked on this guide.